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No. 530.—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Prince Regent of Yugoslavia.*

A widespread feeling of relief will be experienced at the escape of the Prince Regent Alexander from assassination on the occasion of the ceremony of taking the oath to the new Constitution of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. The folly, no less than the criminality, of the outrage is so apparent that most people will be ready to believe in the extraneous source of the plot. Serbia, unfortunately, has a sad record in regard to attempts on the lives of her rulers. Political passions are indulged in so vehemently that it would seem as if some tool were always to hand to carry out foreign designs. No true Southern Slav could wish the Prince ill, as it is clear that the new State would suffer irreparable loss at this stage if anything happened to him. Popular expectation vested with special interest the journey abroad which His Royal Highness was undertaking when he was so suddenly recalled to Yugoslavia owing to King Peter's illness. Freedom from anxiety on this latter point will, it is hoped, enable Prince Alexander to resume his tour.

### *Bulgarian "Intrigues."*

References in the daily Press to alleged Bulgarian intrigues with the Turkish Nationalists indicate that the Allies are at last realising that the Treaty of Neuilly is as unjust in certain particulars as the Treaty of Sèvres. It would be asking the Bulgarians to be more than human if they remained content with their official policy of acquiescence in the terms imposed upon them by the Allies when they see the success attending Turkish intransigence. But there are no Anatolian highlands in Bulgaria, and it is difficult to believe that any Government in Sofia will be responsible for an attempt to set Bulgaria single-handed in conflict with the Allies. On the other hand, the Macedonian element in the Balkans is less hampered by considerations of the likelihood or unlikelihood of successful opposition, and it is for this reason that the Treaty of Neuilly offers no prospect of a lasting settlement. As for the alleged intrigues with Nationalist Turkey, we should imagine that, if the Bulgarian Government is contemplating the possibility of any modification of the Neuilly terms, it will be in accord with one or more of her former enemies rather than with Turkey. There were vehement protests at one time on behalf of the inviolability of the Treaty of Sèvres, but no responsible person urges the point to-day. Sooner or later the Allies will take up the same position with reference to the Neuilly terms as they do now in regard to Treaty of Sèvres. It will be better if they take advantage of the present revision of their Near Eastern policy, in order to bring about a more just settlement in Macedonia and Thrace.

### *The War in Asia Minor.*

The evacuation of Ismid may be sound strategy on the part of the Greek Higher Command, but it lends no immediate support to the military arguments which accompanied the Greek refusal of the Allied offer of mediation. That offer, however, as we pointed out last week, had perforce to be rejected. If the Greeks wish to strengthen their Smyrna front, it was a shrewd move that prompted them to withdraw from a sector which leaves the route towards Constantinople unguarded. The Kemalists, we are inclined to believe, have a sounder appreciation of military matters than those who are crying out at the defenceless position of Constantinople. Between them and the Allied garrisons is the Bosphorus, which presents certain difficulties to an attacking force from the Asiatic side. Artillery could, no doubt, make things uncomfortable for the capital, but we have yet to learn that the guns of the British Fleet, aided by aeroplane observation, would not be more than a match for any artillery that Angora can concentrate on the shores of the Bosphorus. All this alleged anxiety over Constantinople would seem to be prompted by a desire to support preconceived ideas regarding either the indispensability of the Greek army to the Allies or the impossibility of making the Angora authorities listen to reason.

### *The Allies and Greece.*

Mustapha Kemal Pasha, it must be admitted, is making it very difficult for those who want to see Turkey given a fair chance, and it is only possible to meet the arguments brought against a revision of the Treaty of Sèvres by a robust belief in the capacity of a people ultimately to rise superior to the follies and crimes of its rulers. The theory that there is hope even for the Turk under good government is not a popular one, and the majority of the "revisionists" seem to stop short at the plea of expediency. If they would stipulate that hand in hand with revision should go a reasonable attempt to provide Turkey with an efficient administration, the wind would be taken out of the sails of those opposed to revision. It is the past history of Turkey and the refusal to believe that the world can be made any better than it was or is that prompts the suggestion to hand Constantinople over to the proved incapacity and viciousness of an international régime; yet an unregenerate Turkey banished to the highlands of Anatolia must always be a graver danger to the world's

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peace than Turkey with the measure of control provided by the presence of the Government in Constantinople. Mr. W. Pember Reeves couches a lance on behalf of the Greeks on the ground that they have proved a cheap ally. But there is no need to defend the Greeks; they have acted in a perfectly natural and straightforward way. The mistakes committed have been on the part of the Allies, who first sent them to Smyrna and then produced an impossible arrangement that offered no settlement of the Near Eastern question. If the Allies now disappoint Greece, it is for no fault of hers—however much they may seek to put the blame on King Constantine—but because their errors of judgment have been revealed, and the only possible course open to them is to reverse their decisions. Unfortunately, Greece suffers, or feels that she suffers; but, as has been often contended in these pages, when the first disappointment has passed it will probably be recognised that the Greeks, no less than the Allies, will be the gainers in the long run.

### *The Egyptian Delegation.*

Fears were entertained both in Alexandria and in Cairo that the departure of the Egyptian Official Delegation for England might give rise to disturbances, and in view of a demonstration which took place at the docks when Yussuf Pasha Soliman left, a week earlier, there was some excuse for uneasiness. Happily, however, Adly Yeghen Pasha and his party can have brought away with them only pleasant memories of their departure. For once in a way the Zaghloulites were dumb, and the Prime Minister and his companions had a most enthusiastic reception at Alexandria, followed by a magnificent send-off, in which delegates from all parts of Egypt, important notables, a representative of H.H. the Sultan, and some formerly prominent supporters of Zaghloul Pasha took part. The Delegation is expected to arrive in this country at the beginning of next week, and it may feel sure of a welcome here no less sincere, if less demonstrative, than the farewell accorded to it in Alexandria. It has a difficult task before it, and one which the manœuvres of the Zaghloulites have made much more difficult than it would otherwise have been. The extremists have put forward impossible claims and have led the ignorant mob to believe that they may be granted; and when that is shown to be impossible it will be the Delegation who will incur the mob's displeasure. But Adly Pasha and his companions are more likely to secure substantial gains for Egypt by persuasion and moderation than ever Zaghloul and his backers could have done by their insolent bluffing.

### *The South Persia Rifles.*

The announcement that the South Persia Rifles will shortly be disbanded is decidedly bad news. A report issued quite recently by the Secretary of State for India gave some account of the good work of this force, which has been rapidly restoring order in a region where disorder had come to be regarded as chronic; and it is to be feared that the disbandment will be followed by an early return to the brigandage and lawlessness which will cripple trade in a region where trade is largely in British hands. Unhappily, there is no prospect of the decision being reconsidered. The Persian Government is unwilling—presumably owing to its financial difficulties—to take the force over; the British Indian Government is unwilling to continue to finance it; and, naturally enough under present conditions, our own Government would not consider the matter. As a force, the S.P.R. seems to be doomed, and we can only regret that the hopes which we expressed a month ago regarding it have been so rudely dispelled.

### *The Persian Outlook.*

The outlook for Persia does not seem very bright just now. It is true that a treaty with Afghanistan has been signed, as a result of which Teheran and Kabul will exchange diplomatic and consular representatives, and a commercial agreement is expected to follow. But the financial situation shows no sign of improvement, and the Bolshevist menace still hangs over the North. Officially the Soviet troops have completed the evacuation of Enzeli, but a considerable number of them have remained behind and have joined themselves to the Persian insurgents in Ghilan and Mazanderan, where they are reported to have inflicted a defeat on the Persian Cossacks. This looks as if the *moral* of the latter force had deteriorated; and if that be so, Persia will soon be without any trustworthy defence force at all, North or South. Meanwhile, although Bolshevism is not having things all its own way across the border, the Soviet representative in Teheran has been entertaining in a style which is said to surpass in brilliance any of the parties given in the days of the Tsar. "The whole British colony," we are informed, "attended . . . and appeared to enjoy a delightful evening."

### *India's Industrial Needs.*

Enthusiasts in the cause of Indian industrial development, who have been seeking eagerly for a sign from the new Viceroy, appear to have derived much comfort from the proceedings at the State Birthday Dinner in Simla, when Lord Reading took occasion to propose the health of the provincial Ministers of Industries. As a matter of fact the Viceroy's speech was strictly confined to generalities appropriate to the toast, but Indian critics have made up their minds that he says less than he means, and that they are entitled in consequence to discover their own ideas beneath his graceful phrases; and having made that discovery, they are naturally pleased at the result. We do not, however, suggest that Lord Reading is in any way backward on industrial questions. We believe he is thoroughly sound, but in any case their prominence in his Council is guaranteed by the presence of Sir Thomas Holland, who is reported to have said recently that he regarded the development of industries as the most important product of the new Constitution. That statement is perhaps a little too strong, for man comes before machinery, but it is true at any rate that industrial development is the most immediate need, because an increase in the country's income is a condition precedent of all social or political advance; and it is satisfactory to know that, though we hear little on the subject, the large schemes propounded by the Industries Commission are steadily being hammered into shape.

### *Sentiment in Industry—*

Sir Thomas Holland's real task is, however, something more difficult than the creation of efficient administrative organs, for he has to take the lead in directing national sentiment into the channels where it can do the most useful work. The failure of the *swadeshi* movement showed sufficiently that sentiment unassisted cannot make the wheels go round, and just now some unbalanced sentimentalists are busily attempting to bring the wheels to a stop; at this juncture the remedy for India's poverty depends most of all on leadership, and this quality must be looked for mainly among the members of the provincial legislatures. Each province has now a Minister in charge of industrial development, and the most encouraging feature of their recent conference in Simla was the way in which Sir Thomas adapted himself to their idiosyncrasies, because it is only by working in harmony with them that enlightened views can be presented with authority before the legislatures which have to sanction and finance the various concrete schemes. The driving-power of the movement must be provided by Ministers possessing the confidence of the legislatures, but in determining its direction they will be well advised to rely very largely on Sir Thomas and on the body of expert opinion of which he is the head.

### *— And in Defence.*

The publication of the scheme for laying the foundations of a Territorial Army in India reminds us that the Commander-in-Chief is dealing with a position essentially similar to that which confronts the Member for Industries. National sentiment insists on being provided with opportunities for sharing in the task of national defence, but sentiment unassisted will not keep predatory neighbours at bay, and the problem is to provide an organisation in which the art can be learned without giving offence to the sentiment out of which the demand arises. On paper the scheme now published appears to be promising: the Territorial battalions are

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to be separate entities from the start, though they are linked to regular regiments; British officers are to be lent until the battalions are able to officer themselves; and Indian as well as British instructors are to be provided, except in the case of the University corps, which have expressed a preference for British instructors only. It will, of course, be some time before we can know whether the scheme is a success, but we do not think anyone can deny that it is a straightforward attempt to give what is demanded, and we share the hope expressed by Lord Rawlinson that Indians will set to work to give it the best possible chance.

# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**The Coal Settlement.**

The coal stoppage is over, and the mines are in full swing again. The cotton dispute has also been adjusted, and the engineering crisis is settled. There is, therefore, some prospect that industry may settle down again to business, and that with cheaper production the whole position will improve. Whether the improvement is to be permanent depends on various factors which are as yet hardly calculable.

The details of the mining settlement are easily summarised. There is a reduction of wages, increasing month by month for three months, which the temporary subsidy from the Government will alleviate. The miners abandon the claim for a national pool; on the other hand, the owners concede a system of profit-sharing. There does not seem in this anything that could not have been achieved with a little goodwill three months ago; it was the demand for a national pool, supported by a subsidy, that blocked the way on the one side, and the equally "stand-pat" attitude of the owners that rendered progress impossible on the other. But since the campaign was run openly on the national pool, the miners must accept the conclusion that they have been beaten; it is just possible, however, that they will find in the long run they have gained by the introduction of profit-sharing more than they have lost by giving up the pool.

**Profit-Sharing.**

But it will be a long time before we can come to any definite conclusion on that matter. The introduction of the idea obviously implies the assumption on both sides that there will be profits in the coal trade to share—for even the most cynical Socialist hardly suggests that the owners only promise a share of profits when profits have for ever disappeared. If it leads to a restoration of the old rate of production of coal, it will not send prices up, but rather tend to bring them down, and it should go some way to ensure that the miners do not slack, and that the owners reopen the best seams. On both matters there has been grave reason for mutual complaint and recrimination in the past.

But the permanent success of profit-sharing depends on co-operation and mutual trust—factors which have been far to seek in this industry. I notice that Mr. Harold Cox, an orthodox economist, has no belief in the thing, on the ground that profit-sharing is a form of charity, a kind of bonus which the workman expects in bad times as well as good. His reasoning does not altogether convince me; but it is impossible not to be impressed by the figures he quotes as to the failure of schemes of profit-sharing already tried in various industries. It is a melancholy record of high hopes extinguished gradually by accumulating difficulties.

**A Labour Revision.**

The coal dispute and its conclusion have left their mark on Labour theories. The orthodox doctrine as to strikes is that they should never be called on a falling market; the newer theory was that the state of the market made little difference because it was possible to inflict so much loss and suffering on the community that the masters would be compelled by public opinion to give way. It must be admitted that the orthodox doctrine emerges from the coal trouble with increased authority. The community has unexpected reserves of strength and resisting power; public opinion has, on the whole, been with the miners so far as they resisted excessive reductions of wages, but it has shown little sympathy for the national pool—although Mr. Hodges argued his case well enough, albeit apparently without full conviction—and the public has been dead against the subsidy and the attempts (which happily failed) to call a general strike.

For that reason Labour is less enamoured of the strike weapon than it was; the more orthodox Trade Union leaders believe that more can be done by negotiation than by strikes, and their opinion seems to be justified, although the strike weapon must be retained as a last resource. "Direct" or industrial action having failed, there is now a tendency for Labour to revert to political action; for the time being the Constitutionalists, who are in an enormous majority in the party, have triumphed.

But they will have to fight to hold their own. Their difficulty is that although they are right in their main idea, political or constitutional action being the only real path to success, they are unable to translate their ideas into action. The reason for that is very largely their inadequate political personnel.

**The Government Revives.**

The Coalition stock is up again. Not only is the Labour Party in the dumps; the attempted reunion of Independent and Coalition Liberals has been nipped in the bud by Mr. Asquith. He will have nothing to do with the seceders; they have made their bed and can lie in it, in his opinion; and he takes the heroic view of Macaulay's "Lays" that man cannot die better than facing fearful odds. The result is that unless Mr. Asquith is extinguished Liberalism will be extinguished; the Coalition Liberals are safe and snug in the Government blanket, and the "Wee Frees" stir no response whatever in the country.

Talk has again revived of a General Election in the autumn, on an anti-separatist and anti-Socialist platform for the Government. But everything depends on the Irish negotiations, and public interest in the political rumours of an election is not very great.

**Ireland.**

The unconditional invitation which Mr. Lloyd George extended to Mr. De Valera was followed by a release of prisoners to enable the Irish "President" to discuss the position with his lieutenants. But so far from straightening things out, the invitation has up to the present only resulted in a further tangle. Mr. De Valera has replied to Downing Street, acknowledging the communication but not directly accepting it.

Before doing so, he wants a conference with Sir James Craig, the Ulster Premier, in Dublin. This Sir

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James has refused, apparently on the ground that Ulster has her own properly defined Parliament and status, and that the rest of Ireland must look after herself. It is possible that Mr. De Valera may use this refusal as a ground for refusing Mr. Lloyd George's invitation; should that be the case, it would be ill-advised on his part. But the Southern Unionists have agreed to meet him in Dublin to discuss the position. It is pretty well understood that his real difficulty is that in any bargain between Southern Ireland and England both sides would have to make concessions, and the Sinn Fein extremists are in revolt against any idea of accommodation. Nothing less than independence and a recognition of the "Republic" will satisfy them.

It is well known that De Valera does not take this view, and is personally ready to make concessions so long as he is met by concessions on our side, but his position is an extremely difficult one, and if the negotiations were entered into and broke down it might become impossible. For that reason it is suggested that he may use Sir James Craig's refusal to come to Dublin as a ground for his own refusal to come to London. In that event the tragedy of Ireland would continue.

**The New Expedition.**

Enormous interest and enthusiasm have been aroused by Sir Ernest Shackleton's new expedition, which is at once romantic and scientific. His little vessel, the Quest, of only 200 tons, is to circumnavigate the globe, after the manner of the old explorers, but it is to carry with it biologists, geologists, and an oceanographer to survey the depths of the seas. The programme is a magnificent one.

From the Salvages, near Madeira, the vessel goes to St. Paul's Rocks, thence to South Trinidad, to explore a petrified forest, and afterwards to Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island, which has probably not been visited more than once or twice since Captain Gough claimed it for England in 1731. Here soundings are to be taken to see if the biological hypothesis of an old Afro-American continent can be proved. From Cape Town the Quest will visit Endeby Land and South Georgia, of which nothing is known save Captain Cook's description in 1775: "The wild rocks raised their lofty summits till they were lost in the clouds, and the valleys lay covered with everlasting snow. Not a tree was to be seen, nor a shrub big enough to make a toothpick." Later she will search for the lost Pacific Island of Tunaki and the alleged Dougherty Island.

This is exploration on the heroic scale. Popular interest will be maintained in the adventurous side of the enterprise, for some of the seas are uncharted and a large part of the Antarctic Continent is unknown; but the voyage may well prove as important to biology and geology as those, nearly a century ago, which were made by the famous trio, Darwin, Huxley, and Hooker, which with Lyell's geology revolutionised our conception of the universe.

**Odium Theologicum.**

The religious controversy, to which I alluded recently, between the Broad Churchmen and other varieties of opinion, seems likely to become acute. Not only are the Low Churchmen and the Nonconformists opposed to the Broad Church teaching, but the High Church have now entered the field. At the recent meeting of the English Church Union, the representative society of the High Churchmen, a sustained attack was made on the "Modernists," and the *Church Times*, the organ of the High schools, while sneering at the Broad Churchmen as mere intellectuals, definitely lays it down that they are the enemy. It may be taken for granted that the progressives will answer the orthodox at their next Congress; they are not so well organised for a press campaign as their opponents, only being equipped with a monthly review, whereas the *Church Times* is a flourishing weekly. But in a battle of wits I fancy the Broad will give a good account of themselves.

But there is also the Broad High School to be reckoned with. As its name implies, it does not go quite so far as the broadest of the Broad, while it retains a good deal of the highness of the High; probably this two-dimensional variety of clericalism will exercise a moderating influence. It does not contemptuously ignore modern thought, like the extreme High variety, which never ceases to regret the Middle Ages; but it does not accept the extreme Broad Church position, which to many seems untenable by men in holy orders.

**The Excess of Sport.**

In one or two quarters lately I have noticed signs of a reaction against sport, or rather against the excessive attention which the newspapers and public are devoting to it. Hardly a day passes without an international championship in golf, tennis, cricket, or polo, which attracts its thousands and gets its two or three columns in the papers. I doubt whether things have reached such a pitch before. The objectors are not men of the kill-joy type—in fact, they are mostly good sportsmen themselves. But they suggest that the thing is being overdone, and that these contests are taken too seriously; and some are of opinion that the inevitable result is an increase of professionalism in every sport, which must in the long run sap the spirit of the game. Certainly some of the second-class matches at cricket, which only attract a small handful of spectators, are more interesting to watch than the bigger games, where there are more reporters than players. And, after all, the fate of civilisation does not depend on one's golf handicap.

**The Litigation Market.**

The civil judicial statistics just published make curious reading. In 1919 there were 513,448 cases, an increase of some 24,000 over those of the previous year; the total is, however, still less than half the pre-war figures; so that, if war has not ended war, as Mr. H. G. Wells prophesied, it has at any rate lessened our quarrelsomeness at home. The falling-off is mainly in the county courts, which only do one-third of their old business. There is, however, an increase in divorce—from 2,689 to 5,763 cases, in 1918 and 1919 respectively; the increase over 1913 is far greater—355 per cent. But of these poor persons' suits numbered 2,341: and a legal luminary assures me that many of these suits would have been brought years ago had the rules permitted.

In 40 per cent. of the divorce suits there were no children; in 24 per cent. the marriage was less than five years old. 34 per cent. of the marriages had lasted five to ten years, and 42 per cent. more than ten years. 21 per cent. of the parties were under age at the date of marriage.

It has been said that childless marriages are most likely to lead to divorce, and that the eighth year of married life is the most critical. It can hardly be argued that these figures lend much support to those theories; indeed, I doubt whether they prove anything. A flippant bachelor of my acquaintance, however, says they prove that most people have not the courage of their convictions; he argues that for every person who seeks divorce, ten must wish for it. It is to be hoped things are not as bad as that; I am more inclined to believe the lady who remarked that the really serious menace to home life is not the unfaithful husband but the incompetent domestic of the day.

**Sherlock Holmes Redivivus.**

It is announced that a new series of Sherlock Holmes stories is to be published. The celebrated detective has already been killed by the author—twice, I fancy—and his last authentic exploit after his previous resurrection was to desert bee-keeping—perhaps when the Isle of Wight disease broke out—in order to chase a German spy in the approved fashion in 1914. I was afraid that he had finally disappeared in the war, but we shall probably find him unravelling Bolshevist plots in Baker Street, to the envy of Sir Basil Thompson and the purblind detectives of Scotland Yard when he appears on the stage again. Or has Sir A. Conan Doyle received spirit messages from Sherlock and Moriarty, which will reconcile some of the contradictions between his own revelations and those of Mr. Vale Owen? Personally, I am glad that the author has returned to the scene of his first successes; it will be far more satisfactory to read than his psychical research.

OCELLUS.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 19.

This week the seat of Government was transferred to Alexandria, whither the Sultan proceeded in State on the 16th instant. Contrary to previous custom, however, the various Administrations will not send their usual staffs to Alexandria, and the transfer will apply only to the immediate personnel of each Minister. It has been definitely arranged that the Official Delegation will proceed to Europe on July 1.

**The Alexandria Inquiry.**

The Military Court of Inquiry is busily taking evidence in Alexandria; but it will probably be some little while before it is able to present its report, and whether that report will be made public or not cannot be said at present. In this connection, it would, I think, be well to accept with every reserve statements which are made as to the manner in which the outbreak started. The various foreign correspondents telegraphed at the time to their papers divers versions which were obtained from sources that might ordinarily be regarded as trustworthy. But the atmosphere has been so charged with electricity, and it has been so obviously in the interests of certain elements to fasten responsibility on a particular section of the community, that it is quite impossible for the ordinary man to obtain corroboration of any particular statement in this respect. While it is perfectly clear that the demonstrations which preceded created an atmosphere of excitement conducing to the subsequent trouble, you would be well advised to abstain from giving publicity to any statements connecting any particular section of the community with the first hostile acts on Sunday, May 22, and Monday, the 23rd, and to await the report of the Court of Inquiry, which alone will be in a position to give an authoritative opinion in this respect.

**Mr. Churchill's Speech.**

Mr. Churchill's speech at the meeting of the Empire Cotton Association, wherein he said that Britain's work in Egypt was not yet completed, and the time had not yet come for the removal of British troops, has considerably disturbed the Egyptian community, which has loudly protested against these statements. At the same time his speech has brought home to thinking Egyptians the serious effects which the Alexandria events are bound to have on the future of their country, while it has been warmly welcomed by the foreign communities, who make no attempt to conceal their views as to the necessity of European control in matters of public security. It is, of course, not known whether he was expressing the view of the Cabinet or whether once again he was giving his own personal opinion, and for this reason the foreign communities do not intend to desist from their action in bringing pressure to bear through their Governments in this respect.

**The Bedouin "Invasion."**

Much quiet amusement has been caused out here by a reference in the English Press to the dangers of an invasion by Bedouin. This seems to have arisen through a message to a press agency stating that the Bedouin were marching on Ramleh.

As a matter of fact, this "invasion by Bedouin" is a hardy annual, and never fails to make its appearance in the news items whenever there is serious trouble in Egypt. Hitherto the "invasion" has always been referred to as coming from the West, whereas in this instance the news stated that the Bedouin were marching on Ramleh, which is to the East of Alexandria. The only Bedouin, of course, who could fill the bill of marching on Egypt are the Bedouin of the Western desert; and it would have been interesting if the message had explained how they intended to reach Ramleh, and why they refrained from marching on the prosperous towns which lie on their direct route. Joking apart, however, there is absolutely no foundation for this rumour; nor is there, indeed, any fear of any such occurrence. It is true, that during the events of 1919 there was a good deal of talk about the damage done and the ravages wrought by Bedouin. These were, however, not the desert Bedouin properly speaking, but the sedentary Arabs who have given up desert life and with it all the better characteristics of the Bedawi, and have settled down in and around the towns, and have there acquired vices which have given them the worst reputation of any element in the country. "Ask a Bedawi to lunch and he will steal your clothes" is a familiar Egyptian saying which epitomises the character of the sedentary Bedawi, on whom the local authorities, even in the piping times of peace, have to keep a very watchful eye.

As for the desert Bedouin, there is little to fear from them. They may cast covetous eyes on the prosperous cities inland, but they know full well the retribution that will follow any hostile act in this direction. I am of opinion that an invasion *qua* invasion does not come within their realm of practical politics, and in any case we may be certain that they will not make a move in this respect until they find that Egypt has been sufficiently weakened internally to be unable to resist such an attack. This is what has invariably taken place in the past, and we may be certain that so long as orderly Government continues in Egypt the much dreaded Bedouin invasion will exist merely in the imagination of newspaper correspondents.

**Railway Strike Averted.**

What threatened to be a serious strike on the railways has happily been averted, thanks to the tact and firmness shown by the general manager, Brigadier-General Blakeney. Some two months ago trouble arose in the workshops, and the men struck for four days; the dispute was settled and the men returned, but demanded payment for the four days in question. The administration declined at first, but eventually offered to pay them if they worked overtime or increased their output. This was apparently agreed to by the men, but on the following morning they returned to the charge, and declared that nothing short of the four days' pay without conditions would satisfy them.

It was evident that the same political influences had been at work as had been responsible during the past two years for all the so-called "industrial" trouble which had taken place in the Railways; and as every possible concession had been made to the men, and the conditions of service are really most favourable, the administration decided that things must be brought to a head, and they accordingly locked out the workshop workers. In taking this decision it was fully realised that there was a risk of a sympathetic strike taking place in the other branches of the service, but the administration, very rightly bearing in mind that the safety of the travelling public depended on the maintenance of discipline among those employed on the railways, made up its mind that this constantly recurring industrial trouble which was really due to political causes must be brought to a finish.

Its line of action has been fully justified by results. No strike took place in the other branches, where the men remained absolutely loyal, and within a few days the arsenal workers sent a deputation asking permission to return to work. The Railways stated their terms, which were not unduly onerous, but were sufficiently severe to act as a lesson, and the men having signified their acceptance of these terms, all but the ringleaders have been allowed to resume work. This is a signal victory, and General Blakeney deserves warm congratulations for his firm attitude, which, there is reason to believe, will not only prevent similar trouble in the future, but will go a long way towards breaking the influence which the political element had acquired over the industrial classes.

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# SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, June 9.

**Blue Nile Irrigation.**

The Governor-General of the Sudan left Egypt last week accompanied by the Financial Secretary, in order to lay the situation in respect to the irrigating and development of the Blue Nile schemes before H.M. Government in London. The cost of the new works has been very adversely affected by the universal rise in the price of skilled and unskilled labour. The extra funds required for the completion of the project are estimated at some £8,000,000, and the departure of His Excellency somewhat earlier than usual is connected with the endeavour to raise the necessary sinews of war.

The Governor-General has approved of the appointment of the following permanent Labour Committee:—Chairman, Mr. H. P. Hewins, O.B.E.; and members, the Director of Intelligence, secretary, *ex-officio*, the Director of Agriculture, Mr. A. J. C. Huddleston, O.B.E., Governor of Khartoum Province, and Captain P. C. Lord, O.B.E., representing Railways.

The occurrence of sundry minor accidents with motor-cars has resulted in strong feeling that a stricter control should be exercised over native drivers; and it is rumoured that steps will shortly be taken to make them pass a severe examination in driving before being granted licences.

**From the Provinces.**

The following items of news are from the various provinces named:—

Halfa Province.—Ismail Bey Ramzi, the Governor of Assuan, visited Halfa on April 8, and, after the customary exchange of official visits, left for the North on the following day.

Blue Nile Province.—A presentation of medals for the Darfur campaign was made at Hag Abdulla on April 12 by the Governor, Mr. Iles, C.B.E., to the rank and file of No. 5 Company, Camel Corps.

Kassala Province.—As a result of the efforts of the Survey Department, some 45,000 feddans of land have been demarcated for registration to date. Good progress has been made in the new irrigation works. Excessive temperatures have been experienced; a maximum of 114.6 Fahr. was registered at Kassala on April 9, with a minimum of 62.6 Fahr. on April 12.

Upper Nile Province.—The Nile reached its lowest level for the year at Malakal on April 22, the gauge being 9.69 metres.

Reports from Talodi predict the closing of the Tonga-Talodi road to wheeled traffic by mid-June, on account of excessive rains.

Fung Province.—An annual event much looked forward to as a relief to the monotony of province life is the location of the various game-poaching parties who periodically raid the country in the neighbourhood of the Rahad and the Dinder. A band was recently reported at Khor Limona, and was eventually surrounded, seven of its members being captured, with their rifles and ammunition.

Bahr-el-Ghazal Province.—The well-known scientist Dr. Christy left Wau for Raga on April 3.

Outbreaks of cerebro-spinal-meningitis are reported from Gnopp, Lau, and Rumbek, the mortality being estimated at some sixty to 100 persons. This plague is now decreasing, but smallpox has made its appearance at Lau, and in spite of the very large number of vaccinations there have been several deaths among the native population.

Bimbashi Fergusson has recently made a tour of the unadministered and comparatively unknown Nuer country north of the Shambé-Rumbek road. He was well received by the populace, and it is hoped to bring this territory under administration next year.

Owing to the breakdown of the dredger Agrab, there has been considerable difficulty in transporting passengers beyond Lake Ambadi to the Meshra district.

Special efforts have been made by the Inspector at Yambio to form the nucleus of a native town, by collecting wandering craftsmen and giving them certain privileges in return for their undertaking to reside in the place for a definite period.

Inhabitants of the Mangayiat Hills have been harassed by a man-eating lion which has recently made its appearance in the neighbourhood, and is reported to have carried off several people. A fatigue party of native troops engaged in cutting grass in the vicinity was attacked by a she-leopard with cubs, two men being injured before the marauder was despatched.

There has been a heavy rainfall throughout the province, and a slight rise in the river at Wau in April last.

Nuba Mountain Province.—The establishment of a military post at Delami has borne fruit in the diminution of murders resulting from tribal blood feuds. The Koalib Nubas in the vicinity have shown marked friendliness to the Government, and have come forward freely to work on the new buildings.

Cattle plague is reported at Eliri, but later news indicates that the outbreak is slight. The province has been comparatively free from this pest this year.

The Sûk at Talodi is now completed, all the new shops being roofed with bricks and zibla, the absence of the thatched grass roofs being somewhat noticeable. Large quantities of dhurra are being brought into the Sûk, being sold at PT 55. per ardeb. Animal transport on the Talodi-Tonga road has been extremely difficult, owing to lack of water at Khor-Ragaba and the scarcity of wells.

Kordofan Province.—A serious railway accident took place on May 19 between the down El Obeid mail train and a troop special from El Obeid to Sennar at Kilometre No. 314, between Sagadi Junction and Jebel Dud Station. Fortunately there were no casualties among the troops; but several of the Mounted Infantry mules were killed and injured. The El Obeid mail train was less fortunate, nine persons being killed and twenty-four injured. There was very considerable damage to the rolling stock, and it has been necessary to divert the line round the scene of the disaster. The accident took place at about 1 a.m., and a European passenger who escaped with a severe shaking states that on getting out of his carriage and walking up the entire length of the two trains it was some time before any of the native passengers made any sound or proceeded to detrain. The Mounted Infantry proceeded to finish their journey to Sennar on foot.

Gambeila.—Reports to hand state that the bridging of the Birbir has been successfully completed in timber—span 64 ft. The new direct road to the River Sako is being rapidly cleared, and the Sako itself will be bridged about 2½ miles north of its confluence with the Baro.

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KHARTOUM, June 16.

**Red Sea Province.**

Province headquarters were moved to Erkoweit on May 5. Several heavy thunderstorms are reported both from Erkoweit and Sinkat, and an exceptionally heavy hailstorm at Erkoweit on May 25. The road to Erkoweit has been very much damaged, and completely washed out in parts. It is, however, still practicable for motor traffic with minimum loads and extreme caution.

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KHARTOUM, June 19.

**The Political Situation.**

The recent disgraceful scenes in Alexandria have caused the most intense indignation amongst all communities here, and the greatest astonishment has been evinced at the extraordinary communiqué from the Foreign Office, the evident efforts that have been made to minimise the several episodes, and the statement in the Press that the trouble was started by Greeks firing on a crowd of peaceful demonstrators. Nearly every member of the Hellenic community has either relations or friends in Alexandria, and it is interesting to note that the various accounts of what happened during the rioting show very slight discrepancies. Practically all the Egyptian battalions have been withdrawn from the Sudan and sent to Egypt, all their British officers having been removed in nearly every case. Local opinion is very emphatic on the absolute untrustworthiness of Egyptian troops and the hopeless inefficiency of Egyptian officers. It is universally thought that a couple of battalions of Sudanese, one in Cairo and one in Alexandria, would deal very successfully with the would-be rioters. The black troops, however, have so great an antipathy to the Egyptians that once they were loosed against the mobs it would be practically impossible to hold them in check until they were sated with slaughter. Many years ago a black battalion was stationed in Cairo for garrison duties. They were transferred back to the Sudan after a very short period, having frightened the gentle and law-abiding Egyptian out of his wits. The chief daily amusement of the battalion appears to have been derived from driving all over Cairo in hackney carriages and beating the drivers when they had the audacity to demand their fares. It is not unreasonable to suppose that the presence of black troops, entirely untrammelled

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by political opinions, would have the most salutary moral effect on the Cairene and Alexandrian mobs.

**Province News.**

Latest reports from the White Nile Province indicate very great activity and progress in the construction and extension of District Offices at Kosti, Tendelti, Gebelein, and Dueim. In spite of the comparative stagnation of trade the amount of produce railed from southern stations during May totalled 576 tons, consisting principally of sesame seed and gum.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, June 28 (Vidov Dan, 18, Old Style).

**The Constitution.**

On Vidov Dan, Tuesday, June 18, 1389, at Kossovo, the Serbian Empire of the Nemanitch dynasty fell, to be avenged at Kumanovo in 1912. On Vidov Dan, 1914, two revolver bullets at Serajevo killed the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, brought on the Great War, and shattered the dreams of Konopisht. On Tuesday, Vidov Dan, 1921, M. Pashitch manœuvred his Constitution through the House, in face of difficulties and opposition that would have daunted a less resolute man, and at noon a hundred and one guns from the old Roman fortress boomed forth the news that the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes at last has its Constitution, complete and legally passed by a majority of eleven, in the Constituent Assembly.

The veteran politician had sworn that he would proclaim the Constitution with guns on Vidov Dan, and he has kept his word. The past week has been one of feverish comings and goings, of rumours and denials, of meetings and consultations and compromises, and of an intensity of political feeling that an Englishman can scarcely realise. Interests of all kinds crossed and clashed and cleaved in a bewildering fashion. The Mohammedans of Bosnia supported the Government, though their leader, Dr. Spaho, resigned his position and portfolio on the eve of the voting. The Mohammedans of Macedonia, after putting forward extreme demands, also supported the Government. Of the Peasants' Party, some voted for and some against; for that organisation is not yet bound by ties of stern party discipline. The evening before the voting, one member attacked another when sitting in a café, and threatened to kill him if he voted for the Constitution: the other replied with equanimity that a bad Constitution was better than none, that unity of the State was the one vital essential, that the Austrians had tried to kill him in 1908 and again in 1914, and that threatened men lived long, and he voted "for." It is noteworthy that Dr. Trumbitch appears to have voted against.

Probably few are pleased with the Constitution as a whole; for it is a series of compromises, and Serbs and Yugoslavs in general do not like compromise. Probably many modifications will be introduced during the next few years. It is yet premature to analyse the voting, or to criticise the Constitution. The hard-pressed politicians will now have a breathing space, which they have certainly earned. It is said that M. Pashitch, who seems as vigorous as a man of half his age, is proceeding to Paris and London, and then for a holiday to Marienbad.

In its short independent existence, Serbia has had an unrivalled experience of constitutions. It is interesting to enumerate them. The first was issued on August 8, 1807, over the signature of Kara George; this was short-lived, for it waited in vain the confirmation of the Tsar Alexander of Russia, and was superseded on December 14 of the following year by Kara George's second constitution, which in turn gave way to his third attempt on January 8-11, 1811. Next were two Turkish Hatti-Cherifs of 1830 and 1833, followed by the Constitution of Davidovitch in 1835, which in turn was again replaced by a Turkish one in 1838. In 1858, the Skupshtina of St. Andrew brought in a Constitutional Law which was superseded by Prince Michaël's Law of 1861. This was again replaced by a Regency Constitution of 1869, which held good till King Milan's Constitution of 1888. In 1894 the 1869 one was revived by decree, and in 1901 King Alexander issued a new one, which was suppressed by that king's *coup d'état* when he suspended the Constitution and all organic laws in 1903. On his death a few months later, the Skupshtina restored the Constitution of King Milan with certain modifications, which has held good till to-day.

It was voted at ten o'clock this morning, and at noon the Regent signed it and took the oath. The next step will be for M. Pashitch to reconstruct his Cabinet and replace Dr. Yankovitch, who has retired from the Ministry of Communications, and Dr. Mehmed Spaho at the Ministry of Commerce.

**The King's Rumoured Death.**

Rumours of the King's death have been prevalent in Belgrade, not, perhaps, without cause, when the veteran monarch's age is taken into consideration, and all his sufferings during the war, which would have shaken the constitution of a young and vigorous man. Besides, he was undoubtedly extremely ill, and all the Royal family were summoned hastily to the bedside. Grave fears were entertained of heart failure, but the skill of the doctors in attendance, two Serbs and one Russian, tided over that danger, and the august patient recovered, to the delight of everybody, for "Chichi Pera," or "Uncle Peter," as his subjects affectionately call him, is naturally as beloved as respected by his people. It would, too, have been pathetic if he had just failed to live to see the passing of the Constitution, which is the crowning piece of the national work to which he has devoted his life. Those who knew him by his published portraits usually failed to recognise the old gentleman with a long white beard who was seen at Salonika, but on returning to his fatherland he shaved off his beard again, which he had grown as a sign of mourning, and once more is the smart and soldierly figure of past years, though, naturally, considerably aged.

**Serbia and Thrace.**

Among foreign matters that are engaging the attention of Serbian public opinion are Greco-Turkish relations. While their interest in Asia Minor is purely academic, it is pointed out that Thrace is in the Balkans, and its fate directly concerns Serbia. On the assumption that the Turks can never return and that Thrace is a Slavonic land, the Serbs would gladly enough see it go to Bulgaria, which requires an opening on the "White Sea," or Ægean, in return for which the Bulgars must renounce any claims upon Macedonia. The situation of the Greeks both external and internal is looked upon as desperate, and the Greater Greece of Venizelos doomed to ruin. In that case, Yugoslavia would get Salonika, which is the natural port of the interior of the Balkans. The *Beogradski Dnevnik*, after reproaching the Greeks for allowing their great enemy, King Constantine, to return, remarks that Mariana would bless the Serbian occupation of Salonika, so it only remains to win the approval of John Bull, who is very well disposed to the Greeks.

**An Interesting Ceremony.**

Undaunted by cold, rain and mud, a large and distinguished party assembled recently to witness the Regent lay the foundation-stone of the new University Library which the Carnegie Trust has presented to Belgrade. In the presence of the Regent, of the Minister of Education, President of the Skupshtina, of the American Minister, the Rector of the University, the Mayor, and a distinguished company [illegible]

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performed the service of dedication, and then, after hymns, read a record of the incident which was inscribed upon a parchment, stating how, during the reign of King Peter and the Regency of Prince Alexander, when M. Pashitch was Prime Minister, M. Sv. Pribitchevitch, Minister of Education; Dr. Ribar, President of the Skupshtina; and Dimitrije Patriarch, the stone was laid. This document was then placed in a sealed bottle, let into a special recess in the stone, and then the Prince spread mortar over it and the stone was declared laid. The speeches which followed were interesting, eloquent, and appropriate. The incident has drawn still closer the bonds of friendship between Serbia and America.

**Serbia's Unknown Warrior.**

Serbia now has its Unknown Warrior. On the summit of Avala, the isolated hill that commands a view of almost the whole of the northern half of the country, crowned with the old fort built by George Brankovitch, the last independent prince of Serbia in the fifteenth century, there lies a grave where the Germans buried a dead hero, with the inscription, "Ein unbekannte serbischer Soldat." On the initiative of an association of students, a suitable memorial is to be erected over the grave, and the association will accept the duty of preserving the tomb and the ruins of the old fort.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 15.

**M. Jonescu's Return.**

M. Také Jonescu, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has returned from Belgrade, where he was accorded a very warm and cordial reception. The signing of the defensive treaty with Yugoslavia completes the "Little Entente" between the four States, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, and Poland, which is intended to consolidate and secure the benefits of the Trianon Treaty for the concerned Allied States. Many ascribe to M. Také Jonescu the merit for having promoted and carried out this diplomatic scheme.

**Heroes of the War.**

The commemoration of the dead heroes of the war was solemnised on the (Orthodox) Ascension Day. An impressive Te Deum was held in the open air, the Primate, assisted by many high prelates, officiating. There was a very large attendance, and after the religious service patriotic speeches were made glorifying the dead heroes, who sacrificed their lives for the realisation of the national ideal. A military parade followed, then the schoolchildren formed a huge procession, and marched through the principal streets on their way to the different cemeteries to place flowers on the graves of the dead heroes. In the afternoon there were commemorative festivals at the National Theatre and the Athenæum; military bands played in the public gardens, and a torchlight procession ended the day. Similar celebrations took place in all the towns throughout the country.

On this occasion the body of the young heroine, Ecaterine Teodoroiu, was transferred from the former battlefields in Moldavia to her native village, where, with military honours, it was solemnly placed in a specially built tomb. At the outbreak of the war, this peasant girl of 18 years enlisted, disguised in men's clothes. She endured all the hardships of trench life, distinguishing herself by deeds of courage and bravery, and her sex was only discovered when she was taken to the hospital after being severely wounded on the battlefield. She was raised to the rank of lieutenant and received a medal for valour. On recovery she returned to the battlefield, where she met with an heroic death. Her body has been reposing until now amidst those of her hero comrades. She rightly deserves the denomination of "the Roumanian Joan of Arc."

BUCHAREST, June 21.

**In Parliament.**

As M. Titulesco, the Minister of Finance, was unable to be present this week, owing to slight indisposition, the debate on Fiscal Reform was not proceeded with in the Lower Chamber. In consequence of this more time was available for the discussion of the agrarian reform proposals; and in order to clear the ground the Premier persuaded some of his followers to abandon their intention of speaking. M. Duca declared that the Liberals would vote for the Bill because it was the embodiment of their own decree-law of 1918, with merely a modification in the matter of amount of compensation. On the latter point the Liberals still maintained the opinion that twenty years' purchase was the real value of the land in 1918, and though the landowners were entitled to some compensation for the present depreciation of money, the doubling of the amount was excessive. Seventy years ago, the speaker pointed out, the peasants owned not a single acre; the first allotment took place in 1864, and others had followed up to recent times. After the allotment now proposed has been carried out the peasantry will own 92 per cent. of all the arable land in Old Roumania. He considered that the Bill would solve the Agrarian problem once and for all, and put an end to the strife between peasant and landowner. Roumania could then pride herself on being indeed "a land of peasants."

The Prime Minister admitted frankly that it was impossible for the Bill to satisfy all parties; and he believed the Agrarian problem would last as long as the world, but for the moment it had been met in accordance with the present needs. Since last autumn 600,000 hectares of land have been distributed; the remainder up to 2,000,000 hectares will be dealt with in due course. In about thirty years' time, however, when the population will undoubtedly have doubled, the problem will have to be faced again. The true solution of it lies in the direction of intensive cultivation and control of the production by Government. This, he declared, was bound to form the principal work of Governments to come. In spite of noisy protests by the extremists, the discussion was closed, and the Bill passed its first reading.

The Senate discussed and passed the Bill for regulating the exploitation of forests. This provides that no companies, excepting the Peasants' Co-operative Societies, are allowed to acquire a larger area than 5,000 hectares for exploitation. However, when the forest for sale is a part of a larger tract, and provided that it is exploited by one company only, the area may, with the special authorisation of the Ministry of Domains, be extended to 8,000 hectares.

A by-election for the Senate at Lipova, Banat, resulted in the return of the Government candidate by 1,383 votes to 297.

**New Roumania.**

The Royal Geographical Society held a sitting recently at which the King presided, in honour of Monsieur E. de Martonne, Professor of Geography at the Sorbonne, who gave a lecture on "New Roumania in New Europe." The lecturer examined in detail the economic situation of the country, analysing its vast riches, comparing them with those of other countries, even with those of France, and showing that the wealth of Roumania is enormous and is bound to assign her a prominent place in Europe. The mineral riches of the Old Kingdom, which consisted mainly of petroleum, are now immensely increased by the coal, iron, gold, etc., of the new provinces. He dwelt also on the vast agricultural, forestal, and wine production. When the present critical situation has passed, and circumstances become normal, Roumania cannot fail to be one of the most flourishing States in Europe.

**A Ministerial Excursion.**

Taking advantage of the Whitsuntide holidays, the Prime Minister, General Averesco, arranged a three days' excursion on the Danube, to which were invited the Diplomatic Corps and the Cabinet Ministers, with their wives. The party were conveyed by special train to Turnu-Severin, where they embarked on the Principele Mircea, a very fine Roumanian river boat, and proceeded straight to the renowned Kazan Pass. On their return they will visit the ancient and famous Roman Hercules Bath, and afterwards Orsova, and the historical island Ada-Kaleh, picturesquely situated close by the famed Iron Gates.

Your readers may remember that Ada-Kaleh was once a strong fortress, built by the Turks during the Ottoman

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domination, as a defence against the Austrians, in the reign of Maria Theresa. Some of its massive walls are still standing; its population has ever since remained exclusively Turkish. It numbers now about 500 families. Before the war they were under Austria, but since the war under Roumanian rule, by their own desire.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 26.

**Political Changes.**

This week the Agrarian Party have been busily considering the question of the Ministerial changes, and two days ago it was announced that M. Athanassoff had resigned, and that M. Thomoff, Vice-President of the Sobranje, was to be appointed Minister of the Interior. The appointments of M. Dimitroff to the War Ministry and of M. Boteff to the Ministry of Railways have been confirmed. M. Anthanassoff's resignation must be unwelcome to M. Dimitroff, as the two are close friends; and it is thought that the latter will not remain very long at the War Ministry. There is no doubt that serious disaffection exists in the rank and file of the Agrarian Party, and the events of the next few weeks are fraught with great interest.

It is understood that of late the Government and the Reparations Commission have not seen exactly eye to eye on certain financial questions, and the latter body are assumed to be not quite satisfied with the Government's attitude. Although it is improbable that M. Stambolisky will fall, it is as well to have it made clear that, if he were to fall, there is a Parliamentary group able to take up the reins of office. This group have their plans all prepared for such a contingency. Until the present time M. Stambolisky has been absolutely necessary to the interests of Bulgaria, but it would be an error to imagine that he is irreplaceable. However, there has recently arisen in the Agrarian Party a small band which, under the leadership of MM. Tourlakoff, Dashkaloff, and Radouloff, may easily prove to be the deciding factor in the situation, and as long as the Prime Minister is in accord with this group, it is improbable that there will be any change of Government.

**Delivery of Animals to Greece.**

On Tuesday, the 28th, the delivery of the sheep to Greece will take place. According to the Peace Treaty 6,000 are due to be handed over, and it is satisfactory to be able to record that the Greek Government have acceded to the Bulgarians' request, which was that the handing over may take place on Bulgarian territory. The area selected is that of Nevrekop, and yesterday some members of the Inter-Allied Commission of Reparations left for this area in order to supervise the delivery. The other animals to be handed over, consisting of horses, oxen, cows, and mules, will be delivered at a later date. It is hoped that the fulfilment of Article 127 of the Peace Treaty will help to convince the Greeks that the Bulgarians intend loyally to respect their signature of the Treaty.

**Present-day Sofia.**

Recent orders issued by the Sofia Prefecture of Police deserve some comment. The wearing of silk stockings is altogether banned, and *décolleté* dresses are looked on with great disfavour. It is not quite clear how *décolleté* a dress may be, but strict orders have been issued regarding the length of ladies' skirts, no skirt being allowed to be more than 30 cms. from the ground. The carrying of canes and the wearing of gloves during the summer months are alike forbidden, the last prohibition being made in the interests of economy. People are now asking which will be the next article of everyday dress that they will be forbidden to wear.

In spite of all these restrictions, Sofiotes do not present a downcast experience, and are indulging more and more in sport. Last Sunday a race meeting, in which all the jockeys were amateurs, a big football match and bicycle races were all being held simultaneously; and it is of interest to note that the officers have started a tennis club, which is the third of its kind in Sofia. Further, the love of open-air exercise is being greatly encouraged by the Compulsory Labour Law. While walking through the Boris Gardens a short time ago I was astonished to see a squad of men, directed by one of the leading local dentists, engaged in the construction of a new path. The men were all of respectable age, and in their numbers were included the chief of one of the sections of the Foreign Office, a well-known politician, and some other equally prominent public men. All of them appeared to be enjoying their task, but it seemed a little farcical that highly-trained professional men, whose work was meanwhile lying idle, should be compelled to perform manual labour; for this labour could easily have been done by the numerous Russian refugees whom one sees aimlessly walking about the town.

**General News.**

During the last week we have had a return to winter weather, and the daily temperature has been as low as 40° Fahrenheit. Snow has fallen in many districts, and the oldest inhabitants of Sofia declare that they never have had such weather before in the month of June.

The Prime Minister, M. Stambolisky, has visited the English, Italian, and Serbian Ministers, and it is understood that his object was to represent to each of them that the Bulgarian Government was intent upon loyally carrying out the terms of the Peace Treaty, and particularly that in spite of various rumours to the contrary it had no intention of making any arrangements whatsoever with either the Angora or the Moscow Government.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 22.

**Diplomatists at Work.**

Despite the constant beating of the war-drum in the Hellenic camp, rumour has been exceedingly busy lately with the doings of various diplomatists who are said to be working overtime in order to prevent "further bloodshed" in Anatolia. No one will inquire into the sincerity of the motive, provided some success attends their efforts; but it would seem that so far as the Kemalists are concerned, at all events, the principal object is to detach the Allies, more especially Great Britain, once and for all from the Hellenes. This was foreshadowed in last week's letter, and it may be taken for granted that if the Kemalist representatives put forward fresh proposals and profess to be willing to conclude peace with *all* the Allies, the Greeks will not be included in the discussions. Nothing less than the complete evacuation of Smyrna and Thrace at least will induce the Kemalists even to discuss terms with the Hellenes, and the latter will most certainly refuse to agree to this of their own accord. How are the diplomatists going to solve the problem? The case is quite simple, and was defined in THE NEAR EAST many weeks ago. Can the Allies conclude a separate peace, which would mean scrapping the Sèvres Treaty from beginning to end, although it has been solemnly signed by all parties? The Kemalist diplomatists are obviously making a great "peace drive," and the true object of the proceeding is to deprive the Allies of the most effective means of exerting pressure.

If there were any signs of a real change of spirit in Angora, or if there were good reasons for believing that the Kemalist leaders are actuated by the high motives which they profess, and which have hitherto been attributed to them, there would be no reason to fear the removal of the means of exerting pressure. Indeed, there would be every reason to welcome that removal as soon as possible. Unfortunately, however, during the last three months, the Kemalist leaders have completely betrayed themselves, and although the former arguments against the forcible submission to Hellenic rule of large Moslem populations still hold good, it is no longer possible to believe in the sincerity of the Kemalists. The tone of the Anatolian Press has not changed in the least, despite the not ungentle attitude of the British Government, and the decidedly favourable attitude of the British Press. In the most recently received numbers of the *Yeni Gun* and the official *Hakimet-i-Millié* there are columns of the most frenzied vituperation against the British, and the foulest of insults against both the Government and the nation. The editor of the *Yeni Gun* is, of course, notorious even amongst his own compatriots for his vulgarity and ignorance; but something better might be expected from the *Hakimet-i-Millié*, which is the organ of

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Mustapha Kemal's own party. Yonus Nadi was, until recently, one of the most ardent admirers of the Bolshevists, although he tried to tincture his ardour with a profession of a special brand of Communism patented by himself, and which nobody troubled to try to understand. If the Bolshevists thought he earned his money, no one need quarrel with them, and if they like to employ him still, that is also their affair. But if the Kemalists really wish to persuade the British and their Allies that peace is a higher consideration with them than the loaves and fishes obtainable under war conditions, they should really muzzle their noisy little Yonus Nadis. There are other and less conspicuous ways of inflaming the mind of the ignorant and unfortunate Turkish peasants, and Mustapha Kemal should study the methods of the Committee of Union and Progress in this connection.

**The Malta Prisoners.**

So far as is known none of the internees released from Malta has yet been permitted to enter Anatolia. That, however, does not prevent the Anatolian Press from publishing warm expressions of sympathy for them in connection with the awful sufferings they have endured at the hands of the tyrannical, sanguinary (et cetera *ad lib.*), British, and demanding that the British Camp Commandant and his brother officers shall be forced to indemnify the poor fellows for the frightful tortures inflicted upon them.

In this connection, the articles published by certain leading British newspapers attempting to justify the bitter hatred of the British expressed by the Anatolian Press and by certain Turkish politicians cannot be too strongly condemned. Those articles would have the world believe that the Turkish nation is on the same footing as the British, the French, the Americans, or any other Western nation, whereas the Turks have given the world overwhelming evidence to the contrary. In the first place, the mass of the Turkish nation has no opinions of its own, and is too ignorant to be able to judge whether the leaders of the nation are fools, rogues, or honest men. The Turks who are loudest in their expressions of hatred of the British to-day are the very men who approved the frightful slaughter of hundreds of thousands of helpless people in cold blood. They are the very men who applauded the barbarous treatment accorded to British prisoners of war, and who urged that all manner of cruelties should be inflicted upon British in the hands of the Turks in return for imaginary hardships suffered by Turkish prisoners of war on the "desert island of Man," as the Turkish Press solemnly described it. They are the very men who have always professed the same bitter hatred of everything pertaining to the British nation at no matter what time and in no matter what circumstances. If concessions are made to Turkey to-day, they should be made in the name of mercy rather than justice, and of expediency rather than of International Law.

In this connection, the melting of the snows in the Alexandropol district has brought to light evidence of still further massacres of thousands of women and children belonging to the unfortunate Armenian race, for which there seems to exist no hope. There, in a valley within a stone's-throw of the main road leading to Alexandropol, over two thousand bodies of women and babies, and one old man, have lately been discovered owing to the melting of the snows; and photographs afford ghastly confirmation of the contention that the principal object of the leaders of the Turkish nation, Kemalist or Unionist, was and is to exterminate the human obstacle in the path of the "Drang nach Osten."

It may surprise some people to learn that a very considerable section of the Turkish nation, that is to say, of the educated and influential class, is by no means anti-British, and is simply trembling at the prospect of the triumph of the open and avowed enemies of Great Britain. If those men are not in power to-day, and if their influence has waned to vanishing point, the fault is entirely our own for failing to profit by the unexampled opportunity before us in 1918.

# CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, June 6.

**The Legislative Council.**

After passing several useful measures, the Council was adjourned to June 6, when other Bills will be considered. One of immediate interest is a law "to regulate public processions in public streets and roads." It provides that no person shall organise, equip, or take part in any procession except by permission in writing of the District Commissioner, who will have power to cancel or withdraw a permit. The penalty for transgression is imprisonment for three months or a fine of £50, or both. Had a measure of this kind been passed many years ago, much trouble and loss of Government dignity would have been avoided; while district officials would have been saved a great deal of needless anxiety and annoyance. The tolerance shown towards demonstrations, meetings, and processions—accompanied by displays of the Hellenic flag by those in no way entitled to use it—has contributed much to the growth of pseudo-manifestations of so-called popular feeling.

A Turkish member, Irfan Bey, has presented a petition, signed by the Ottoman members of Council, asking for the establishment of a Government Agricultural Bank.

The movement against the puerile policy of the Greek members of Council in continuing to absent themselves from the Legislative Council has rapidly gained ground. A portion, at least, of the Press has given expression to it, even if it has not openly supported it. The said members are now well aware of this opposition, and are reconsidering the matter at private meetings. The reply of the Secretary of State to the Greek members has been conveyed to them by the acting Chief Secretary, Mr. C. H. Hart Davis, by letter, dated June 1. It states that H.M. Government cannot hold out any hope that the island will be united to Greece, and that the proposal that a vote of the people should be taken in order to ascertain their wishes cannot be favourably entertained.

**The Holy Synod Criticised.**

Severe rebukes are being administered to this body in the Press. The *Phone tés Kyprou*, in particular, observes that during its session just ended the Synod has shown utter indifference towards the principal questions which should occupy its attention. Of a long list of agenda it has dealt only, and that in an unsatisfactory and nerveless manner, with matters of secondary importance; relegating what are really pressing questions, "as usual, to the Greek Kalends." The latter include that of reorganising the school for the training of clergy, on which much money has been spent without results. So far it has failed in its aims, since it turns out only schoolmasters, for whom there is another special establishment. Consequently the standard of the village clergy remains *in statu quo*, and nothing is done to raise their deplorably low standard, or the scanty pittance which they now receive in fees. Again, nothing has been done towards the founding of a mixed council, which, according to the best traditions of the Church, should exist, and which is now much needed in order to deal in a competent manner with various local ecclesiastical questions. The matter of the salaries of the Bishops is also pending.

It can hardly be wondered, however, that Church matters should fall into arrear, considering that for the last two


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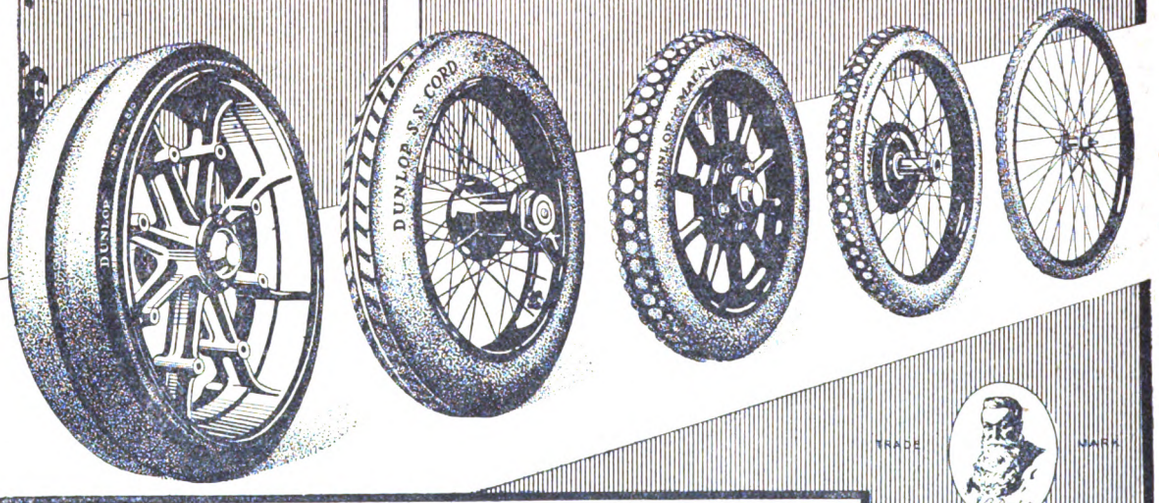


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years the Archbishop has spent most of his time on political missions to London, and that the Church has been more concerned with agitation for "union" than with matters nearer home. Add to this that there have been differences within the Council itself, which have not tended towards local union.

**The Results of the Census.**

The total population of Cyprus is given as 310,709; being composed of 249,287 non-Mohammedans and 61,422 Moslems. At the end of 1920 the total population exceeded the present by 4,510. This is due to departures of foreigners and refugees, and to emigration of many Cypriots. In the non-Moslem community Greeks of the Orthodox Church, of course, largely predominate.

**Visit of the Mediterranean Squadron.**

On Sunday, May 29, vessels of the squadron under Admiral de Robeck, on board the Iron Duke, anchored in the Famagusta Harbour. Other ships proceeded to Larnaca and Limassol. On board one vessel at Limassol was H.R.H. Prince George, and on one at Larnaca was a member of the Greek Kondouriotes family. These visits, now far less frequent than they used to be, are very welcome in Cyprus.

**The King's Birthday.**

This was celebrated loyally on June 3. Services were held in the Greek and Roman Catholic Churches. The High Commissioner held a review of 300 marines from the squadron, 100 British soldiers, and 100 zaptiehs at Nicosia. The name festival of the King of Greece fell on the same day, and combined services were consequently held in the Greek churches. Telegrams were sent to His Majesty and the King of Greece by the Archbishop.

## ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, June 25.

**King Constantine's Visit.**

King Constantine, since his arrival in Smyrna, remains quietly in his villa at Cordelio, where he is visited continuously by the military and political chiefs. Most of the interviews take place on the verandah, much to the satisfaction of the admiring crowds. Occasionally a little humour is supplied by a "Polly Perkins," who insists on attracting the attention of the King and getting a salute.

Prince Andrew and his nephews are often seen in Smyrna and the suburbs. Mr. Herbert Whittall entertained them in his palatial residence in Bournabat, when many prominent members of the European colony were also invited. M. Stratos was also present with a party of friends, and anxiously discussed the political situation with a prominent member of the Smyrna British Chamber of Commerce, who very diplomatically exposed the appalling attitude of M. Sterghiades (Governor of the Smyrna Province) as regards stifling the export trade in the Smyrna Province. It was only too obvious to the distinguished visitors that the Greek cause is bound to be unpopular in Europe if this persistent stifling of trade is allowed to continue.

The Princes and their suite and M. Stratos and his friends were afterwards invited by Mr. Geary, of the British Consulate, to his rooms, where another informal chat amidst much conviviality was apparently thoroughly appreciated by the royal visitors.

The Princes left to-day for Ephesus by special train.

## SYRIA.

BEYROUT, June 13.

The month of May will stand out in the social annals of Beyrout as a red-letter month. Never, perhaps, in all its history has Beyrout witnessed before such a bewildering succession of fêtes and receptions given in honour of distinguished personages. They started with the series of entertainments held in honour of Senator and Madame Fernand David and Deputy and Madame Soulié, both on shore and on board the French warships the Lorraine and the Ernest Renan; and ended with the banquets, tea parties, and receptions given in honour of H.R.H. Prince George, Admiral de Robeck, and the High Commissioner for Palestine and his suite. Owing to a slight indisposition, Prince George was able to attend only a tea-party given in his honour by General Gouraud at his Residence des Pins; and he missed the trip to Damascus, to which he is said to have been looking forward. His Majesty's Consul-General and Mrs. Satow held their first public reception on this occasion, and invited the members of the British colony to meet the distinguished visitors. Finally, an official dinner was given on board the Iron Duke in honour of General Gouraud.

The cordial speeches and toasts exchanged between the two High Commissioners have been commented upon by the local Press, and regarded as a token of still closer co-operation and co-ordination of effort on the part of the two Allied and Mandatory Powers. Sir Herbert Samuel availed himself of his visit to Beyrout to pay a call to the American University, where he received a cordial welcome.

One of the outstanding features of this eventful month of May was the farewell fête organised by the many Syrian friends of Admiral Mornet, and held on the eve of his departure. The programme was a varied one, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, a delightful up-to-date French dialogue play, and, last but not least, an Oriental scene in which the Syrian dance called "Dabke" was most gracefully performed by a quartet of ladies. At the close of the programme the guest of the evening made a short speech that moved his audience strongly. Admiral Mornet incarnates the best qualities of the Frenchman, and he has won for himself universal affection, which translated itself into this public manifestation.

## THE RONALD BURROWS MEMORIAL.

A memorial tablet was dedicated at King's College Chapel last week to Dr. Burrows, the late Principal. The service was conducted by the Dean, the Rev. W. R. Matthews. In addition to Mrs. Burrows and other relatives of the late Principal, there was a large congregation, representing his varied academic, diplomatic, and social work. The inscription reads:—"To the memory of Ronald Montagu Burrows, Principal from 1913 to 1920, who died in the College on May 14, 1920; this tablet is erected by the Governing Body, the staff, students and friends as a memorial of an inspiring teacher, a wise leader and a noble character. After a distinguished career as a student at Oxford, and a teacher of Greek language, letters and history in Glasgow, Cardiff, and Manchester, he turned to a life of administration, and showed such energy and devotion in the office of Principal that he was able to guide the College safely through the years of the Great War and to leave it enhanced in vigour and reputation. 'Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might.'"

In the course of a striking tribute the Dean said that the greatest gift which Dr. Burrows gave to King's College was his strenuous, vivid, and optimistic personality. His powers and personality were precisely those that were required by the College at the period of its history in which he held office. The College, he concluded, was his best memorial.

Subscriptions to the Ronald Burrows Scholarship, which the College authorities propose to establish, may be sent to Professor H. G. Atkins at the College.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE ANGLICAN AND EASTERN CHURCHES ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We desire to appeal through the medium of your columns on behalf of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association, the aims and activities of which will be known to many of your readers. The Association dates from 1906, being amalgamated in 1914 with the older Eastern Church Association, founded in 1863, and is a voluntary organisation not to be confused with the Eastern Churches Committee, appointed in 1919 by the Archbishop of Canterbury as the medium for official relations with the Churches of the East. The Association, however, is in the closest possible touch with the Committee, which contains among its personnel a good number of Association members, including some dozen officers. A report is to be issued in about a month, showing the numerous and varied works in which the Association was engaged during and after the war, showing also the opportunities open to us at the present time of further advance. The Association is engaged in preparing the way for ultimate re-union with the Churches of Eastern Christendom, by spreading information through lectures and literature, by creating in this country an atmosphere of interest and sympathy with the ancient and venerable Churches of the East, and by incorporating friends and supporters in a membership roll with the two-fold link of prayer and study.

We appeal to all to support us in this valuable work by sending for literature on the subject, by interesting others in our aims, by giving us generous donations, or, better still, by joining the Association; we appeal to parish clergy and those responsible for parochial organisations to help us by arranging a meeting in their parishes, at which we may lay before their people the ideals for which we are working; and we appeal to those who have influence in diocesan and ruri-decanal circles to get the subject of re-union with the Eastern Church on to the agenda of Conferences and Chapters, at which a resolution on this subject may be adopted. Full information may be obtained from the General Secretary, the Rev. C. Norman Smith, 24a, St. Charles' Square, N. Kensington, W.10.

The following have authorised their names to be printed in support of this appeal:—

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London.
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Winchester.
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Gloucester.
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Gibraltar.
The Right Hon. the Viscount Halifax.
The Very Rev. the Dean of Winchester.
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The Rev. Dr. W. H. Frere.
The Rev. J. A. Douglas.
The Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton.
The Rev. W. Dudley Dixon, Vicar of Glossop.

## A RHODIAN RESOLUTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The Rhodians, as your readers will see from the undermentioned resolution, insist on being united with Greece, in spite of the Magna Charta promised by Signor Maissa, the Italian Governor, since last October. The latest news I had from the Dodecanesian Delegation at Athens was very bad indeed. Rhodes has never ceased to be a Kemalist "pied-à-terre," and it seems that the Italian authorities, in their desire not to excite the overworked nerves of their distinguished guests, provoked a scandal at Kallithea on May 13 by not allowing the village band to play the British Anthem in honour of Mr. A. T. Taylor, H.B.M.'s Consul in Rhodes, who happened to be at Kallithea with other members of the Consular Association.

Your members will confess with me that the invocation by the Rhodians of "the rights of nationalities and the principle of self-determination" sounds rather awkward. The Wilsonian doctrines are no more respected, and Rhodians, as well as the other Dodecanesians also, must realise once and for all that "Themselves Alone" is the right motto for 1921.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONA.

Dodecanesian Delegation at the Peace Conference.
32, Oxford Street, Manchester, June 24.

"The Pan-Rhodian Assembly, composed of the representatives of the capital and the forty-four villages of the Island of Rhodes, legally elected as voicing the will of the Rhodian people, having considered the efforts of those whom the Rhodian people acknowledged as the trustees of the national cause, i.e., the Metropolitan of Rhodes, Kyrius Apostolos and the Provincial and Communal Societies of the Holy Metropolitan Diocese, and wishing to express the steadfast and invariable wish of the people, has passed the following resolutions:—

"(1) Approves and ratifies every step taken by aforesaid trustees towards the realisation of the union of Rhodes with the motherland of Greece.

"(2) Proclaims that the only and secular and unchangeable wish of the Rhodian people is the union with the motherland of Greece.

"(3) Entreats the protectress Italy and the liberty-loving Italian people, *in the name of the rights of nationalities and the principle of self-determination*, to acknowledge the right of the R.P. to be united with the motherland of Greece, and

"(4) Directs the representatives of the people to forward this resolution to the Government of the protectress Italy, and to contribute in whatsoever manner they think fit to attain the happy issue of the union of Rhodes with the motherland of Greece."

(Rhodes, April 22 (o.s.), 1921.
The President: (signed) + APOSTOLOS OF RHODES.
The Secretary: (signed) D. E. DIMITRAKIS.

## "TRUTH ABOUT THE BALKANS".

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—An article, by H. C. Woods, in the *Quarterly Review*, professes to tell "The Truth about the Balkans." The author, I have no doubt, is most competent to tell the whole truth on the question. He has, however, failed to do so, because he has limited himself in this article to a very small part—to a phase, and an ugly one—of the question. He has merely portrayed the present *appearance* of it. The title of the article is misleading.

Formerly the question was The Eastern Question; later it was The Near East Question; now it is talked of as The Balkan Question. The "question" is one; it concerns the final political settlement in the Balkan countries. It arose with the weakening of the Ottoman power, and the opportunities it afforded for the liberation of the Christian populations under Turkish rule. Until very recently this liberation of the Christians was based not upon the pretensions of this or that neighbour State, but upon what these populations naturally claimed. This principle was flagrantly abandoned in Bucharest in 1913 and by the recent Paris Treaties.

The Balkan Question interests directly all the States in the Balkans, as well as those in contact with them; nevertheless, the question is one only. You cannot tell "the truth about the Balkans" by treating the last present *phase* of it only—a phase which gives no satisfaction to the peoples most concerned or to the political world at large. Mr. Woods, in treating the question, commences by declining to speak of Macedonia, the heart of the Balkan question, and the Dobruja, and refuses to say a word on the Bucharest Treaty; in other words, he has avoided treating the genesis, the substance itself of the question. By thus hampering himself Mr. Woods has attempted the impossible. He has given us a picture of the present appearance in these countries of what he saw when he last visited them. He certainly discovered most unsatisfactory relations ruling between the Balkan countries, a nervous condition of things fraught with imminent danger, notwithstanding he is severely silent on the responsibility for such a situation. He says nothing upon the radical change of the principle upon which the solution of the Eastern question has been sought for generations past—the national claim of the peoples themselves—for the arbitrary one, as at present.

Too many interests clash in this question of the Balkans, and the treatment of it is not easy. Mr. Woods has attempted it honestly, but far too carefully. The Balkan question is an old, festering sore, and requires drastic treatment; delicate handling cannot solve it

Touching Thrace, Mr. Woods speaks well of the conduct of the Greek military authorities there. They certainly failed to inform him of the great number of Turks imprisoned and deported and fled into Bulgaria; of the non-existence of Bulgarian churches and schools; of the baptism of Exarchists into Patriarchists by flogging in the police-stations and elsewhere; of armed bands crossing the frontier under the eyes of the Greek frontier guard to drive off cattle and commit robberies with murder; of the impossibility of a Bulgarian travelling into Thrace, even upon most urgent business. Mr. Woods actually pleads in a way for the extension of Greece's territory in Europe, should she be obliged to relinquish her preposterous pretensions to hold part of Asia Minor, although her pretensions to Thrace are not more securely grounded than those in Asia Minor.

It is impossible to tell the truth on a question when determined, as in this case, out of delicacy for those concerned, to be silent on nine-tenths of the substance of it. In the negotiations with Turkey and Greece for modifications to be reintroduced into the Sèvres Treaty peculiar pains were taken to avoid even an allusion to the Treaty of Neuilly, although it contained even greater defects than the Sèvres Treaty, besides the fact of the close connection between the two.

There is no comparison as to which of the two countries, Turkey and Bulgaria, should be best considered. Turkey had been condemned for generations as unfit to rule even its own people, while Bulgaria, until the results of the Second Balkan War became apparent, was considered as a model country of progress and development. Why is the responsibility of the blunder committed by Bulgaria in joining the Central Powers in the late war put entirely upon her shoulders? Surely it should be evident by this time that this responsibility should lie far more upon those of the Entente negotiators with Bulgaria. Had these negotiators assured proper compensation to Bulgaria, no Germano- or Austrophilism could ever have persuaded her to fight against Russia, allied with Great Britain and France. The Balkan Question should be boldly faced; otherwise no permanent solution will be reached.—I am, etc.,

Sofia, May 19, 1921. P. M. MATTHEEFF.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"A PAINTER IN PALESTINE: The Story of an Impromptu Pilgrimage through the Holy Land with Bible and Sketch-Book." By Donald Maxwell. (London: The Bodley Head. 6s. 6d. net.)

II.—"SERBO-CROATIAN SELF-TAUGHT BY THE NATURAL METHOD." By J. J. R. O'Beirne. (London: E. Marlborough and Co. 3s. 6d.)

## I.—A PAINTER IN PALESTINE.

We have great praise for this charming little book, which has been written round the pictures that are its chief attraction. It is the record of an artist's passage through the Holy Land, and what the artist's eye has been quick to see the artist's hand has striven to record for others. We welcome a book by one who seeks neither to explain nor to analyse Jerusalem, but is content to describe her to the best of his ability, to worship, and to admire. The artist has taken his Bible with him, and is not backward to own its literal accuracy of detail, as well as its spiritual and mystical reality; he has found, like many another pilgrim, that you simply cannot get away from the Bible in Palestine. The argument for the authenticity of ancient sites which have been hallowed by tradition (pp. 38-9) is clearly thought out and expressed; though we own to being somewhat mystified by the plaint on page 51, "The traces of the old walls and the wall of Ophel are disappointing, because they are invisible." Together with his Bible, the artist quotes Milton, whose sonorous lines are fully adequate to the subject. (We have often wondered why no one quotes from Tasso's "Jerusalem," which has beautiful, as well as remarkably accurate, descriptions of Palestine and Jerusalem.) We must confess to finding the arguments between Pictor and Lector very tiresome, and hope that in a later edition their substance may be included in a more literary (shall we say, a more artistic) form. The book is so good that it can stand a more severe criticism than this; it has so few blemishes that those few assume an unfortunate prominence. For instance, out of a total of 164 pages the artist devotes nine and a-half, and three diagrams, to the Star of the Nativity; and even then we are uncertain whether he is trying to explain it or to explain it away. The Star, so explicitly described by the Wise Men as "*His* Star," was an appearance to which not only their pious souls, but Herod's uneasy conscience, gave instant and complete recognition and belief. Perhaps Mr. Maxwell has not heard the old Palestine tradition that the Wise Men lost sight of the Star only when they turned aside to enquire of Herod—in other words, instead of following God's guidance to the end, their faith was momentarily dimmed by the hardships of their journey, and they sought man's leading rather than God's. But when they were stooping to draw water from the well by the roadside which still bears their name, they caught sight of the Star in its quiet depths, and immediately started to follow it as it "went before them" to their journey's end. It seems a pity that so many pages should be taken up by a rambling soliloquy, which might with advantage have been given to one or two more of Mr. Maxwell's delightful pictures.

The descriptions of Bethlehem itself (pp. 86-7), of the Valley of the Dead Sea (pp. 112-113), and the closing pages of the book are very good work; the language is simple, dignified, and easy. The ever-vexed question of the site of Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre is treated of with reverence, but without much depth of study or research. In reading the Gospels we cannot fail to be struck by the fact that not one great site which is closely connected with the earthly life of our Lord has been preserved or located beyond all dispute; and possibly the angelic saying, "He is not here, He is risen," has a deeper meaning, a more searching test of faith for us of to-day than even for those to whom the words were actually addressed. We hold no brief for either of the Holy Sepulchre sites, and would merely point out that the weight of tradition, and of later scientific archæology, inclines to the old site rather than to the new. Were not the eyesockets of the skull-hill formed by stone-blasting of fairly recent date; and is not the garden-tomb itself said to be of Christian rather than of Jewish origin? These are points fruitful of argument and, unfortunately, of debate.

The artist's frequent comparisons between features of Palestinian scenery and the quiet country of the Medway are exceedingly interesting, and the picture of "Some Kilns in the Medway Country" (called by him the "Very Near East") on page 77 shows them to be strikingly Eastern in appearance. The full-page illustrations, and many of the smaller sketches, claim our unstinted praise, while we would single out for special admiration "The Ladder Set Up on the Earth," which forms the frontispiece, "The Valley of the Bones," "The Road to Bethlehem," and "Marsaba." Many of the scenes are shown by night, and all express a real appreciation of the Holy Land and of her infinite beauty and variety.

We are glad to see that the publishers have placed the very moderate price of 6s. 6d. on the book. This should bring it within the reach of many, and many, we are certain, will wish to possess it.

E. M. E. B.

## II.—SERBO-CROATIAN.

This latest addition to the well-known Self-Taught series will certainly be of great use to the ever-increasing number of Englishmen who go to Belgrade and Zagreb on business, and make more or less prolonged stays.

Although the preface is dated 1921, it seems strange reading of "the imminent rise of a Greater Serbia or Jugo-Slav State," and it is news that the Government has abolished the teaching of the Cyrillic alphabet in the schools and substituted the Roman. It is always easy to criticise, and one should not be carping towards a manual of very great use and convenience, but there is internal evidence that the author has an academic rather than a practical knowledge of the language. It is strange that, like the authors of all other grammars of the language, no distinction is made between the letter C with an accent (ć) and C with an inverted circumflex (č). The former is *not* pronounced like tch in "kitchen," but like t in picture, bitumen, tube, etc; nor is there really any resemblance between di and dzh (dž). The vocabulary given is sometimes Serb, sometimes Croat, but without consistency. It would have been useful to indicate which is which, for there are plenty of words given which are incomprehensible to most Croats and vice versa. The selection of words does not seem always to be really practical. It is waste of space to give, for instance, "carbuncle" among Minerals and Metals, especially when the Serbo-Croat equivalent (čir = chir) is a carbuncle in the patho-, and not in the minera-logical sense. The conversations will probably be of more use than the vocabularies to a beginner, and the outline grammar at the end is very clear, although one cannot agree with all the statements. All the same, the book fills a genuine need, and should be in the possession of all visitors to the country. There is a fair number of misprints.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Under Desert Stars." By Kathlyn Rhodes. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

## A SERB ON AMERICA.

We have received from America a copy of a small pamphlet by Bishop Nicholai, called "A Serbian's Vision of America." At the beginning of this year Bishop Nicholai spent three months in the United States, and this article, which is printed for private distribution, is the result of his thoughts upon the potential future of America. He begins by opposing to the idea of the League of Nations Communism (or Bolshevism), and pleads that, as neither of these two schemes is satisfactory, a substitute be found immediately. This remedy, he thinks, may be found in America, which, being more than a nation, is sufficiently pan-human to typify the whole world. The old systems of world policy, the Roman and the quasi-Christian, have failed, and the third "International," which should be based on Charity and Constructiveness, ought to be the American. Why not found a World Construction Committee, of which the first three members might be America, England, and Japan, which should ensure that a certain part of the war budgets of each nation be devoted to work of construction? America potentially is, and may in fact become, "a pan-human society of men intoxicated with the constructive and charitable spirit."

The above is a brief summary of Bishop Velimirovitch's case, which is argued with the imaginative insight, the broadmindedness, and the rich historical learning that characterise all his writings.

## PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

Viscount Bryce, speaking at the annual general meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Burlington House last week, said that Palestine was the contact point of the ancient civilisations, that came together by the great highway of coast trade and of armies on the line of communication between Egypt and Assyria. The country had been of great strategical importance, and was full of historical and theological interest. Now was the opportunity to take advantage of recent events to press forward the exploration of the Palestine and trans-Jordan regions. It was a great thing to have got rid of the former oppressors who had devastated the country, and the Society had the advantage of occupying neutral ground. Mr. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., remarking on the unsettlement of Palestine and our troubles in the Middle East, said they were all due to our not having made peace with Turkey. Dr. D. G. Hogarth described the work that has been commenced at Askalon with a view to obtaining light on the origin and civilisation of the Philistines.

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

### "Le Sacre du Printemps."

No event in the musical world has been so much discussed as the performances, both in concert form and as ballet, of Stravinsky's "Le Sacre du Printemps," for it has thrown peoples into all sorts of attitudes, here passionately defensive, there passionately offensive, and in a few places indeterminately puzzled. But one thing was certain, that if you could not make up your mind about it after Eugene Goossens' conducting of it at the Queen's Hall, you were no better off after seeing it as a ballet, with Massine's choregraphy, at the Prince's Theatre. For the choregraphy did not purport (as so many sham choregraphies do pretend) to be an "interpretation" of the music; it merely claimed to be a free adaptation of the music, abstract movement suited to, and therefore imposed upon, the music. As such it was a dull failure. Massine's effort had various elements in it, some incongruous, some silly, and some striking. Roerich's background very rightly set the whole thing in a cold, remote atmosphere, and in the main Massine's angular conception of the music was accurate; but the fact remains that the finest and most memorable part of the production was M. Ansermet's playing of the prelude before the curtain went up, in which the personality and genius of Stravinsky come out more strongly than anywhere else in the work. Everyone has paid tribute to the extraordinary technical skill with which Mlle. Sokolova, as the Chosen Virgin, executed her solo dance at the end, but this wild effort was rather like the last trick of the music hall artist, who reserves his best or most attractive trick until the end. Her dance seemed to be inspired not so much by the music as by the knowledge that it was time something worth looking at was done; it certainly was worth looking at.

Out of all the lusty battling that "Le Sacre" has caused in London one comes, therefore, to the following conclusions—that the work, which is written by a man who at times has an enormously compelling personality, contains more passages of dulness than of genius; that Massine has not helped Stravinsky; and that the essential connection between music and choregraphy is much remoter than many fashionable people imagine.

### Miss Mary Copner.

It is a dangerous but necessitated game in these crowded days of recitals to judge a singer by a single group of songs, but the most noticeable things in the French group at Miss Mary Copner's recital at the Wigmore Hall on June 21 were, on the one hand, a very refreshing ability to sing in tune, and, on the other, an inability to sing in the French language. She has so many attractive qualities, among which a neatness in the rounding of a phrase and a frank recognition of the limits of her powers rank highest, that so simple an error as the English pronunciation of French words should be easily rectified. She was assisted by Mr. Harry Field, a Canadian pianist, who played Liszt with unaffected facility and indulged a whimsical taste in strange pieces by Bocquet and Sapellinkoff.

### The London Classical Quintet.

From what I heard of this quintet at the Æolian Hall on June 23, I do not think it will go very far. In Verdi's quartet in E minor and in Beethoven's Op. 59, No. 2, they displayed no distinctively good qualities, and not a few bad ones. Their intonation, for example, at times roamed far beyond what is permitted, even on a hot day; their rhythm was loose, and their tone poor. The one genuine chamber player of the string quartet, Mr. Raymond Jeremy, the viola, stood out in distressing eminence above his colleagues. Miss Adela Verne took her sister's place at the pianoforte with authority and address.

ANDANTE.

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The French annual pilgrimage, interrupted in 1914 by the war, is now to be resumed, and this year's party will leave Marseilles on August 18, returning through Egypt after an extensive tour of the Holy Land.

Mr. Gandhi and his supporters have been making strenuous efforts to raise a crore of rupees (£833,333) for the Tilak Swaraj Fund before the end of June, and also to obtain 10,000,000 adherents to the non-co-operation movement.

The Jerusalem correspondent of *The Times* reports that Palestine Mounted Police have shot the noted brigand and murderer Nimr Jubran, who, after escaping from Acre gaol while under sentence of death, had been operating with a gang of outlaws in the hills of Phoenicia, near the Syrian frontier. Others of the brigands were wounded and the gang was broken up.

General delay in telegrams between this country and South Africa has again to be apprehended owing to the interruption of the Eastern Telegraph Company's cable between Aden and Zanzibar at a position where at this time of the year the south west monsoon blows with great strength. It is feared that the restoration cannot be expected for some considerable time.

# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

July 7 (New Style).
June 24 (Old Style).
Julkada 1, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 1, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

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The Maharaja Holkar of Indore has arrived in London from Paris.

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Princess Kamala Devi Gaekwar of Baroda has left London for Watford.

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M. Jordania, President of the Georgian Republic, and M. Tcheukeli, the Georgian Minister, both left London last week for Paris.

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The Admiralty announce that Admiral Sir Ernest C. T. Troubridge, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., is placed on the retired list, to date July 1, 1921.

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Sir Alban Young has arrived at 4, Carlos Place, Grosvenor Square, from the British Legation in Belgrade. Lady Young will remain for the present in Serbia.

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The Aga Khan, Mr. Chotani, and Sheikh Kidwai of Gadia, members of the Indian Moslem Delegation, have arrived in Paris, where they will meet Bekir Sami Bey.

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The Emir Faisal arrived at Baghdad on the evening of June 29, and was received by the High Commissioner for Mesopotamia and the General Officer Commander-in-Chief.

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Mr. Humphrey Bowman, C.B.E., Director of Education for Palestine, has just left Jerusalem for England, on four months' leave, and does not expect to be back in Palestine before the end of October.

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The engagement is announced between Mr. Eric Ames, of Kahagalla Estate, Ceylon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ames, of Champery, Switzerland, late of Ceylon, and Ursula, daughter of the Rev. Walter Hobhouse.

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The engagement is announced between Christopher John Boger, of Ceylon, elder son of John R. Boger, A.M.I.C.E., and Mrs. Boger, of Lostwithiel, Cornwall, and Frances Helen, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Perry, of Brooklands, Millbrook, Southampton.

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The engagement is announced between Clarence Welham Grange, M.C. (late Royal Artillery), recently of Colombo, Ceylon, only son of Mr. Alexander Grange, of Farnham, Surrey, and Mary Sumner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis S. Phraner, of Summit, New Jersey, U.S.A.

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The engagement is announced between Basil John Gould, Indian Civil Service, youngest son of the late Charles Gould, K.C., and Mrs. Gould, of Lonsdale, Farnham, Surrey, and Lorraine, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Kebbell, of Te Hoe, New Zealand, and 5, Fortfield Terrace, Sidmouth.

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A marriage is arranged, and will take place in February, between Mr. Alexander W. Keown-Boyd, C.B.E., Oriental Secretary to H.E. the High Commissioner for Egypt, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Keown-Boyd, and Joan Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr. J. C. Partridge and Mrs. Partridge, 38, First Avenue, Hove.

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The Cromer Prize, of the value of £40, for an essay on a Greek subject, founded in the British Academy by the late Earl of Cromer, has this year been awarded to Mr. H. W. Dobson, B.A., St. John's College, Durham, for an essay on "Persian Character and Civilisation, and Their Influence on Greece up to the Age of Alexander."

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His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who is leaving for India towards the end of October, will travel with his suite in H.M.S. Renown and will probably touch at Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, and Aden en route. The tour will extend over the whole cold weather and practically every part of India will be visited by His Royal Highness.

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Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson has addressed a telegram to General Gouraud, commanding the French Army in Syria and Cilicia, offering, in the name of the British Army, sincere congratulations on the failure of the recent dastardly attempt on his life, and stating that the outrage has roused the utmost indignation among his old friends and comrades.

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The engagement is announced between Graham Ross Higginson, Indian Police, elder surviving son of the late F. W. Higginson, F.R.C.S.I., and Mrs. Higginson, and Dorothy Eileen Wansbrough Hockaday, third daughter of F. S. Hockaday, J.P., F.R.Hist.S., and Mrs. Hockaday, of Highbury, Lydney, Gloucestershire. The marriage will take place at Lydney in September.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Marylebone Church at midday on Monday, the 25th inst., between Major C. R. L. FitzGerald, D.S.O., Indian Army, elder son of the late Gerald Beresford FitzGerald and Mrs. Beresford FitzGerald, of 14, Kensington Court Mansions, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Mudie, of Newton, Auchterhouse, Forfarshire.

An interesting picture exhibition by Mrs. Alec-Tweedie, the well-known authoress and traveller, was opened on Saturday at the Alpine Gallery, Conduit Street, W., and is closing to-day (July 7). Mrs. Alec-Tweedie has but recently returned from a two-year tour in the Near and Middle East, and her sketches, which cover Egypt, the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, and India, include some pictures of the Western Front, where she spent some time before her Eastern tour.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Raif Bey has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires at the Turkish Legation in Madrid.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Colonel Henry Wemyss Feilden, C.B., in his 83rd year. Colonel Feilden served with the 42nd Regiment in the Indian Mutiny, taking part in a number of actions and in the siege and fall of Lucknow. In 1860 he was in China with the 8th Punjab Regiment, and was present at the action of Sinho, the taking of Tungku, and the capture of the Taku forts.

The death is announced of Lord Eustace Cecil, at the age of eighty-seven. The third son of the second Marquess of Salisbury obtained his commission as ensign in the 43rd Regiment of the line in 1851. After serving in Southern India he was transferred to the Coldstreams, with whom he served in the Crimean War. His later life was devoted mainly to politics and finance.

The death has occurred in his 92nd year, of General Sir William Henry Seymour, K.C.B., Colonel of the Queen's Bays, of which regiment he was in command during the Indian Mutiny campaign. His father, Sir William Seymour, Judge of the Supreme Court at Bombay, died in 1829. Entering the Army in 1847, General Seymour fought as a captain in the Crimean War with the 68th Light Infantry, winning four clasps to his medal. In the Indian Mutiny campaign, in which he served from 1857 to 1859, he won first a brevet-majority and later promotion to lieutenant-colonel in command of the Queen's Bays.

### MR. R. J. MOSS OF ALEXANDRIA.

Mr. Robert Johnson Moss, who died at Alexandria on June 17 at the advanced age of eighty-three, beloved and respected by two generations of Anglo-Egyptians, was the third son of William Miles Moss, of Liverpool, and was born on June 30, 1838. Educated privately in England and Switzerland, he entered upon a five years' apprenticeship in 1854 with the Liverpool firm of Duckworth and Rathbone, cotton brokers, subsequently entering his father's office and going out with him to Egypt in the Moss steamer "Atlantic" in November, 1860. In 1861, with his younger brother, William, as a partner, he established the Alexandria firm of R. J. Moss and Co., cotton shippers, which he carried on alone after his brother's death in 1863. In the following year the firm introduced the first cotton steam-presses, turning out bales of 30 to 32 cubic feet to displace the old hand-pumping method. Foundry and engineering works were also established, and import agencies were acquired for agricultural and general machinery and for coal, and the firm became agents for the pioneer of British direct steamship lines to Egypt and the Levant—the Moss Steamship Company, Ltd. From 1866 to 1871 Mr. Moss served as Judge Assessor in the Mixed Commercial Tribunals, from 1894 to 1918 as President of the Alexandria Coal Association, and from 1899 to 1918 as President of the Khedivial Club of Alexandria, of which, as the present Sultan Hussein Club, he was Honorary President at the time of his death. Mr. Moss married in 1867 the eldest daughter of the then Vicar of Harefield, Middlesex, Miss Margaret Anne Collins, who died last year, shortly after the celebration of their golden wedding. Of his five sons the only survivor is Mr. R. M. C. Moss, who continues with the firm, and he leaves three daughters—Mrs. Percy Carver, Mrs. K. P. Birley, and Mrs. G. H. Sawyer.

By Mr. Moss's death a conspicuous British link is lost with the Egypt of the Viceroys—the so-called halcyon days of Said and Ismail—that curious Egypt which gazed open-mouthed at the first locomotive and knew not the blessings of the Suez Canal or of the British occupation. The Anglo-Egyptian merchants, whose sterling reputation he typically adorned, still "carry on" their ancient and honourable trade, and although their country's honours and decorations have gone lavishly to British administrators, diplomats and soldiers since the sixties, a better England and a better Egypt will always keep alive the graceful memory, modesty, and activities of Anglo-Egyptians like Robert Moss.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Prince Aziz Hassan, a cousin of the former Khedive, has been officially requested to leave Egypt.

M. Mavrocordato, Roumanian Minister to the Imperial Court of Japan, has arrived in Tokyo, and was received by the Empress last week.

A treaty providing for the exchange of diplomatic and consular representatives has been signed in Teheran between Persia and Afghanistan.

The Porto Rosa Conference of the Succession States of the Austrian Empire, which was postponed from June 15, has now been fixed for July 9.

An Order in Council has applied the provisions of the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920, to Malta and the Straits Settlements.

The twelfth Zionist Congress, being the first congress of the Federations of the World's Zionist Organisation since 1913, will open at Carlsbad on September 1.

Sirdar Sardul Singh, the secretary of the Sikh League, has been sentenced at Lahore to five years' transportation on a charge of writing seditious articles.

Bekir Sami Bey, the diplomatic representative of the Nationalist Turkish Government at Angora, was received by M. Briand, the French Prime Minister, on June 30.

An inquiry into the recent attempt on the life of the Serbian Prince Regent has established the existence of a Communist plot, in which three Deputies are suspected of complicity.

A cordial interchange of telegraphic greetings has taken place between M. Skirmund, the new Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Pashitch, writes our Belgrade correspondent.

At the beginning of August the last remaining Serbian children who have been encamped for over three years at Faversham will return to their Fatherland.

## SUDAN PROVINCE GOVERNORS.

In response to a request, our Khartoum Correspondent forwards the following list of Province Governors:—

| PROVINCE. | NAME. | ADDRESS. |
|---|---|---|
| BAHR-EL-GHAZAL | Major M. J. Wheatley, O.B.E. | Wau |
| BERBER..... | C. P. Browne, Esq., O.B.E. | El Damer |
| BLUE NILE ..... | G. E. Iles, Esq., O.B.E. ... | Wad Medani |
| DARFUR ..... | Lieut.-Colonel R. V. Savile, C.B.E. | El Fasher |
| DONGOLA..... | Major-General Sir H. W. Jackson, K.B.E., C.B. | Merowe |
| FUNG..... | El Lewa A. Cameron Pasha | Singa |
| HALFA ..... | S. A. Tippetts, Esq..... | Halfa |
| KASSALA ..... | C. E. Lyell, Esq., O.B.E. ... | Kassala |
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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1921.


## YUGOSLAV UNITY.

Not without an uneasy passage through the Constituent Assembly, and at the last by a majority of only twenty-seven, if we regard the deputies who left the Chamber before the voting took place as opposed to the measure, in a house of 419 deputies, the Constitution of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has been ratified and Yugoslav unity has been formally confirmed. It would have been of more hopeful augury for the new State if the majority had been larger. In the seven weeks that have elapsed since May 12, when the Constitution Bill was passed "in principle" by 227 votes to 93, M. Pashitch has been unable to add to his coalition following of Radicals, Democrats, and Bosnian Mohammedans more than four votes. Arrayed against the Government were Communists, Raditch's Party, Peasant Republicans, Catholics, Social Democrats, and some twenty-six Serbian Agrarians who wished to register their disapproval of M. Pashitch's action in compensating the Mohammedan landowners of Bosnia for the expropriation of their estates. The difference in the attitude of some of these groups towards the new Constitution is marked: the Social Democrats and the Agrarians, for instance, are in favour of the unity of the Yugoslav State, but do not hold with the Monarchical principle; M. Raditch, on the other hand, stands for a federation rather than a unified State. He is prepared to allow Serbia to have a monarchy, but he wishes Croatia to be a republic; he holds that the Serbs and Croats are a racial unit, but are not one people. They may, in his view, ultimately become one people, but at present they are not, and for this reason he does not believe in an amalgamation of the two countries. If the division of public opinion corresponds at all closely with the voting in the Assembly, Yugoslavia can hardly hope to escape a long period of political instability. It remains to be seen, however, whether present conditions represent a plant throwing its roots deeply into favourable soil or merely a short-lived growth on shallow ground. Unfortunately for the Triune Kingdom, any tendency to domestic unrest receives considerable support from the external circumstances which mark the early days of its existence. The certainty of peace and security along its frontiers might conduce to a smooth and tranquil life at home; but Serbia has been for so long a stranger to international peace, that she is almost incapable of appreciating its benefits when they are offered her. True, she has been sorely tried over Fiume; but her agitation in regard to Bulgaria was entirely the product of her own imagination, as the present Government has at last come to recognise, and it is not quite clear whether in the direction of Albania she has been at pains to avoid trouble with an admittedly difficult neighbour.

In the absence of the full text of the Constitution as passed by the Assembly it is only possible to gauge its character from various summaries that have appeared. From these it would seem that the old Constitution of Serbia has been modified in certain ways to meet tendencies which did not call for consideration when the Kingdom was restricted to a single homogeneous State. The single Chamber system is retained; but a separate economic and financial body, consisting of experts from various organisations of professions and interests, is to be formed to act in a consultative capacity for the benefit of the Chamber. Deputies to the Skupshtina are elected for four years by direct universal suffrage, in the proportion of one deputy to every fifty thousand inhabitants. The representation of national minorities is guaranteed, as well as freedom of conscience and creed; and it is provided that political rights and appointments in the State services shall in no way depend upon religious belief. Nobody may be compelled to practise any form of religious rites. Religious bodies are autonomous within the limits of the law. There is full right of assembly and association. A thornier subject is dealt with under education, which is allowed only under the State, and is free. Religious instruction is given only at the desire of parents. Pupils belonging to racial minorities are allowed to receive elementary education in their mother tongue. Labour is placed under State regulation; special provision is made for the protection of women, mothers and children, and for the safety of workers. A Constitution, however, may be admirably worded and yet be capable of interpretation in an illiberal spirit. It is possible, for instance, for the right of education in the mother tongue for elementary standards to be so hedged around with unnecessary restrictions that the concession may become valueless. The tradition of the Balkans in this respect is not a liberal one. No State has appreciated the fact that modern requirements and the instinct of self-preservation prompt a racial minority, unless it happen to be a compact and self-contained community, to become bilingual. Only when its own language is the object of persecution are other instincts brought into play and hostility to the State and its language raised to the dignity of a creed. In regard to education as well as to all other matters connected with minorities, it is to be hoped that Yugoslavia, with the bitter experiences of her own people behind her, will set an example to the Balkans of high-minded liberality.

For a country that has been able only by a narrow majority to secure the approval of Parliament for its Constitution, owing to the strength of republicans and separatist tendencies, there can be but one royal road to safety, and that is by means of efficient administration to create contentment at home. It was inevitable after the ordeal through which not only Serbia, but also in a different degree the former Austro-Hungarian provinces now incorporated in the new Kingdom, have been through, that dissatisfaction with the existing order of things should find expression in communism and republicanism. The earlier period following the Armistice found Yugoslavia still too preoccupied with foreign politics to be able to give adequate attention to home affairs, and it is only within recent months that the people seem to have taken matters into their own hands, and to have concerned themselves more with questions of reconstruction and material progress than with the academic problems that often loom so large in the Legislature. Possibly a realisation of this point has inspired the Government to seek for a respite from anxiety over foreign relations. The treaties with Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania are a guarantee of freedom from uneasiness in regard to Hungary; officially, both Italy and Yugoslavia set store on a peaceful settlement of all points at issue between them; it has suddenly been discovered that a good understanding with Bulgaria can be had for the asking; the Albanian question at its worst is relatively insignificant. Thus the ground is prepared for grappling with those problems which must needs be uppermost in the minds of the bulk of the people handicapped at every turn by adverse economic conditions and the backwardness of reconstruction. We can well believe that the passing of the Constitution has been hailed with a profound sense of satisfaction throughout the country, in which some of those who actually voted against it will have shared. The dastardly attempt on the life of the Prince Regent, which happily failed, will have served as an indication of the length to which the disruptive forces in the State are prepared to go, and should help to rally the saner elements to the support of any Government that subordinates party considerations to the interests of the State.

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# IN SOUTHERN PERSIA.

## MEN AND METHODS.

### By "Kalantar."

V. (*continued*).

The next march, a distance of eighteen miles, was covered between 3 and 8 p.m. Everyone brightened up during this march, for the country was dotted with villages, and the gaunt peaks of the Siah Kuh range, which runs parallel to the track, formed a welcome relief to the eye after the unbroken horizon of the "dasht." They were cheered, too, by the prospect of a full night's rest in the new and spacious caravanserai which is the pride of Zaitun.

As the centre of a prosperous district which produces large quantities of fine opium, fruit, and pistachio nuts, the village boasts a Deputy-Governor, a Postmaster, and a Revenue Agent. From consultation with these officials and the more intelligent merchants, the C.O. gleaned the following meagre details regarding the situation at Hashimabad.

Ahmad Quli and his brother Qalandar had been killed by the Bakhtiari, and the latter were now besieged in the Hashimabadi fort. For ten days past no one had entered or left the village. Regarding the strength of the Arabs each had his own estimate. The Deputy-Governor, a feeble

**IN THE NUSHKI DISTRICT.**

**A Group of Village Headmen, Brahuis.**

*The Brahuis are a tribe whose influence in Baluchistan nearly equals that of the Baluchis. They are widely scattered. Important sections of the tribe are found in the vicinity of Nushki, Mastung, on the Quetta-Nushki line, and in the Chagai district, which lies to the north of the Nushki-Seistan trade route, and between that route and the Afghan border.*

and nervous individual, thought they numbered at least 500. The Postmaster, regarded, by reason of his office, as a trustworthy source of information, put their numbers at 200, all armed with the deadly "panj tir." While the Revenue man, sleek and placid, as became the tax gatherer of so prosperous a district, declared, with a knowing smile, that there might be 2,000 or 200. Who could tell?—a philosophic remark which conveyed extraordinarily little military information. Eventually, the C.O., well acquainted with the Persian gift of exaggeration, made his estimate by the employment of a very simple formula. He divided the lowest of his informants' totals by four! The correctness of this figure was proved shortly afterwards.

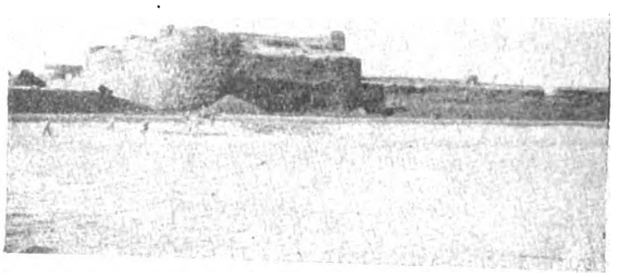
By midnight a council of war, consisting of the O.C. column, the cavalry officer, and two senior Persian officers, had concluded its deliberations. The cavalry would march at daybreak, the infantry was to remain at Zaitun.

This decision was taken mainly on the strength of information gleaned by Persian officers. Two days earlier the use of only two troops in a march to Hashimabad would have been decidedly unsound, for it appeared that nomad Arabs, allied to the section at Hashimabad, had halted in the course of their summer migration and pitched their tents in the vicinity of Ahmad Quli's fort.

For a week this chief had made desperate efforts to secure their aid against the Bakhtiari. He offered stretches of rich land, sheep, grain, and a share of their accumulation of plunder as an inducement to them to join in the fray. The nomads were on the point of throwing their weight in the struggle when Rumour whispered that the South Persia Rifles, the all-powerful "idareh-i-janub," was about to take a hand in the game. By next morning the nomads had vanished, and the Hashimabad Arabs, faced with the now hopeless task of defeating the Bakhtiari single-handed, once again vented their wrath on the villagers.

To put an end to these excesses, and to ensure the full moral effect of the movement of his diminutive force, the O.C. column decided to move at once, and to cover the sixty-one miles which lay between Zaitun and Hashimabad in one march. One mule, loaded with picketing ropes, formed their transport. For the rest, the men carried on their saddles two days' cooked rations and one blanket apiece.

Before dawn the archway of the main gate resounded to the ring of hoofs and the clatter of scabbards; at midday the horses were drinking at the weed-grown pool of Rustam, a half-ruined village twenty-five miles from Zaitun. Watering over and horses safely picketed, the men snatched a few mouthfuls of food and stretched themselves in the shade of the few intact roofs in the place. Under a solitary gaz tree, well clear of the verminous ruins, two dust-coated figures reclined, smoking, while orderlies pulled off their field boots. Long before this task was completed heads had sunk on to the hard earth, and the cavalry officer was snoring.



**HORMUZ FORT, BANDAR ABBAS.**

*A relic of Portuguese and of pre-Portuguese days. The Sultans of Hormuz, or Ormuz, were independent and very wealthy, and their wealth attracted the Portuguese, who held the island until driven out of it by the British. Formerly thickly populated, it is now practically deserted.*

When they mounted again the fierce glare of the midday hours was already mellowed by the golden tints of approaching sunset. Behind them the poplars of Zaitun appeared like a black smudge, no larger than a man's thumb. To the north and thirty miles away, slanting rays turned the jagged peaks of the Siah Kuh into so many obelisks of burnished bronze. Ahead, to the west, towards Hashimabad, a strip of salt kavir, sharply defined against the yellow brown of the plain, shone with a ghostly whiteness.

A Persian officer examined it through his glasses. "Ahmad Quli's winding-sheet!" he murmured, smiling. An N.C.O. riding behind him heard the remark and chuckled.

VI.

Sounds of laughter, badinage, and snatches of song floated on a fitful breeze to the head of the column, for the going was easy, and, as the village was not to be entered until daylight, the troops would not be called on to take their horses out of a walk. At midnight girths were loosened, and the men lay down for a quarter of an hour. Then on again, steadily though wearily, until dawn showed them, over the crest of a low rounded ridge, the dark tree-tops and squat towers of Hashimabad.

Here were no signs of war. No watcher looked out from roof or tower. The column moved on, still at a walk, and a halt was called beside a clear stream—the first clean water they had come upon since leaving Zaitun. A drink for

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man and horse, a last glance at girths, ammunition, and accoutrements, then the command "Walk march!" and they were within rifle range of the "beleaguered city." Evidently they had been seen. A group of blue-clothed villagers gathered on a roof, another at the end of a lane, a white kullah showed over a parapet. The Bakhtiari, at any rate, were awake, but in the more distant towers and encampments of the Arabs there was still no sign of activity. Then a couple of Bakhtiari horsemen emerged from the village at full gallop and made for the column, displaying their horsemanship by dropping their reins and "drawing beads" on imaginary foes.

At twenty yards from the C.O. they pulled up with a jerk that drew blood from their ponies' mouths, and, dismounting, approached with outstretched hands and murmurs of "Salaam alaikum!" Courage now fully restored, they told, in excited tones, of their battles and trials, and expounded schemes for the extermination of the Arabs. They suggested an immediate inspection of the bodies of their victims, and showed surprise and indignation at the C.O.'s angry refusal of this offer. These bodies, before nightfall, were handed to the Arabs for decent burial, and borne to the encampment amid a throng of weeping women.

Meanwhile, the entire population of the village had gathered outside the fort to greet their rescuers, and the aged kadkhuda, wrapped for the occasion in his best abba, came forward with tears in his eyes and shook hands with all officers and most of the men.

In a neat, alcoved room, carpeted with precious rugs, the Bakhtiari then told their tale: how the Arabs had been hostile from the first; how they had turned on the unarmed Hashimabadis, indulging in indiscriminate shooting, carrying off of cattle and wanton destruction of crops.

Until Nauruz all requests for an interview had been angrily refused. On this day, in accordance with the universal Persian custom, the parties called a truce, and Ahmad Quli and his brother Qalandar consented to visit the Bakhtiari. According to the latter, they arrived armed and attended by numerous followers, who were not allowed to enter the village. The meeting took place in an upper chamber in the fort. The Bakhtiari, after the somewhat lengthy greetings attendant on a Nauruz visit, opened the subject of Arab behaviour. At once Ahmad Quli's attitude became threatening. He abused his hosts and the Government, and finally raised his rifle. It was a moment for instant action. In self-defence the Bakhtiari drew their Mauser pistols. Two reports rang out, and the Arabs fell forward on the floor.

Who can say what happened in that room on the afternoon of Nauruz? Certainly the Arabs, summoned to a meeting after the departure of the Bakhtiari, told a very different story and cried for vengeance, swearing solemn oaths that their chiefs had been murdered in cold blood. The story of arms and threats was, they declared, a preposterous lie. "Do men bound on a Nauruz visit carry arms?" "Is it possible for an Arab to abuse a Bakhtiari Governor?" "Surely the Rais would see justice done?" "The Bakhtiaris should be handed over."

Long they pleaded until the C.O., worn out with a succession of forced marches and sleepless nights, dismissed them with an assurance that the case would be reported at once to the Persian authorities, who alone could settle a dispute of this nature.

Next, the Bakhtiari leaders requested an interview, and explained that Hashimabad was a region of Hell. They would depart at once. Having no authority to detain them, the C.O. wished them *bon voyage*, and, as soon as it was dark, the party slipped away into the desert, praising the Inglisi and their "idareh" and congratulating themselves on getting away with whole skins.

The cavalry returned to Zaitun. The Arabs waxed eloquent over the flight of their enemies, and dispatched voluminous petitions to their own Ilkhani and all neighbouring Governors.

The Bakhtiaris escaped punishment, of course, but—they no longer look towards Hashimabad.

*(Concluded.)*

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# THE NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*June 27.*—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that a letter had been received from the President of the League of Nations in which the suggestion is made that in view of the intimation from the United States Government that they could not accept any decision reached on the question of the "A" and "B" Mandates without their approval, the Powers concerned, viz., Great Britain and France, should make every effort to arrive at a solution on the points under discussion between them and the United States so as to enable the Council to settle the whole question of mandates before the next meeting of the Assembly of the League. His Majesty's Government were considering the best means of giving effect to this suggestion.

*June 28.*—Sir L. Worthington Evans informed Commander Kenworthy that under the existing agreement the cost of transporting horses from Busreh to India is 87½ rupees per head. The estimated cost of transporting them from Busreh to the United Kingdom would be about £60 per head exclusive of the cost of attendance and forage. Offers are now being considered for the sale of the surplus animals at Busreh.

Mr. Kelleway informed Mr. Hurd that the wireless stations at Leafield (near Oxford) and Abu-Zabal (near Cairo), which are to form the first link of the Imperial wireless chain, will be ready for use before the end of the year. Pending the construction of stations further east, arrangements are being made for the further transmission to and from places beyond Egypt of telegrams forwarded by wireless between the Leafield and the Abu-Zabal stations. In addition, there is a considerable amount of terminal traffic to and from Egypt by the new route.

*June 29.*—Mr. Harmsworth informed Commander Kenworthy that the decision as to whether the Egyptian Assembly should be summoned or a general election held in Egypt rests with the Egyptian Government, as the present Ministry on taking office expressed their intention of doing both after the conclusion of negotiations with the British Government. Inasmuch as the Egyptian delegation which is to discuss the terms of settlement with His Majesty's Government had not yet left Egypt, it would obviously be premature to say how long their labours will last.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Colonel Archer Shee that the situation in the Ismid Peninsula was obscure, but according to information received, the town of Ismid was evacuated by the Greek forces on the evening of June 27. It was further reported that the town was in flames and that great panic prevailed in the district. Numbers of Armenians and neutral Turks were fleeing towards Constantinople. Having regard to the general confusion there appeared to be considerable danger of further massacres, and Mr. Rattigan, in concurrence with the Allied High Commissioners, was taking all possible steps to prevent such outrages by one side or the other.

*June 30.*—The Prime Minister informed Lord Robert Cecil that it is proposed to lay on the Table of the House the Report of the Inter-Allied Commission upon alleged Greek atrocities at Yalova. The conclusions are summarised thus in the first paragraph of the Report:—"Creditable evidence has been produced as to crimes committed during the last twelve months both by Greeks and Turks. There is no doubt that there have been a large number of atrocities on both sides in the Ismid Peninsula, and it appears that those on the part of the Turks have been more considerable and ferocious than those on the part of the Greeks."

Mr. Harmsworth informed Colonel Archer Shee that the town of Ismid was occupied by Turkish forces on the morning of June 28. Information had been received from Constantinople that M. Chitcherin, the Russian Soviet Commissar, was believed to be at Angora. His Majesty's Government had received from several sources indications which point to a desire on the part of the Angora Government to establish close relations with certain elements in Bulgaria.

The further debate on the Colonial Office Vote, including questions connected with Palestine and Mesopotamia, which was originally fixed for June 30, was adjourned till July 14 in consequence of the bereavement of Mr. Winston Churchill.

## ARAB HORSE'S SKELETON.

The Natural History Museum has received from Lord Rothschild a gift of 141 mammals, collected by Captain Angus Buchanan at Air, between the Sahara and Nigeria, a locality very inaccessible and one of remarkable interest. The whole cost of the expedition was defrayed by Lord Rothschild. The collection comprises 36 species, of which 18 are new to science. It is not proposed to exhibit the specimens, their interest being severely scientific. Another acquisition is the skeleton of the Arab stallion Dwarka, bred in the Arabian desert by the great Anazeh tribe. It was imported into India by General Broome, Director of Remounts, in the early '90's of the last century, as a four-year-old, for racing purposes. Dwarka was a bay, 14 hands high, and was described by General Broome and other judges as in his younger days the most perfect Arab they ever saw. Notwithstanding his great age, nearly 30, he retained his fire and spirit until a few weeks before his death. A good many polo ponies were bred from the stallion. Later he belonged to Mrs. Atkinson, of Okehampton, and in 1916 passed into the possession of the Prince of Wales. Dwarka at last became very feeble and ill and was destroyed. His skeleton was presented by the Prince of Wales to the Museum with the consent of Mrs. Atkinson, who at the same time gave an oil painting of the animal in his prime.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

## Palestine.

In an article entitled "The Palestine Blunder" the *Spectator* of June 25 gets at once into what it considers the heart of the matter. It begins:—

There used to be one very good feature in the way in which the British Empire was run. There were very few direct blunders. Our policy was slow, cumbrous, timid, and often without much foresight or insight, but at any rate we did not plunge. We took a long while to decide upon any sort of change or development. This, no doubt, might involve sins of omission, but sins of commission were very rare indeed. We have changed all that. We now plunge light-heartedly into all sorts of action fraught with tremendous consequences and trust to luck to get us out. If we did this only in one section of the world the evils might be limited; but, unfortunately, it is part of our recklessness to gamble in every part of the civilised, or perhaps we ought to say uncivilised, world. We are blundering in India; we are blundering in the Far East; we are blundering in Persia and Mesopotamia; we are blundering in Egypt; we are blundering in Russia and Turkey, and we are blundering in Palestine. This last is the worst of all our blunders; it is so purely unnecessary, so entirely voluntary, so gratuitously designed to involve us in troubles with our friends without producing the slightest conciliation among our enemies.

Our Palestine policy might, indeed, have been invented by someone who wanted to produce the maximum proof of our disinterestedness. There are a dozen ways in which our Palestinian adventure may bring us shame, trouble, and loss—not one which can be useful or satisfactory. We are earning the hatred of the Arabs and the Christians of Palestine, without gaining the gratitude or sympathy of the Jews, either in Palestine or out of it. Instead we are becoming the nation most hated by the Jews. We are making ill blood with the French, and we are not easing, but irritating the people of Egypt. Lastly, we are incurring an annual expenditure of some eight or nine millions which we can ill afford—an expression wholly inadequate to represent what this waste means to us at the present time. Further, we are very likely preparing for ourselves an expenditure not of tens but of hundreds of millions in the near future. Such a bill is not impossible if an outbreak of civil war takes place between the Jews and the Arabs. Possibly, by keeping large numbers of troops in Palestine and by increasing our annual expenditure, we may stave off this danger, but it can only be at a great cost, and with results which cannot but be burdensome, and may be ruinous.

And, as justification of the gloomy views here expressed, it refers to Sir Herbert Samuel's recent speech. It proceeds to contrast the English Jew with others:—

If words were things and speeches acts, and if, what is equally important, the moderate Zionist was the predominant Zionist, we might draw no small hope from these pronouncements. We greatly fear, however, that the moderate Zionist only exists in any strength in this country. The Zionists who have been pouring into Palestine of late at the rate of about a thousand a month, unless we are greatly mistaken, are anything but moderate. They are Semitic crusaders, filled with zeal and with the belief that the Arabs are intruders in Jewry's national home, and ought to be expelled forthwith. Anyone who protests against or prevents that expulsion is the deadly enemy of Zionism. Thousands of Shylocks, though inspired not by Shylock's selfishness, but by a genuine and therefore in itself honourable fanaticism, have been pouring into Palestine demanding their pound of flesh, their whole pound, and nothing but their pound. Up till now, too, the Palestinian Government, in the chief departments, as at the top, has been not merely under Jewish influences, but actually in Jewish hands. It has not had the power, and very likely not the heart, to damp down the zeal of the Lord's House, which is eating up so many thousands of Jews in every part of the world. When we remember that the religious frenzy of the Jews is met and countered by panic joined with pride of race and creed among the Mohammedan Arabs, and by similar feelings among the Syrian and Arabic Christians, can we wonder that Palestine is a pot not only seething, but ready to boil over, and, if it does boil over, likely to produce incalculable evils?

## Articles to Note.

"Fair Play for India," by Sir Claude Hill, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O.; and the Asiatic Invasion of South Africa," by Brigadier-General F. G. Stone, C.M.G. (District Commissioner, Transvaal, 1902-3), in the *Nineteenth Century* (July).

"Palestine," in the *Fortnightly Review* (July).

# HELLENIC RESEARCH.

At the annual meeting of the Hellenic Society, held last week, Sir Frederic Kenyon took for the subject of his presidential address the prospect of research in the Nearer East and the new laws respecting antiquities that would be necessary. He indicated as possible fields for excavation Colophon, in Asia Minor, and Constantinople. By a friendly arrangement with the French authorities new Colophon might be excavated by the French and old Colophon, if men and money were forthcoming, by the British. In Constantinople a vast field of fresh interests was opened, and in some ways—for example, the devastation of much of modern Constantinople by fire—the opportunity for systematic excavation was favourable. The two lions in the path were diplomacy and finance.

# TRAGEDY IN JERUSALEM.

A correspondent writes us regarding a sad occurrence which has, he says, caused quite a sensation in Jerusalem. As most people who have any knowledge of that city are aware, what is generally known as "The Garden Tomb" is situated only a few hundred yards outside the Damascus Gate, and quite close to the main Government Administration offices. The Garden, which is owned by a Committee in England, is in the care of a custodian who lives in a house on the spot. For the last few years the custodian has been a Miss Lomax, whose interest and enthusiasm are well known to all visitors. She lived there mostly by herself, and the only other person who stayed in the enclosure was the native gardener.

It was noticed by neighbours that there was nothing stirring in the garden for a day or two, and a search was therefore made, but no trace of Miss Lomax, or of the gardener, or of a horse which was usually pastured in the outlying portion of the enclosure, was found. The aid of the Boy Scouts was invoked, and the adjacent country thoroughly searched, but with no result. Eventually the body of Miss Lomax was discovered at the bottom of one of the wells in the Garden precincts. It is said that no marks of violence were found on the body, but the disappearance of the gardener and the horse would seem to point to foul play, and it was known that Miss Lomax and the gardener were not on the best of terms. To date there is no news of the horse or the gardener.

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A delayed Simla telegram, dated June 29, says:—The recent congestion of officers in Deolali Camp awaiting homeward passages has at last been relieved. One hundred and fifteen sailed during the week ending June 18, and no further delay is anticipated.

Reuter's Athens correspondent writes (July 1):—A message received here from Syra (Cyclades Group, Ægean Sea), says: "The bodies of British soldiers who died in the Cyclades while on active service were transferred here to be buried in the new British cemetery. The funeral service, with military honours, was attended by all the local authorities."

The Egypt Parliamentary Committee entertained its members and their friends at tea at the Grand Hotel on July 1, to meet Dr. Hamed Mahmud, the confidential secretary to Saad Pasha Zaghloul, who made a speech stating the case for the supporters of Zaghloul Pasha as against the Egyptian Cabinet.

News has reached Peshawar of considerable friction between the Bolshevists and the Bokharan Republicans. Sher Mohammed of Farghana is still carrying on guerilla warfare against the Bolshevists, and it is reported that he has occupied the hill country around Hissar, where the ex-Emir of Bokhara held out for a long time.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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***Trade Prospects.***

With the settlement of the coal strike and the avoidance of further industrial trouble in the engineering trades, a feeling of undeniable optimism obtains in commercial circles, since it really seems as if at long last British trade enterprise is to have its opportunity. Unhappily the immediate prospects are far from being what they were after the maroons went on November 11, 1918, as a result of Labour's persistent refusal to face the facts; and the constant industrial strife, and in particular the long-drawn-out coal strike, has given our competitors an opening of which they have not been slow to avail themselves. But the markets that have been lost can, and will, be won back provided Capital and Labour can find common ground in the development of trade to their mutual advantage. The question at issue simply is whether we can produce cheaply enough for the foreign consumer to give us the preference. If we can the problem is solved.

***Anglo-Egyptian Setback.***

As will be seen from the report, which will be found in another column, the results obtained by the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields in 1920 were substantially below those recorded for the previous year. The total production of crude oil fell from 231,180 tons to 155,975, while the net profits were £212,097 as against £411,481. Four factors, it is explained, are responsible for the reduction in the company's profits, namely, the transition of the Hurghada field from "flush" to "settled" production, increased expenditure, high freights, and the low prices ruling in Egypt for Egyptian products. Of these the first is obviously the all-important cause, and in view of the value attached to oil as a source of fuel in Egypt it is unfortunate, to say the least of it, that the yield should have fallen to its present level when for 1918 it was 277,310 tons.

***The Outlook.***

It is not possible to make the usual comparison of dividends in view of the re-arrangement of the capital as from January 1, 1920. The balance available is £332,058, as compared with £488,032 for 1919 and £660,815 for 1918, and it is proposed to utilise this to pay 10 per cent. on the "B" shares and 15¼ per cent. on the "C" shares, which are held by the Egyptian Government, and to carry forward £146,003 as against £119,961. The "B" shares, it may be pointed out, received 20 per cent. for 1919 and the "C" shares 33 per cent. As regards the prospects, it is mentioned in the report that the production during the current year has shown an increase of about 20 per cent. as a result of the extended drilling programme. Efforts are being made to prove new territory, and three exploratory wells are now being drilled, while various prospecting licences have been taken out.

***Bulgarian Finance.***

A very strong case was made out by M. Bouvoff in the Sobranje against the proposed tax on capital in Bulgaria, and it will be interesting to see the answer of the Finance Minister to the objections he brought forward. On the face of it, a capital levy has little to commend it in any circumstances, and, as M. Bouvoff suggests, it would appear to be a particularly dangerous expedient in a country where capital is mainly productive. Another strong point he made was that foreign capital would be largely untouched, and that the effect of the measure would be to induce Bulgarian firms to have their head offices abroad, in order to minimise the taxation. The difficulty is that, as a result of the war and of the wave of extravagance that swept over all nations immediately after the Armistice, the majority of countries are now so unfortunately situated that they cannot afford to leave unexplored any possible avenues of revenue, and it may well be that, objectionable as it is, Bulgaria may have no option but to resort to the levy.

***Picturesque but—***

One passage in M. Bouvoff's speech is likely to cause a good deal of amusement to English readers, to say nothing of weakening, in some eyes, what he says with regard to his own country—that is, his reference to unproductive capital in Great Britain. He thinks, apparently, that while a capital levy is out of the question for Bulgaria, it might possibly be applied with safety here, with our "luxurious buildings" and "great estates kept solely for sport," etc., representing so much unproductive capital. Evidently M. Bouvoff has a very limited acquaintance with the post-Armistice England, or he would be aware that these things can now be maintained only with the greatest difficulty. If he had to maintain a place here, he would not have spoken half so light-heartedly on the subject.

***Storms in Yugoslavia.***

At a time when it is above all things essential that the Near Eastern countries should be able to realise to the full the products of the soil on which for the most part they depend, it is exceedingly unfortunate that in some regions fate in the shape of adverse climatic conditions should be jeopardising the prospects of a satisfactory harvest. Our Belgrade correspondent gives a rather depressing picture of conditions in Yugoslavia. As in Great Britain, a prolonged drought has been experienced in Yugoslavia, but accompanied by cold weather unlike what has happened here. This has been ended by one of those severe storms which from time to time sweep over the peninsula carrying ruin to crops and cattle in their train. Our correspondent states that great damage has been done to the crop in many districts, and that a large number of cattle have been drowned. It is to be hoped that the consequences of the storm will prove less serious than would at first appear, as otherwise it must impose yet a further check on the progress of reconstruction after the war.

***The Roumanian Exchange.***

One of the most remarkable features in the foreign exchanges is the persistence of the Roumanian lei at its present level. The reports from the oilfields in recent months have shown a position that is constantly improving; the outlook for the crops is promising, the weather having so far been kinder than in Yugoslavia; transport facilities are getting better, and altogether the conditions would seem to warrant a marked improvement in the exchange. What is the explanation of its not taking place? The reason most commonly suggested is that there has been extensive speculation in the exchange, and that buyers unable to wait for the rise have had to unload, and very probably that has had something to do with it. Whatever the cause, it is quite certain that the present rate of the lei for sterling totally misrepresents the actual position, and before very long there is bound to be a marked change in the quotation, for potentially Roumania is in the strongest position of any of the Balkan countries, and her exchange ought to be the first to reach its post-war parity, whatever that may be.

COMMENTATOR.

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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 20.

### Adverse Trade Balance Growing.

The Egyptian Customs returns for April reveal a further decrease in the foreign trade of the country, particularly under exports, and consequently a further swing over in the adverse trade balance already recorded. Imports during the four months amounted to £E23,209,856 and exports to £E8,050,567, as compared with £E28,991,541 and £E55,755,593 a year ago. Imports have therefore fallen off by £E5,781,685 and exports by £E47,705,017, while the trade balance, taking into account re-exports from a credit one of over £E27,000,000 at this date last year, has become an adverse one of £E12,000,000.

The chief items under imports have been preserved meat and fish, £E268,000; wheat and maize flour, £E4,454,000; fresh and dried fruits, £E404,000; coffee, £E163,000; petroleum, £E471,000; oil-fuel, £E325,000; stationery, £E379,000; construction wood, £E757,000; coal, £E2,213,000; cotton textiles, £E2,172,000; woollen textiles, £E275,000; manufactured iron and steel, £E1,010,000; and tobacco, £E740,675. The main decreases have been sugar, £E1,185,000; coffee, £E499,000; vegetable oils, £E234,000; petroleum, £E268,000; cotton textiles, £E5,556,000; woollen textiles, £E786,000; while the principal increases have been in wheat and wheat flour, £E5,220,000 (146,000 tons); and coal £E1,370,000 (6,000 tons).

Under exports the main item was raw cotton (£E5,619,000), of which half the 1920 quantity was exported with a value but 10 per cent. of that exported during the corresponding months of the preceding year. Other important items were eggs, £E171,000; cotton seed, £E689,000; cotton-cake, £E225,000; onions, £E243,000; and cigarettes, £E183,000; all of which were considerably less than last year.

The United Kingdom again showed a considerable decrease in the proportion of imports, her share dropping to half what it was at the end of April, 1920, although the diminution in the total was but a little over 15 per cent. Italy and Japan were similarly affected, but the United States showed a considerable increase, and in fact headed the list of foreign countries. The chief American imports were: maize, £E173,114 (40 per cent.); wheat, £E891,941 (70); wheat flour, £E1,969,920 (50 per cent.); maize flour, £E947,487 (all); petroleum, £E165,118 (one-third); coal, £E1,180,444 (one-half); and railway locomotives, £E308,964 (all).

## THE SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, June 9.

### General News.

Berber Province.—The discovery of mica deposits in the vicinity of Shereik has resulted in several applications for mining licences.

The project of illuminating Atbara by electricity has been mooted, and I understand that an offer to undertake the work is now being considered by the authorities.

It is to be regretted that pernicious methods in vogue in Egypt appear to have been adopted by certain of the local traders. The prompt action of the authorities in sentencing two would-be fraudulent bankrupts to terms of imprisonment has had a very salutary moral effect.

KHARTOUM, June 19.

### Dam Construction.

The recent statements of the Egyptian Council of Ministers have occasioned considerable interest in the country. The Gebel Aulia construction has been shut down for an indefinite period, maintenance parties being left in charge of the completed houses and stores. Makwar works are also at a standstill pending the result of the proposed additional loan of £8,000,000, and it is reported that large numbers of Saidi labourers are being repatriated every week. There is a strong divergence of opinion as to the advisability of continuing the works. The cultivators and the majority of the non-official inhabitants are against the projects, on the grounds that the country is insufficiently developed to warrant the burden of a loan of 14 millions, and also that the concentration of all available labour on the Dam construction militates very largely against the progress and even maintenance of existing cultivation in other provinces. The Dam enthusiasts, on the other hand, point to a future prospect of hundreds of thousands of feddans of reclaimed desert under cotton, and the consequent prosperity of the country. The problem has been discussed and re-discussed by the foremost experts in the irrigation world, and it would be presumption on the part of a lay member of the public to proffer any suggestions. Suffice it to say that in the event of the additional eight millions being forthcoming, the Government will have to face the duty of providing a minimum of one million sterling per annum to meet interest and sinking fund; and in view of the fact that existing taxes and royalties could not be materially increased without penalising the export and import trade to an unbearable degree, it is difficult to see the possibility of meeting so heavy an obligation.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 21.

### Economic Treaty with Poland.

The Roumanian Commission for the conclusion of an economic treaty with Poland has returned to Bucharest. The negotiations will be continued here, the Polish delegation, headed by M. Strassburger, Polish Vice-Minister for Commerce and Industry, is expected to arrive shortly. Most of the important work has already been done at Warsaw, and, after completion, the Convention will be signed here. The Roumanian delegation, which visited Danzig and the Fair at Poznen, has been accorded a cordial reception everywhere.

### Tractor Exhibition.

With the object of increasing the use of agricultural machinery, the Roumanian Government are holding an exhibition and demonstration of motor-ploughs on the agricultural school grounds at Herestrau, at Baneasa, near Bucharest, on September 11, 12, and 13. The object is to give agriculturists an opportunity of seeing the different types of tractors in use and their mode of working. All varieties of motor-ploughs will be admitted. The demonstrative work will consist of ploughing to a depth of 0.20 ctm., for three days. Applications, which must be received by August 10, must be sent by registered letter to the "Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Domaines, Direction des Machines Agricoles."

All machines will have to be in readiness three days before the opening on the grounds reserved for the exhibition and demonstration. Benzine, lubricating oils, and greases will be supplied free by the Ministry. The cost of transport of the machinery and personnel is to be borne by the competing firms. The transport cost on the Roumanian Railway of the re-exportation of this machinery within three months may be reimbursed. The same applies to the Customs and Commission taxes, and for this purpose the declaration for the Customs should state that the machinery is "destined for the demonstration and exhibition organised by the Ministry of Agriculture."

### General News.

In consequence of representations by the British Government, Roumania has consented to allow Great Britain to import fancy goods (silks, perfumery, cosmetics, powder, etc.) to the same extent as Austria, France, and Italy.

The Belgian Government has authorised the Société Générale Foncière Urbaine to send eighteen million Belgian francs to Roumania, for the purpose of constructing in Bucharest cheap houses for Government officials. Repayment will be made, by instalments, within fifteen years.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, June 28.

### Building in Belgrade.

Great progress has been made with building in Belgrade in spite of the high cost of labour and materials. Most of the buildings which have been hidden under scaffolding for the past two years are now completed, while more scaffolding has been erected. Many public offices, such as the Monopol, the War Office, the Mining Directorate, and others, have had one or more extra storeys added. The corner building near the junction of Prince Michael Street, and the Terazije has blossomed into a bank with wonderful golden gates, and many new private houses are now occupied. The streets have invented a new and original form of humour. The wooden paving of Prince Michael and King Milan Streets has always been a source of discomfort to horses and motorists alike, with its numerous pit-holes, which are probably due to bad foundations and soft wood. The new feature is a number of rounded, elevated blisters, about a yard and a-half in diameter and a couple of feet high, which are the delight of the children, till men come and prick the blisters and level them again. They are quite numerous, and are probably due to the wood being put down dry and swelling under the recent rains.

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### A Danube Confederation.

The Yugoslav Press is attentively watching the conversations between Czechoslovakia and Hungary. It is considered quite possible that an economic alliance may be formed between these two States which would approach to some extent the Danubian confederation which French politicians are aiming at, with the exception that each State would retain its full sovereign rights. Of course, the final exclusion of the Hapsburgs must be a *sine quâ non*, for the Czechoslovaks would regard a return of that dynasty to Hungary as a *casus belli*. If these negotiations are successful, it is possible that similar conversations will be opened with Yugoslavia, which would lead to an allied block in Central Europe.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 26.

### Case Against the Clearing House.

The good impression created by the leading article in THE NEAR EAST on May 12 on the clearing house for Bulgarian debts in England has been further strengthened by the letter from Sir Edward Boyle on the same subject in *The Times* of June 18. The abolition of the clearing house can be urged on every possible ground, and it would give a much-needed impetus to the trade between the two countries. With everyone complaining about the adverse rate of exchange, it is as well to see what effect this matter has had on trade between Bulgaria and other Allied countries. The American dollar is high enough—one receives 95 levas for a dollar to-day—and yet there is a certain amount of trade going on between the two countries, and it is a noteworthy fact that the United States have now both a Consul and Vice-Consul at Sofia. Before the war they were hardly represented in Bulgaria, and there was little trade going on. Other Allied countries have also increased their trade organisation and representation, but all we have done is to withdraw our Commercial Secretary.

With Italy the difference of exchange has never been very great, but what energy and enterprise can achieve is shown by the flourishing business that the Fiat Motor Car Co. have built up. Before the war very few Fiats were to be seen in Bulgaria, but to-day, excluding Government cars, fully 75 per cent. of the cars and lorries in the country are of this make. It is not that they are exceptionally cheap, but pains have been taken to bring the cars here and keep their name before the public.

It is often said that when the leva goes up we shall do trade, but when this happy event occurs it is open to question whether foreign traders will not be already firmly entrenched and the market virtually closed.

Trade emissaries from the Central Powers, such as Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia, are arriving here every day, and their attitude always seems to be summed up by: "Tell us your requirements, and we will supply them." The British attitude, on the other hand, is: "Here are our goods; they may be a little dearer than those of other countries, but they are better" and the matter is left at that.

In these days of universal trade depression no market, however small, is to be despised, and it would seem that if the British trader is content to wait for his profits, there are big possibilities in store for him in the Bulgarian market. The few English that are here are not unduly despondent, and, after all, as one said to me recently: "If one manages, either here or at home, to pay one's office expenses to-day, one is lucky." This is the present position, whether we like it or not, and it is only spadework that can be done. But in order that success may come, it is absolutely essential that the authorities at home should decide to do away with the clearing house, and it is to be hoped that every business man, whether directly or indirectly interested, will, in the future trade interests of the two countries, urge that this be done.

SOFIA, June 28.

### Tax on Capital.

A notable speech was made by M. Bouvoff in the Sobranje on June 15 on the Finance Minister's proposals. He said: "The question before us is whether the Finance Minister, by means of his new law—namely, the tax on property and capital—will achieve his aim. He hopes that by the revenue secured by this measure the circulation of bank notes will be lessened and the value of the leva will improve. Taking first the bank notes, the theory that the value of the bank note is wholly dependent upon its circulation is wholly without foundation, as is also the theory that the quantity of bank notes in circulation has no bearing on the quality thereof. There are, however, more important factors which influence exchange—viz., the general, political, and economical situation of the country, the credit of the country, the condition of its trade balance, its production, and the guarantee behind the bank notes.

"To show what influence a partial decrease of the bank note circulation will have on the value thereof, we must ask ourselves, 'When the bank note circulation exceeds three milliard levas, why is there a lack of money in trade and industry?' It is said that there are many bank notes held abroad, but I do not think that the amount is greater than 300-400 million levas. What is left is enormous. It is true that three milliard levas, when one takes into consideration the prices that prevail to-day, might be more or less a normal quantity if it were allied with normal production and normal trade. But do not forget that to-day we do not have normal production and trade.

"If before, with 200 million gold leva bank notes, we were manipulating a trade of which the export value was 200 million levas, it meant that the relation was, so to speak, lev for lev. To-day, with a circulation of three milliards, we should have an export trade value of three milliards, but in reality the figure is under two milliards; and if we look for true proportion a bank note circulation of 1¾ milliards should be enough.

"The explanation is elsewhere: a part of the bank notes, instead of being in a position where they could have been turned to good account as factors in production, have gone into savings banks or are hoarded in peasants' cottages. Thus a great part of the bank note circulation is a dead load which only affects the rate of exchange without fulfilling its economic and trade function. The reasons for this are to be found in our financial policy. The emission of bank notes in Bulgaria has not come under the influence of our trade and economic needs, but was made to satisfy the needs of the Government. In fact, under the name of a bank note circulation the country has been making an internal loan, and these bank notes are to-day playing the rôle of 'obligations without interest.' As long as we retain a financial system by which the National Bank is made to fill the part of the Government Treasury and to give to the Government 20, 30, or 40 million leva bank notes every month, which are used to cover the difference between income and expenditure, we shall have an insufficiency of bank notes in circulation. Even if we succeed in decreasing it we shall not arrive at any practical means of improving the situation. Grant for a moment that this law for the taxation of property is passed. Grant it all possible advantages, including a fiscal administration which is absolutely sound, and yet at the most it can only realise one and one-fifth milliards of levas.

"This sum is to be realised in money, over a period of five years. Owing to the present lack of bank notes, it is the taxpayers who will have to shoulder the greatest burden, as it is the National Bank, directly or indirectly, which will have to pay this money in under the form of a loan through new bank rates. The only difference will be that the debt of the State to the National Bank will be decreased and the debt of individuals to the bank will be increased. If the Government continues its present financial policy, the decrease in its debt to the bank will only be temporary; because, so as to cover its new deficits, it will turn once again to the bank notes of the National Bank. The improvement of our exchange cannot be arrived at by these means; it can only be done by increasing our export trade, by a wise fiscal policy, by reduced expenditure on the part of the Government, and, above all, by a well-balanced budget.

### Capital and the New Taxation.

"When one talks of taxing capital, and one sees what happens in other countries, one must not forget Bulgaria's economic position—an industry which is only beginning to develop, and a very limited amount of capital. Taxation on capital in a country thus situated is much more dangerous, and has quite other effects than in countries where there is a sound economic position, helped by large capital resources and developed production. Take Great Britain, for instance; you will find there luxurious houses, great estates kept solely for sport, huge sums spent unproductively. Taxation on such capital need not have serious results on economic life.

"Where is our Bulgarian capital, and what is it? If we look for wealth in our country, we find it in the land, from which is derived our greatest production; in cattle and other animals; in banks, joint stock companies, and small industrial undertakings.

"There is no capital expended in luxury. If the Minister of Finance himself undertakes to value the amount of taxable wealth, he will state that of to-day's national wealth of 70 milliard levas, 60 milliards belong to the peasants by reason of the land, cattle and buildings which they hold, and the other ten are in bank notes and industrial concerns. From this it follows that we are only taxing productive capital, and we must not imagine that all this can come to pass without serious disturbances which will shake the roots of our industrial system. Take the case of an agricultural estate of 300 decares which has on it four oxen and fifty sheep, with five decares of vineyards and 100 decares of wood. Such an estate will be valued at 500,000

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levas. According to the law, an estate worth 500,000 levas will pay 22,000 levas; in other words, every year for five years the owner must pay 4,400 levas independent of all other taxation. Take the case of an industrial undertaking with a nominal capital of two million levas, according to the ordinary relation between the working and the invested capital; three-quarters of that capital will consist of buildings and fittings, and the other quarter will be working capital. One and a-half millions invested before the war in buildings and fittings are now equal to 15 million levas. If the valuer is generous, he may assess the property at 10 millions. Ten millions plus half a million working capital plus reserves of, say, half a million, will pay a tax of 4½ millions. This is 900,000 levas annually for five years This is what a company with a working capital of 500,000 levas will pay.

"Without going into further details, I state that unproductive capital will escape and productive capital will be destroyed. Even if the law were to be extended so as to cover bank notes, these would largely escape taxation unless the Minister of Finance puts into force a special law to compel the changing and stamping of bank notes, and also arranges to have them taxed on the same date on which the law for the taxation on other property comes into force.

### Foreign Capital.

"It is true that taxation on foreign capital is provided for in the law, but it must be remembered that foreigners have certain rights and privileges, and they will find lawful means of escaping from being taxed. One of the most ordinary methods that is employed will serve as an example. A trading company is organised abroad, probably in a country where taxation is low, let us say in Turkey or in Egypt. The head office of the company is established abroad, and only a branch is created in Bulgaria. This branch only shows a capital of some 100,000 levas, and is thus not able to realise any large profits. The matter is so arranged that goods are sold to the head office at low prices, and it is there that the profits are made. When the Bulgarian fiscal authorities examine the books of the company—which is doing a trade of some 100 million levas in Bulgaria—they find everything in order, backed by formal statements, but there is no capital to tax. This is a gross injustice to Bulgarian companies, who have their head office in Bulgaria, for they have to pay a tax extending up to 40 per cent. on their active capital. The foreigner escapes, and great harm is done to Bulgarian trade, production, and economic independence. Later on Bulgarians will undoubtedly move the head offices of their companies to a foreign country, and will only maintain branches at Sofia. It is a fact that many millions of levas are being gained in Bulgaria by foreigners in matters appertaining to land, and not a single centime is being realised in taxes. There is no means of taxing the foreigners who do these deals. I only see stated in the law that foreign capitalists are taxed according to the capital with which they work in Bulgaria. Empty words. These companies will not tell you that they really have ten millions capital; they will indicate to you 100,000 levas and all other sums will be shown as the credit accounts of XYZ. Capital will be driven out of the country, and the leva will fall instead of rising.

### Confiscation?

"Although a tax may in the future be unavoidable, it seems that the proposed tax is more an effort at confiscation, like other taxes recently introduced. Should this law succeed in improving the value of our leva, the second year's tax as paid by the taxpayer will not be paid in the leva under which the valuation of his land was made, but in a leva of greater value. If in the third year the leva has increased to twice its present value, the value of the property as measured in levas will have fallen so that a tax assessment on a property valued in depreciated levas will have to be paid in levas worth twice the value. A tax of 50 per cent. may thus easily become one of 100 per cent. If, on the contrary, the leva remains at its present rate, which is equal to six Swiss centimes, is it worth while to create this great disturbance in our economic laws?

"Do not imagine that this law will only affect industries and industrial people. Take the case of a peasant who owns 300 decares. I stated before that he will pay a tax of 4,400 levas a year. This is not a great sum as long as he is able to sell his maize at 1.60 to 1.70 levas a kilo, but, if the leva rises, the price of maize may be only .80 of a leva. His tax would thus be doubled. If the leva were to become equal to 30 centimes gold, he will have to give five times the original amount of maize in order to pay his tax.

"Another question is whether our fiscal administration can work this new and complicated taxation. The 1919 taxes are not yet all collected; the 1920 taxes not begun to be collected, the taxes on war profits are only now being collected, and it would seem that there is a very fair chance of the whole system collapsing."

## TENDERS INVITED.

*[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]*

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—**

### Egypt.

Clothing, etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt (Lunacy Division) invites tenders for the supply of clothing and household requisites to the Abbasiya and Khanka Asylums. Tenders, on the proper form and accompanied by a provisional deposit of 2 per cent., are to be submitted to the Lunacy Division, Abbasiya. July 11 (D.O.T.).

Boots and Gymnastic Shoes.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of boots (infantry and cavalry) and canvas gymnastic shoes. Tenders and specifications may be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1, and samples may be seen at the same address. July 15.

Calcium Carbide.—The Egyptian Postal Administration at Alexandria invites tenders for the supply of 15,000 kilogrammes of calcium carbide for acetylene gas light plants. Quotations should comprise free storage at the sole risk of the contractor and free delivery (by periodical partial supplies during the year) at 62 railways or river stations specified. July 15 (D.O.T.).

Beans, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 150 kilos beans, 150 kilos barley, and 4,000 kilos tibn, required for four months commencing August, 1921. July 16.

### Yugoslavia.

Oil, etc.—The Ministry of War and Marine, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of:—400,000 kgs. of benzine, 40,000 kgs. of thick oil for motors, 4,000 kgs. of thick oil, and 5,000 kgs. of petrol. Tenders must be submitted to the "Direction de l'Artillerie," bearing a 10 din. stamp, accompanied by a sample, the chemical analysis of which is to be effected in a State laboratory, and the result is to be attached to the tender. The envelope must bear the inscription "Offres de Benzine." July 20.

Paper.—The Direction des Chemins de Fer de l'Etat, Subotica, invites tenders for the supply of ordinary paper for rough use as follows:—10,000 kgs. 42 by 68 cms.; 10,000 kgs. 50 by 90 cms.; 10,000 kgs. 47 by 60 cms.; 2,000 kgs. 63 by 95 cms.; 3,000 kgs. 60 by 90 cms.; 5,000 kgs. 63 by 35 cms. Tenders must be addressed to the "Direction des Chemins de Fer de l'Etat" at Subotica, together with samples and prices. They should be sealed, and the envelope should be marked "Offre pour l'adjudication de papier, KN 11228/21." July 20.

Turntables.—The Direction des Chemins de Fer de l'Etat, Subotica, invites tenders for the supply of turntables for locomotives, ordinary gauge. They should bear a 10 din. stamp, and be marked "Offres de disques tournants, K.D. 12550/21." All Serbian subjects should make a deposit of 10 per cent. of the value offered, and foreigners 20 per cent. of the value. July 21.

### India.

Springs, etc.—The India Office invites tenders for the supply of laminated springs, steel screw spikes, steel fishbolts, and dog spikes. (Spec., Director-General of Stores, Whitehall.) July 12.

Steel Bearing Plates, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Co. for the supply of: (1) steel bearing plates; (2) spring steel; (3) wood screws, nails, split pins, etc. Specification £1 for 1 and 2, and 10s. each for No. 3. Secretary, The White Mansion, 91, Petty France, S.W.1. July 15.

Steel Underframes, etc.—H.E.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Co., Ltd., invites tenders for the supply of: (1) 11 steel underframes for bogie carriages (metre gauge); (2) 44 pairs of wheels and axles for the above. (Specifications 10s. each.) Secretary, Winchester House, 50, Old Broad Street, E.C.4. July 15.

### Bulgaria.

Telegraph and Telephone Material.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply and delivery of various tools, instruments, and materials for the current financial year. It is desirable that United Kingdom firms competing for Bulgarian State contracts should do so through agents resident in the country. July 11 (D.O.T.).

Cotton Waste and Machine Oil.—The Bulgarian State Railways, Sofia, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of: 100,000 kgs. coloured cotton waste, 2,000 kgs. white cotton waste, 100,000 kgs. cotton pieces, 600 tons machine oil, 300 tons wagon oil, 300 tons cylinder oil (ordinary), 20 tons cylinder oil (special), 200 tons impure petrol. July 15 (D.O.T.).

Railway Wagons.—The Bulgarian State Railways are inviting tenders for the construction and supply of 200 covered goods wagons and 200 coal wagons (to be ready for delivery by January 15, 1922); 400 covered goods wagons and 200 mineral wagons (to be ready for delivery by March 31, 1922). Tenders should be addressed to the Department of Finance, Sofia. August 1 (D.O.T.).

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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## II.—GREECE.

Below will be found some extracts from the report of Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation, Athens, on the industrial and economic situation in Greece in 1920:—

It must be frankly stated that commercial conditions in general in Greece during the year 1920 have been far from satisfactory, and the situation is at present both unstable and unsettled. The reasons for this are not far to seek and can be summed up as follows:—(1) The peculiar economic situation arising from recent political events, and (2) the depreciation of Greek exchange, which, again, has been still more adversely affected by (3) the temporary withdrawal of Allied economic support.

Merchants are ordering as little as possible from abroad and only buying from hand to mouth. Their point of view is intelligible, as the extreme depreciation of the drachma is, rightly or wrongly, regarded by Greek merchants in general as being exaggerated, and an improvement is hoped for when the political situation is finally cleared up. Should this take place in the near future, there is no doubt that the exchange will immediately improve, when merchants ordering goods at the present time would find themselves at a disadvantage, whereas their competitors, ordering later, would benefit by the exchange. In the meantime, the market is gradually becoming depleted of stocks, and when the exchange again becomes more or less stable there should be a renewed demand for British goods.

### State of Trade.

At the present moment it is possible to purchase many lines of goods, notably textiles, on the Piræus and Athens markets at prices lower, taking the exchange into consideration, than those actually ruling in the United Kingdom. Another factor affecting the situation is the over-supply of goods in the Greek markets resulting from the recklessness with which the Greek importers ordered goods in 1919, when the exchange was at or below par. These goods were ordered shortly after the Armistice, largely with a view to their re-exportation to Turkey, Southern Russia, Roumania, etc. But events have proved that their disposal in this manner has not been possible, and they have consequently remained on the Greek market. Taking the textile or "soft goods" trade as an example, it is calculated that there are at present sufficient stocks on hand, in several lines, to serve the requirements of the market for at least another six months, so that merchants will only be in a position to pass new orders about July of this year (1921).

During the latter part of 1920 and throughout the succeeding months British firms have been meeting with considerable difficulties through the failure of their Greek customers to take up the documents for goods ordered by them. This is, as has been pointed out above, chiefly brought about by the exchange situation. Amongst the goods thus left on the shippers' hands in the Customs here are cotton textiles, woollens, yarns, chemicals, drugs, gas engines, coal tar products, and numerous other commodities. On the other hand it must be admitted that there have been several instances of the non-fulfilment of their contracts as regards time of delivery by British manufacturers, and goods have been delivered three to nine months after the date specified. There are very large stocks of leather held on this market, and it is calculated that the stocks of upper and sole leather are sufficient to meet the needs of the next five or six months.

The Customs depots at Piræus continue to be very congested. This is due partly to the depreciation in the Greek exchange, and the consequent failure of consignees to take up the documents for goods delivered, as explained above, whereby these goods are allowed to accumulate in the Customs warehouses. The warehouse accommodation is still very scanty, in spite of various new depots having been built around Piræus quays. Further, the state of repair of the roofs and flooring of most of the warehouses is not good, and consequently goods which are left unclaimed in these stores for any length of time, if of a perishable nature, suffer considerable damage. Very large quantities of merchandise are stored in the Piræus in open compounds around the quays, where they are exposed to the weather. These are, as far as possible, goods of a non-perishable nature, but such commodities as news-printing paper, metal goods, machinery, etc., will naturally deteriorate if left for long under such conditions. The value of the goods lying in the Piræus Customs, of which the consignees are delaying the delivery, hoping for an improvement in the exchange, is variously estimated at from one to one and a half million sterling.

An improvement in this state of affairs, unfortunately, cannot be looked for until the economic conditions of the country improve; and the Greek Government, pending the realisation of their projects for the improvement of Piræus harbour, do not appear disposed to entertain the heavy expense which would be entailed by adequately repairing the Customs stores at the Piræus. Owing to the lack of hoisting or manipulating apparatus in these stores, only the ground space practically is used in the various depots, and thus very inadequate use is made of the capacity of the buildings, there being no facilities for stacking and storing the merchandise.

### Foreign Competition.

The circumstances above referred to, while reacting unfavourably on British trade, have to a large extent given German and Austrian goods the needed opportunity of recovering their former influence in the Greek market. Very considerable quantities of German goods are now in Greece, and continue to arrive by every steamer. In view of the low quotation of the German mark, German manufacturers are in a position to supply their products to Greece at prices ranging from 40 per cent. to 60 per cent. cheaper than British manufacturers. The principal products arriving are chemicals and drugs, which are re-establishing their former position in the market: Engines (Diesel, semi-Diesel, gas and oil), motor cars, the Mercedes and Benz cars being daily met in the streets, small machines, ice-making machines, pumps, tools, hardware, paper, pianos, leather goods, etc. Austria is sending a good deal of furniture and fancy goods.

### Public Works.

Piræus.—Nothing has, as yet, been definitely decided as to the contract for the Piræus Harbour Works. The three British firms tendering have long since submitted their plans to the Greek Government, which have been examined and reported on by the Technical Committee; these papers are now before the Council of Ministers for decision and the definite appointment of a contractor, but, owing to recent political events, the matter is still held up.

Patras.—No public works have been undertaken in Patras and district during the year 1920. Before the war Patras was lighted by gas, and a tramway service, with electric power linked up the town. Both these concerns belong to the Société Thomson-Houston of Athens. They were discontinued during the war and have not since been resumed, and negotiations between the company and the municipal council for a resumption have failed up to the present. Electric lighting for the town is supplied by a private concern. The light is poor and costly and the installation crude.

A company was formed in 1919 to utilise the water power of the River Glaucus, which falls into the plain of Patras at a distance of some five miles from the town. Surveys held have estimated that sufficient power could be derived for the whole of the electric supply of the town, i.e., lighting, power to the various works, and for the running of the tramways. The proposals of the company are being considered by Government.

A British concern, "The Neuchatel Asphalt Company, Limited," of London, has obtained a contract for road-making in the provinces of Arcadia and Acarnania-Ætolia. Work has commenced during the year under British engineers. A scheme for the improvement of the Patras Harbour is awaiting Government sanction. This scheme includes the continuation of the breakwaters, the possible transference of the lighthouse from the pier-end on to the outer breakwater, and the question of the building of quays and sheds is also considered.

The N.E. harbour breakwater not being long enough, the silting up of the harbour on that side is continual. A bucket dredger has been employed for five months during last summer in deepening the harbour to a uniform depth of twenty-four feet. Small repairs to pier sides have been effected. The harbour commission is said to dispose of funds, but is unable to incur any expenditure without the sanction of the Government. In the event of harbour improvements, including up-to-date wharfage and cranage, being undertaken, it is anticipated that the Sea Labourers' Unions will offer serious opposition to such a scheme, which would permit of cargoes and passengers being landed or loaded without the use of lighters and boats.

Canea.—A plan for similar port works for Canea exists, but the execution can hardly be expected for some time. The obvious solution for Canea of the harbour question would be the construction of cheap works in Suda Bay with a steam tram to connect them with Canea, but hitherto many and varied causes have prevented the changing of the commercial centre of the town.

Canea Water Supply.—There has been some experimental boring in the neighbourhood. Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture are also experimenting, and the scheme is to be studied in conjunction with that for electric lighting.


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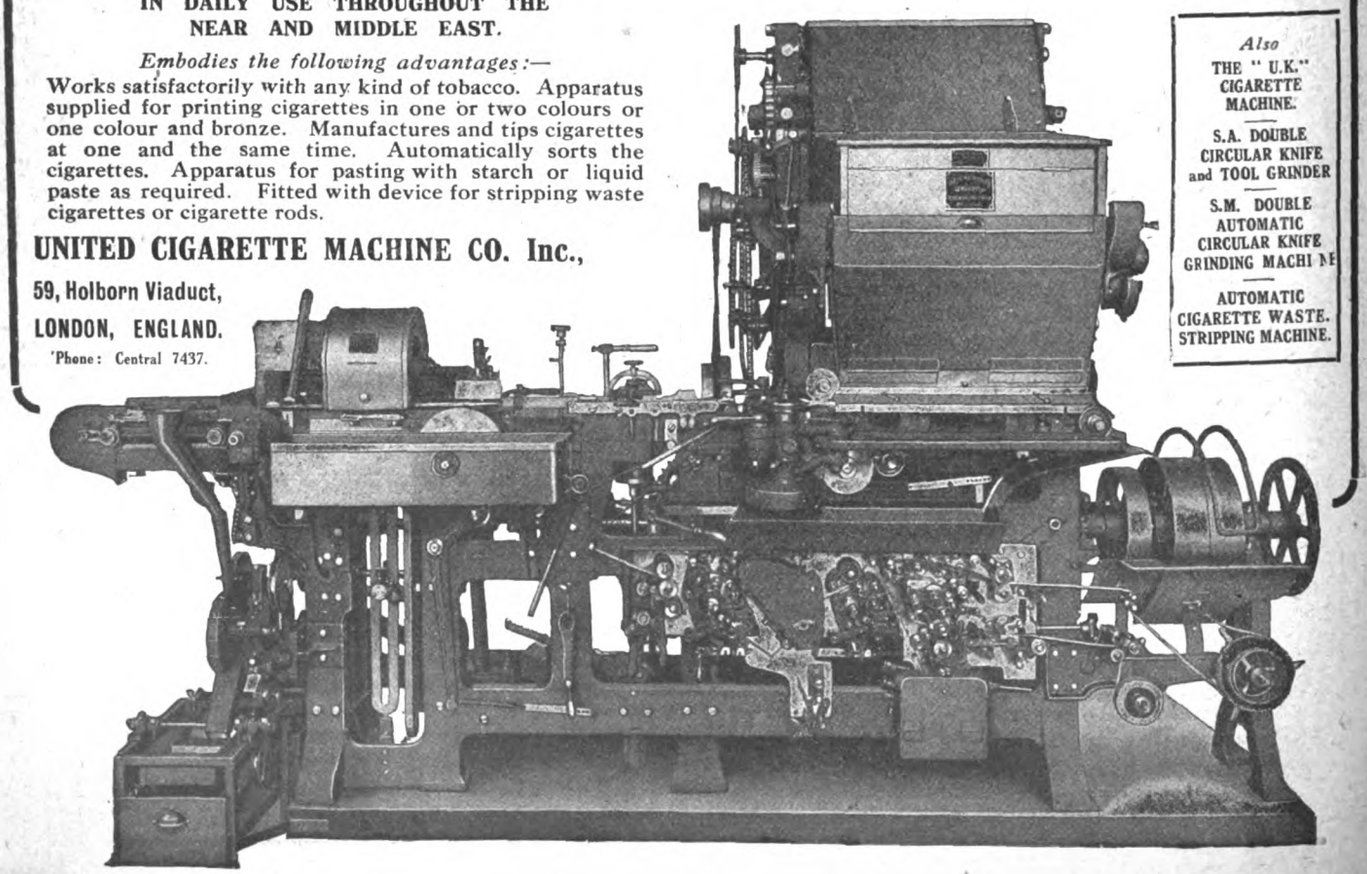

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## THE WORLD'S COTTON CONFERENCE.

Now that the second World's Cotton Conference has come and gone it is possible to sum up the results and to estimate the value of such a gathering. The first, at New Orleans two years ago, was to a certain extent an experiment. Coming so soon after the war, it achieved a surprising success in the very large number of foreign delegates who found it possible, amid all the troubles of the post-war period, to make the long journey to New Orleans; and it served a useful purpose in bringing so many spinners and manufacturers into direct contact with the largest assembly of American cotton growers that has perhaps ever been seen. In that respect, the second Congress, recently held at Liverpool and Manchester, was notably different; for the attendance of cotton growers from America was unfortunately a great deal smaller than had been hoped for. It was not surprising that under the present conditions in the cotton belt many of them should find it impossible to make the trip; but it was particularly regrettable that Mr. J. S. Wannamaker, the president of the American Cotton Association, who is pre-eminently the protagonist of the growers' interests, should have been unable to come, as he had intended. The result was that the growers' interest was not so fully represented as it should have been, and one could hardly help feeling that this was in some sense typical of the conference. There was really not much interest shown in the question of cotton growing, the general feeling apparently being that, whatever happened to this year's crops, there was plenty of cotton in sight to meet any requirements likely to arise under present conditions. It has always been difficult to get the cotton market to look further ahead than the immediate season's supply, and under present conditions it is not surprising that this tendency should be intensified. With the coming cotton crops likely to be reduced to something not much more than half the pre-war normal, which in itself was regarded as insufficient for the growing needs of the trade, it seems inevitable that there must be a shortage again some day, but the present state of demand, which seemed to touch its very lowest during the period of the conference, certainly does not encourage one to risk a prophecy as to when these conditions will change.

The conference itself, however, made considerable contributions towards the discussion of the problem of future demand, especially the papers which dealt with questions of finance and credit. These papers were excellent, and if some of them aroused comparatively little discussion, it was more because the audience felt themselves beyond their depth in the technical details of the problem than from any lack of interest in the question. The tone of the writers of the papers was, on the whole, more hopeful than might have been expected, and the result of the discussions was fairly reassuring.

Among the other subjects dealt with were many which have been discussed at every conference of the kind since the first meeting of the International Cotton Federation in Atlanta in 1907. The "old old story" of the unsatisfactory baling of the American crop was again told to an audience that could not deny the impeachment, nor, unfortunately, could it offer any hope that the much-needed reforms were substantially nearer than they had been when they were first mooted. It is poor encouragement to those who have made this subject their own for so many years; but there is nothing for it but to keep on pegging at it, in season and out of season, until something is done. The organisation of the American cotton growing industry is too huge and too much complicated by custom and vested interests to be easily changed; and if it was impossible even with cotton at the high prices of last season, to convince them of the folly of wasting so much cotton, it is not likely to be more successful to-day with cotton gone back to something like its old levels. The root of the trouble is the lack of a thorough interest in the trade, as the result of which the man who would have to make the outlay and take the trouble of making a change, would not be likely to reap the benefit. So long as that state of affairs continues, reform will be almost impossible. Another subject which at these conferences is invariably listened to with sympathy and received with approval, is that of the development of cotton growing within the British Empire. In an audience partly composed of the existing cotton growers of the world it was rather pathetic that we should have to reassure them, even now when the movement is at last to receive adequate support from the Government and the trade, that they need not fear the competition of Empire-grown cotton for many years to come.

Some useful suggestions, the adoption of which seems to present no great difficulty, were made in a paper on "Yarn and Cloth Contracts." A number of other excellent papers were unfortunately missed owing to the absence of the writers, but on the whole the conference covered a great deal of ground in a very useful way. If a word of criticism of the arrangements may be allowed it is that there was so much to do and the meetings were so efficiently handled that there was very little time for discussion. The number of papers got through *with discussion* in an average of half-an-hour each, was really staggering.

With regard to the future of the conference, nothing definite was settled, it being left to the officials and a small committee to make such arrangements for the future as may seem desirable. The question of the relations of the conference to the International Cotton Federation will inevitably have to be settled. Two international organisations dealing with one trade are unthinkable.

To assess the value of such conferences is very difficult, and in doing so, one has to remember not only the public work of the conference, but also what is to many the most valuable part of its work in the gathering together for a fortnight of representatives of twenty nations and of every section of a great world's industry. The social arrangements cannot be too highly praised. Liverpool and Manchester vied with each other in showing the greatest possible kindness to their guests, who were without exception most appreciative of the hospitality they received. It would be safe to say that what pleased many of the foreign delegates most was the extreme kindness and intimacy of the hospitality dispensed, not merely officially, but personally and privately by the Lancashire people in their own homes. The friendly understanding which comes from mutual knowledge acquired under these conditions is of more value than many congresses.

J. A. T.

## BRITISH-ARMENIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual meeting of the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce was held at the offices of the London Chamber of Commerce on June 29. Previously a luncheon was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, presided over by the chairman, Mr. E. A. Brayley Hodgetts, the company including Sir J. Roper Parkington, General Bakratuni, Mr. E. R. Bartley Denniss, M.P., Mr. J. A. Malcolm, and Professor G. Thoumaian.


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has improved during the week. Currants have been in rather better request, and in some cases rates have been advanced. Prices of sultanas have again risen, and there seems every likelihood that a very high level will be reached.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in steady request at unchanged rates. West Indian crystallised is 2s. down at 44s. to 49s. 6d., and American granulated at 55s. has shed 1s. Czecho-Slovakian at 27s. is 1s. down. Quotations are: July, 16s.; August, 16s.; September, 16s.; October, 15s. 3d.; November, 15s.; December, 15s.

Coffee.—Futures market has been steady, with July quoted at 40s.; September, 40s. 6d.; December, 41s.; March, 42s.; and May, 43s.

Oilseeds.—Prices generally are firmer. Indian linseed has risen 6d. to 20s. 6d., and La Plata a like amount at 19s. 3d. Rapeseed is unaltered in each case, Toria remaining at 21s. 5d.; bold Ferozepore, 20s. 3d.; and brown Cawnpore, 19s. 9d. Cottonseed has risen, with Egyptian black 9d. up at 11s. 9d., while Bombay is quoted at 10s. 6d.

Oils.—Prices have been variable. Linseed oil has risen 13d. to 35s. 6d. Crude rape oil at 52s. is unchanged, while refined at 60s. has lost 2s. Cotton oil is higher, with refined at 46s., Egyptian crude at 38s. 6d. and deodorised at 53s., increases of 2s., 1s. 3d., and 3s. respectively. Turpentine is 1s. down at 80s.

## CROPS DAMAGED BY STORMS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Belgrade, June 28.

After a prolonged and unprecedented drought, which has dried up wells and in many places has wilted the crops, the recent storms have done tremendous damage. Snow has fallen on many of the higher mountains, such as Velebit near Fiume, Kopaonik in the south and in parts of Bosnia. In other districts floods have done many millions worth of damage, and whole villages in northern Bosnia have been practically destroyed. A credit of 56 million dinars has been voted for the sufferers. In the neighbourhood of Belgrade the crops are so dried up that the rain has come too late to do much good, though satisfactory reports come from the interior of Serbia. In the rich and fertile plains of the Banat the drought has done great damage, and things are not much better in Srem. More reassuring accounts come from the Baranya and from Croatia.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended June 25 amounted to £19,516.

The Banque Française des Pays d'Orient, Paris, has opened an agency at Stamboul.

Under Article 127 of the Treaty of Neuilly, the delivery of sheep by Bulgaria to Greece was completed on June 28 near Nevrokop.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97 5/32 |
| Athens | Drachmæ to £ | 25·22½ | 64·50-65·50 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 135-140 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/3 5/16-1/3 7/16 |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 245-255 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1/3 5/16-1/3 7/16 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 525-545 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅝ | 3·73-3·74 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 46·55-46·65 |
| Prague | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 270-280 |
| Rome | Lire to £ | 25·22½ | 75½-76½ |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 335-345 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 50½ |
| Vienna | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 2,000-2,500 |
| Warsaw | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 6,500-7,600 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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## SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, June 9.

**General News.**

Blue Nile Province.—The price of dhurra has fallen to 221 milliemes per ardeb at Wad Medani, 5,452 ardebs being marketed at Wad Medani and 17,900 at Hassaheissa during the month of April. Very high temperatures have been experienced throughout the province.

Berber Province.—Reports to hand state that what is probably the largest wheat crop on record for this province has been successfully harvested. The yields per feddan have been phenomenal, averaging nearly three large ardebs (of 420 rottles) for wheat and seven ardebs for maize. The Supplies Department of the Egyptian Army are in the market as buyers of wheat, but the crop is sufficiently large to warrant the public at large being admitted as purchasers. As a result of the bountiful crops, prices of grain and live stock have fallen steadily.

Kordofan Province.—During May there was very little activity in the local grain and cattle markets. The monthly returns for the El Obeid market show a very small movement, the largest demand being for groundnuts, of which a total of 683 ardebs of 210 rottles were disposed of. Average prices were as follows:—Sesame seed, 783 milliemes per ardeb of 330 rottles; dukn, 570 milliemes per ardeb of 420 rottles; dhurra, 542 milliemes per ardeb of 420 rottles; groundnuts, 760 milliemes per ardeb of 210 rottles.

Cattle and sheep exported by rail from El Obeid during the period January 1 to May 31 show a great decrease in numbers as compared with the similar period in 1920 and 1919.

The total sales of gum in the El Obeid market amounted to 15,095 kantars during May, 1921, as compared with 11,589 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was 647 milliemes per kantar.

Rainfalls are reported of 20 mm. at Um Dam, 11 mm. at Um Ruaba, and 9 mm. at El Obeid. Cultivation has not yet started.

Berber Province.—The Government pumping plants are reported to have closed down for the season. It is anticipated that comparatively little seifi will be cultivated this year, when they re-open.

As a result of various experiments at the Government farm at Kitiab, the best type of wheat has been found to be "Bunyih," yielding over four ardebs per feddan in a period of 100 days.

The price of grain declined steadily during May, wheat falling from £T300 to £T255 per ardeb of 420 rottles, and sakia and red dhurra falling from £T150 to £T142.5 per ardeb of 380 rottles. Barley, however, remains firm at £T90 per 315 rottles and maize and dhurra feterita fairly steady at £T120 per 380 rottles.

There has been some activity in the camel market. Eighty Rashaida camels have been exported to Egypt, whilst the Egyptian Government are reported to be purchasing a further 200 for coastguard services. The cattle market has been dull, only 765 sheep and goats and 109 head of cattle having been sold at El Damer during May. Prices averaged £T120 and £T720 per head for sheep and cattle respectively.

Halfa Province.—Trade in general throughout the province has been continuously bad, merchants everywhere being very despondent. There has been a shortage of coin, and the old system of barter is in full swing for necessities of life in certain districts. Most of the date crop has been realised at prices varying from £T380 to £T405 per sack of 140 kilos. Unsold stocks are estimated at 1,400 sacks.

Cultivation is dull. Some 1,900 feddans have been put under wheat and 725 feddans under barley. The cattle trade is in a most depressed state, 19 goats and 661 sheep having been exported this year, as against 2,405 head of cattle, 9,336 sheep, and 24 goats in May, 1920.

The highest and lowest temperatures experienced during the month were recorded on May 31, the maximum being 116.2 Fahr. and the minimum 57.6 Fahr.

Red Sea Province.—The cattle trade is at a standstill, only six head of cattle and forty sheep being exported from the province during May.

## SUDAN COTTON.

The Tokar-Trinkitat Light Railway finally reached Tokar Cotton Market on May 2, two fully loaded trains pulling out for Trinkitat on the following day. The total crop this season is estimated at 200,000 kantars, but it is very doubtful whether it will be possible to pick this amount if the haboubs (sandstorms) are as prevalent this year as they were in 1920. During May the cotton marketed reached a total of 90,085 kantars, made up of 59,739 kantars 1st class, 29,314 kantars 2nd class, and 1,032 kantars of No. 3. Prices ranged from PT97½ to PT85 for No. 1, PT71 to PT70 for No. 2, and PT50 to PT50½ for No. 3.

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# CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 110s. cwt.; butter, 168s. cwt.; cheese, 120s. cwt.; chillies, 130s. cwt.; eggs, 20s. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 77s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 122s. cwt.; coffee (East India, bold), 118s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha, longberry), 95s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos, superior), 56s. 3d. cwt.; coffee (Nairobi), 100s. cwt.; lard, 77s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 165s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 37s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 10d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 9d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 95s. cwt.; raisins (Sultana, Smyrna), 146s. cwt.; currants, 71s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 56s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 62s. 9d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 52s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallized), 46s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 15s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 17s. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £6 15s. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 3d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 1½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 8½d. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 81s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English, white), 97s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 85s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 67s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 49s. qr.; oats (La Plata), 30s. qr.; maize (La Plata), 46s. qr.; flour, 71s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £71 ton; copper (electro), £76 10s. ton; gold bars, 110s. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 132s. 6d ton; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton; galvanized sheets (24 G), £23 15s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £22 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 2¾d. unit; molybdenite, 48s. 9d. unit; nickel, £178 10s. ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £18 10s ton; quicksilver, £10 17s. 6d. ton; silver bars, 35d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 12s. ton; tin (standard), £164 17s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 12s. 4½d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 25s. 6d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 9¾d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5½d.; tartaric, 1s. 7½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £17 5s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £45 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £19 ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 139s. Potassium: Bi-chromate, 9¾d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £37 10s. ton; nitrate, £53 10s. ton; permanganate, 1s. 7½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent), £21 ton; Sodium: Crystals, 145s. ton; bi-carbonate, £105s. ton; bi-chromate, 6d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 ton; hyposulphite, £20 10s. ton; prussiate, 7½d. lb.; nitrate, £18 10s. ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £127 10s. ton; sulphate of copper, £31 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 4s. 0½d. oz.; red lead, £37 10s. ton; white dry lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £50 10s. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lb. and up 8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 8¾d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 9d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 8d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lb. and up, 7½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 7½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 7d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 5½d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lb. and under, 6½d. lb., 59 lb. and under, 6⅜d. lb.; (second), 60 lb. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 4⅜d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; (second), 3d. lb.; Kips (first), 5d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb.; (third), 3d. lb.

Calcutta market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 9 to 13.8; Durbhangas, 10 to 12.8; Patnas, 7.8 to 9. Salted cows, 3.8 to 7.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3.8 to 8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 230 to 260 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 7.69d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian), £11 7s. 6d. ton; linseed (La Plata), £18 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £21 2s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £13 7s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £19 3s. 9d. ton.; Oils: Linseed, £34 12s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; palm, £33 7s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £53 10s. ton; soya, £36 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 10d. gallon; ground nut, £40 ton; cotton (crude), £36 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £47 ton; Shellac (TN second orange), 360s. cwt.; shellac (AC garnet), 295s. cwt.; rosin (American), 20s. cwt.; turpentine, 80s. 6d. cwt.; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crêpe), 8d. lb.; smoked sheet, 7d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

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The Banca Commerciale Italiana and Bulgara, of Sofia, have opened a branch at Varna.

Bank of British West Africa.—Final dividend to March 31 4 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, less income-tax.

Banque Yugoslav.—The capital of this bank is being increased from 25 to 50 million dinars.

New Egyptian Company.—Dividend of 20 per cent., free of tax, for year; £66,904 for service of debentures, amounts written off properties, and sundry reserves; £101,328 forward.

It is announced that a Franco-Belgian syndicate has offered a loan of 100,000,000f. (£2,000,000) to Bulgaria, subject to the approval of the Inter-Allied Commission, for the construction of new railway lines.

Oriental Carpet Manufacturers.—At the annual meeting of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers to be held in Smyrna on July 27 a resolution will be submitted to authorise the directors to capitalise £200,000 of the undivided profit and to distribute 40,000 fully-paid shares with coupon No. 11 attached, in the proportion of one fully-paid share in respect of every five issued ordinary held.

# COTTON AND COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

### An Improving Tone.

The tone of the market during the past week has been more healthy than for some time back, and it is possible to state that the amount of actual business done has been more than has been the case during the past six or nine months. Traders in practically every section of the market have regained confidence, and many buyers have been operating in the belief that prices in the near future will harden. Of course, we must not expect a speedy revival, but it is certainly evident that the market during the next few months will show signs of a steady increase in business. With regard to cloth, a fair number of transactions have taken place for Egypt, and here and there a sprinkling of orders have been received for the Levant and Constantinople, but, generally speaking, buyers have not been over active. At the same time, however, there is every indication of a period of activity being registered in the near future. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have been well held in price, and tend to stiffen, but spinners are not finding very much relief. Cloth demand for India has reached quite an extensive scale, and in one day of the week the amount done was more than has been the case during the past six or nine months. The principal buyer has been Calcutta. Shippers to China have not been altogether idle, and demand shows signs of improving. It is anticipated that buyers for that outlet will commence active operations before the autumn. Recent advices from that outlet show that stocks are gradually being liquidated. No steady buying has presented itself in connection with South America, and only isolated transactions have taken place.

### Changes in Raw Cotton Prices.

A review of the spot prices in Liverpool during the half-year ended June 30, 1921, for fully middling American and fully good fair Sakellaridis Egyptian cotton, which are the recognised standards, reveals some interesting facts. On January 3 the quotations were 9.99d. per lb., and 21.00d. per lb. for American and Egyptian respectively, and the period closed with the prices at 7.85d. and 15.50d. The highest rates were: American, 11.78d. on January 11, and Egyptian, 23.50d. on January 17, the lowest levels touched being 7.13d. for American on February 28 and 13.00d. for Egyptian from February 28 to March 4. For the 125 days on which the market was open the average is 8.60d. in the case of American and 17.33d. for Egyptian. The average prices for the previous six months ended December 31, 1920, were 20.31d. for American and 50.83d. for Egyptian, whilst similar figures for the first half of last year work out at an average of 28.97d. and 80.09d. respectively. In the first six months of the year 1914, just prior to the outbreak of the European war, the comparative averages were 7.47d. for American and 10.96d. for Egyptian.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 30:—The settlement of the coal and cotton disputes have made the past week a memorable one indeed, and although we have not as yet seen any marked broadening in the inquiry, it is perhaps too much to expect in the first few days. The trade, in the face of adversity, has grown so accustomed to tightening its belt that it will doubtless take a little time before it can readjust itself to better conditions. Suffice it that there has been a slight improvement in the spot demand here, and we see no reason now why this improvement should not steadily continue. We have never anticipated any sudden uprush of prices—there is too much cottton available, and too many ready sellers for that. Manchester, all this week, has reported good business doing in cloth, and during the last day or two yarns have also been coming in for an encouraging amount of attention. This is all to the good, and provided it continues, it is only a question of time before the immediate results are reflected in our market here. C.i.f. business has shown some improvement, but the actual inquiry on the spot has continued to be on a very limited scale only. There is a disposition on the part of holders to meet the few buyers who make their appearance, and there is some very cheap cotton on offer at the moment. Total sales, 400 bales. Quotations are unchanged. Fully good fair sakel 15.50d.

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Anglo-Egyptian Oil.—Production for week ended June 24:—Gemsah, 34 tons (previous week, 34 tons); Hurghada, 3,366 tons (against 3,140 tons).

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from June 25 to July 1 amounted to 2,050,000f., against 2,900,000f. for the corresponding period of last year.

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# OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

## Burmah Oil Report.

The report of the Burmah Oil Company, Ltd., for 1920 states that the profit for the year, after charging income-tax, contributions to employees' provident fund, and writing off £1,153,752 for depreciation, is £3,737,723, to which is added £207,042 brought in, making £3,944,765. There has been transferred to insurance reserve £20,000, and to general reserve £195,000, leaving £3,729,765. Interim dividends absorbed £537,881, and the directors recommend a final dividend on ordinary shares, payable July 26, of 4s. per share, free of tax, 7 1-5d. on each 6 per cent. first preference share, equal to 6 per cent. per annum from June 30 to December 31, less tax, and 6s. per share, equal to 6 per cent. in cash, on second preference shares, less tax, leaving £2,142,183 to be carried forward, subject to E.P.D. and corporation tax estimated at £1,935,000.

The final dividend of 4s. per share now recommended makes, with the interim dividend, a total distribution on ordinary shares of 30 per cent., as compared with 50 per cent., for 1919, or equivalent to 54 per cent. on the capital on which the latter dividend was paid. Depreciation has been fully provided for, and the following amounts have been written off: Refineries account, £70,499; oil wells, etc., account, £972,924; pipelines account, £30,000; tankers and tank installations account, £80,328. As in 1919 the high average value of the rupee contributed considerably to the year's profits. The large increase in fields expenditure is due to extended drilling, testing, and exploratory work, to the largely increased staff necessary to carry out these extended operations, to enormously increased cost of pipe and all drilling materials, and an all-round general rise in wages and working costs.

## Hopeful Future.

The production and potentialities of the developed Burma fields continue to be such as to justify looking forward with confidence for many years to adequate supplies of crude petroleum. At Badarpur, in Assam, developments are progressing towards steady production. No strikes of oil have been made during the year in any of the outside areas in Burma or India at present under test, but operations continue both on these areas and on others of geological promise. One of the areas has shown evidence of important natural gas production, which is now being further tested in the direction of its utilisation as fuel in Yenangyoung field, in place of crude oil. The acquisition during the year of a controlling interest in the Assam Oil Company has still further strengthened the company's position in India, both as regards crude petroleum resources and market for petroleum products. The crude oil throughout at the refineries was maintained at practically the same level as last year. India continued to increase its consumption of petrol, and a large proportion of the company's production was marketed, their supplies being exported to Europe. The production of kerosene was absorbed by the Indian market under the arrangement referred to in last year's report, and there also lubricating and jute batching oils found a ready market.

There has been a material fall in world petroleum values during the past six months, but with the exception of paraffin wax and petrol the company never benefited to the full extent by the very high prices ruling during the past three to four years, and consequently is not so adversely affected by their decline. Against any reduction in profits due to increased fields expenditure, the fall in prices of products, and the now lower value of the rupee can now be set relief from taxation consequent on the abolition of excess profits duty as at the close of 1920. At extraordinary meetings held on June 1 and 16 resolutions were passed making certain alterations in the articles of association and increasing the capital to £10,000,000. The directors regret that resolutions consolidating the two classes of preference shares did not receive the requisite support. Three million 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each have just been issued and were largely over-subscribed.

## Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the year ended December 31 shows a considerable reduction in the quantity of crude oil produced and a decrease of £199,383 in the net profits. The reduced profits are to be attributed mainly to four factors —first, the fact that the year 1919-1920 marked the transition of the Hurghada field from "flush" to "settled" production; secondly, the increase in the cost of materials and working expenses generally; thirdly, the high market rates of freight; and fourthly, the low prices ruling in Egypt for Egyptian products compared with world market prices, owing to the strict control which the Egyptian Government felt it necessary to exercise over prices in view of the difficult economic and political situation in Egypt. The total production of crude oil amounted to 155,975 tons, as compared with 231,180 tons in 1919. The net profit, after making the usual provision for depreciation on property, including investments, amounts to £212,097, which, with £119,961 brought forward, makes a credit of £332,058. The directors recommend that £186,055 be applied to dividends, leaving £146,002 to be carried forward, out of which the payment of excess profits duty has to be provided. The proportion of the profits allotted to the "B" shares allows of a dividend equal to 10 per cent., less tax. To meet the transition of the Hurghada field to "settled" production the drilling programme was increased and the footage drilled was greater than in any preceding year. These efforts are now bearing fruit in a substantial increase of production, the average weekly production during the current year having been about 20 per cent. more than the average weekly production during 1920. The company has secured tonnage for 1921 at rates much below those ruling last year. The question of price control has been discussed with the Egyptian Government, whose attitude in the matter is not unfavourable. Besides work on the main Hurghada field, every effort is being made to prove new territory. Three exploratory wells are now in course of drilling on the outlying parts of the company's original territories. These tests, which were necessarily delayed by the war, are now in full operation. In addition, the company has taken out prospecting licences over a number of new territories under the standard regulations, and active work is proceeding on them. The meeting will be held at Winchester House, E.C., on July 15, at 3 p.m.

# MOTOR CARS IN THE BALKANS.

The market for motor-cars in the Near East is the subject of several recent American consular reports. We give some extracts below :—

Of all the Balkan countries, Roumania is the most developed in so far as the use of automobiles is concerned, but there is a fair market throughout the peninsula, which is expected to increase as exchange conditions become more normal. Throughout the Balkans the price probably decides the purchase of a motor vehicle, especially because of the difference in exchange. The average buyer desires a large car—the seven-passenger type. In Roumania, there has been a good demand for high-priced cars. The abnormal transportation system of the peninsula should aid in creating a good market for the motor-truck. However, the demand will likely be very small for a year or a year and a-half because of the sale of surplus Army trucks, the high price of gasoline, and bad roads. The best roads are found in Bulgaria and Greece. The sale of light delivery cars has not been exploited in any part of the peninsula. Three-ton trucks and even larger are the sizes that will probably find the readiest sale.

There is no automobile industry in Bulgaria, and comparatively few automobiles or trucks have been imported. The total number of automobiles in use in Bulgaria does not exceed 250, and there are only about fifty motor-trucks, or about one motor vehicle for every 14,000 inhabitants. It is believed that under present economic conditions not more than 200 cars per year could be sold in this market.

Price chiefly decides the sale of motor vehicles in Bulgaria, a condition that has become intensified by the present low exchange value of Bulgarian currency. While Bulgarians have no decided preference for the cars of any one country, the present low exchange rate of the Italian lira has given the Italians an advantage which they have been quick to seize. Accordingly, a large percentage of the cars recently imported have been of Italian make, principally those of the small five-passenger type. The five-passenger touring car would probably prove the best seller.

# NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

**Position at the 30th April, 1921, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.**

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each) | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund: | |
| Statutory Reserve | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve | 585,000 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | 12,451,552 |
| Mixed Tribunals | 1,820,627 |
| Egyptian Government | 690,008 |
| Bankers' Accounts | 914,781 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | 229,001 |
| Sundry other Accounts | 810,598 |
| | £E21,889,067 |

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | 8,571,002 |
| Sundry Securities | 261,377 |
| Advances on Merchandise | 1,317,176 |
| Advances on Securities | 1,877,793 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | 598,734 |
| Sundry other Advances | 1,248,729 |
| Bills of Exchange | 699,685 |
| Local Bills Discounted | 207,319 |
| Buildings and Furniture | 235,801 |
| Money at call and at short notice | 1,574,625 |
| Bankers' Accounts | 990,005 |
| Sudan Government | 134,482 |
| Sundry other Accounts | 385,275 |
| Egyptian Government | 2,035,822 |
| Cash :— | |
| Notes £E1,576,070 | |
| Gold 21,545 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. 153,627 | |
| | 1,751,242 |
| | £E21,889,067 |

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Notes Issued | 35,600,000 |
| | £E35,600,000 |

| | | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Gold | £E3,339,573 | |
| *British Treasury Bills | 14,460,427 | |
| | | 17,800,000 |
| Securities:— | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | £E383,367 | |
| British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds | 17,416,633 | |
| | | 17,800,000 |
| | | £E35,600,000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See *Journal Officiel*, October 30, 1916.

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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

### Satisfactory Financial Position.

The twenty-fourth annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on June 30 at the registered offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, P.C. (the chairman), presiding. The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read,

The Chairman said: I conclude that you will take the directors' report and balance-sheet as read. The profit on the year's operations is of a satisfactory character, being only slightly less than the profit for the preceding year, which was a record year. The balance-sheet does not present any features substantially different from that of last year, except that our financial position has greatly improved. We have invested in Egyptian Government securities close on £30,000, and we have cash at bankers and in hand approaching £100,000. We have also built up the reserve, which, with the transfer now proposed, will reach £30,000, which amount our board in Egypt consider sufficient.

Perhaps I should refer to our investment in the Semiramis Hotel. This hotel was re-opened to visitors in December last, having been used during the war for various Government purposes. The operating results for the few months which have elapsed since its re-opening encourage our board in Egypt to hope for fair results in the future. The profits appearing in our accounts contain no credit in respect of the operations at the hotel in question. You will observe that it is stated in the balance-sheet that our interest in the Semiramis Hotel is not realisable at present, and that its ultimate value cannot be ascertained. The directors in Egypt do not contemplate parting with this investment, as the hotel is patronised by the élite of travellers to Egypt, who prefer a quiet hotel far from the traffic and noise of the town. It may well be that the profits of the Semiramis Hotel will be sufficient compensation for our investment, but, whether that be so or not, our directors in Egypt consider that it is an asset of our general undertaking which should remain under the control of the company.

The liabilities of the company are practically nil, and all our debentures are paid off. The contingent liability referred to in the balance-sheet is in connection with the Semiramis Hotel. You will no doubt consider that the balance-sheet is a very satisfactory one—the opinion which our directors in Egypt hold, and which we on this side share.

The shareholders are greatly indebted to Mr. Baehler for his able management and to the directors in Egypt for the results attained. It is, however, necessary that reference should be made to a factor which has influenced the year under review, and which is not yet entirely removed, and that is the political situation in Egypt. I do not dwell upon it, as I feel sure that the authorities in Egypt will adequately deal with the unfortunate circumstances which have from time to time occurred, and which are no doubt, to a considerable extent, attributable to war conditions and the aftermath of war. The country has also, like many other countries, passed through, or is passing through, a financial crisis, which our board in Egypt considers a temporary feature, and probably less acute than in some other countries.

The past season is the first since the outbreak of war in which we have had a "tourist season," an element very welcome as indicating a return to normal conditions. The cost of the upkeep of the property has exceeded the expenditure in recent years, consequent on the company overtaking repairs and renewals much needed, and which were compelled to remain in abeyance during the war. The board in Egypt, acting upon the recommendation of the managing director, have decided upon some expenditure for building alterations, including a card room, new bathrooms and lavatory accommodation, and an extension of the grill room, all of which is estimated by the board in Egypt to run to an expenditure of £6,000 to £7,000.

I think I may conclude my remarks by stating that the result of the operations for the year affords grounds for great satisfaction, and our directors in Egypt anticipate that, with the facilities for travelling, which are constantly improving, we may look for a good season this next winter. I now beg to move:—"That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1921, as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted."

Mr. Charles Baehler seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved:—"That a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended April 30, 1921, be and the same is hereby declared payable on and after July 15, 1921." Mr. H. M. Snow, M.V.O., seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman then proposed:—"That a dividend of 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended April 30, 1921, be and the same is hereby declared payable on and after July 15, 1921." This was also seconded by Mr. Snow, and was carried unanimously.

The retiring director, Sir William B. Peat, C.V.O., was re-elected, and Messrs. Turquand Young and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for the great assistance he had rendered to the company since its formation brought the meeting to a conclusion.

## MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

### Cotton Fluctuations.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of The Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, was held on June 30 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The period to which the accounts refer was one of violent economic disturbance throughout the world, and not the least in Egypt. Cotton, the product on which Egypt's prosperity primarily depends, had reached in February, 1920, the enormous price of 95d. per lb., more than ten times its pre-war price. The sudden end of the general boom in trade which followed the termination of the war led to a complete cessation of demand, and the price of cotton fell even more rapidly than it had risen. As was to be expected, these violent fluctuations caused great embarrassment to all interested in cotton, and many failures occurred. Nor was it cotton alone that caused difficulty. The other staple products followed a similar course, though their fluctuations were not so extreme as those of cotton. It must not be supposed, however, that the losses of 1921 have swallowed up all Egypt's profits of the preceding years. I cited in my remarks last year certain figures, showing the vast wealth which had poured into Egypt during recent years. Notwithstanding many adverse factors the country still possesses a large part of this new wealth, which is represented by foreign investments, by bank deposits, and bank notes, by repayment of mortgage loans, by imports purchased, and so forth.

Land prices, as was to be expected, have shown the effect of the wave of prosperity and of its reflux. The best lands, which were forced up to a fancy price of £500 per feddan or more last year, have fallen by 60 or 70 per cent., while second or third lands, which rose in a more moderate proportion, have fallen from 30 to 50 per cent. Purchases at these exaggerated prices were not, I believe, financed to any great extent by borrowed money, and, consequently, the fall in prices has not had so disastrous a result as might have been anticipated.

Turning to our own business, the first point to which I would call your attention is the table in the board's report, giving the amount invested in first mortgages at the end of each year since 1910. For the first time for sixty years the total shows an increase. It reached its maximum in 1915, when it amounted to £3,481,000. It then steadily declined, mainly owing to the prosperity which the war brought to Egypt, until, in 1920, it had fallen to £2,589,000. At March 31 last it stood at £2,877,000, an increase of £288,000 on the previous year. The instalments in arrear have increased from £111,158 to £240,238. This is still much smaller than the high figure of £410,938 reached in 1916. As very little new business has been entered into in the last six years, it follows that a substantial number of instalments have already been paid on the loans which have now fallen into arrear, and the margin of security is therefore satisfactorily high. The board are of opinion that the arrears need not give you any cause for anxiety, and that any losses which may arise are fully provided for in the reserve for bad debts, which now stands at £32,733. The item for property acquired by foreclosure is still negligible in amount.

In addition to the reserve for bad debts, the general reserve now stands at £200,000, to which we propose to add a further £10,000. The profit on sales, amounting to £91,139, is held in suspense, because it is receivable from the purchasers in instalments, and cannot, we consider, be definitely treated as profit until it is actually received. Having regard to these reserves, and also to the fact that we have purchased £731.100 of our debentures, ultimately repayable at par, at a cost of £589,824, I think you will agree that the position of the company is exceptionally strong.

The balance of profit and loss account amounts to £80,310, as against £117,488 last year and £83,777 the year before. This diminution is in great part due to the heavy burden of income-tax and of the corporation profits tax. We feel justified in recommending you to maintain the dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 12 per cent., and to add £10,000 to the general reserve, with the net result that a balance of £43,249 will be left to be carried forward to the next account.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

---

Mr. P. Cornfield, of the Department of Commerce and Industry, Jerusalem District, is at present on a visit to London.

The Mediterranean Company for General Trade have removed their head offices from 15, Bishopsgate to 14, Trinity Square, E.C.3.

One hundred and sixty-eight new companies, with a total capital of 1,640,000,000 lei were established in Roumania during January to October, 1920.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

MERSINA, June 8.

The report for May states:—The commercial crisis which we have recorded in our previous reports continues, and it is impossible to foresee the end of this situation, which is very prejudicial to the interests of the country on the one hand and to those of the manufacturers and exporters of Europe on the other.

Cotton. — Although the news from Europe is that the tendency is to fall—which is unfavourable to the sale of the stocks existing in this country at favourable rates—the prices of last month are maintained for good quality.

Wheat.—Ps. 9-10 per oke, as compared with Ps. 10-11 in April.

Barley.—Ps. 7-7.50 per oke, as compared with Ps. 8-8.50.

## GREEK SALT-MARSHES.

It was decided in July, 1917, that the exploitation of the Greek salt-marshes would render Greece independent of foreign salt, says the *Oikonomologos Athenon*. As a result of investigations nine principal and many secondary salt-marshes were sold by auction. The cost of preparing these marshes for the use of the industry was estimated at 3,300,000 drachmæ. The exploiters undertook to produce an increasing annual output during the first eight years, until it should reach an average of 80,000 tons. The results were most satisfactory, the first annual outputs being 53,000 tons for 1919, 58,000 tons for 1920, and by 1920 the industry was paying its own way. At the estimated rate of increase the next year's output should be 63,000 or 64,000 tons. If the improvements begun in 1918 had been steadily followed up, Greece would now be wholly emancipated from foreign salt. But the new Government has neglected the industry; large stocks of salt are unable to be transported from Kitros owing to damage sustained by the works, and the Government, instead of aiding the damaged home industry, has preferred to resort to the importing of salt from abroad.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Business Still Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday night.

During the past week there has been a distinct improvement in the tone of the markets, but the tendency on the part of investors is still to hold aloof, and to-day orders have been so few in number that something akin to dullness has prevailed.

Gilt-edged stocks, after improving somewhat, are closing round the levels of the previous week. A factor tending to weakness in this group has been the result of the New Zealand Six per Cent. Loan, 58 per cent. of which went to the underwriters. War Loan Fives are 88⅜, the same as last week, while Victory Bonds at 77⅛ are ⅛ down. Fundings at 77½ have also shed ⅛, but Consols, which have been in marked demand, are closing 1⅛ up at 48, which, it may be added, is somewhat below the best. India 7 per Cents. have been a firm spot, and are closing ⅝ up at 103⅞, but Ceylon 6 per Cents. have shed ⅛, and are now only ½ premium.

Industrials have readily responded to the improved outlook, and while there has been no great development of buying, a very steady tone has been in evidence, and in many directions small advances are to be recorded. Iron and Steel and Textiles have provided the most prominent features of the market. Shipping shares have been rather featureless, with P. and O. Deferred at 325. Oils have been weak on disquieting reports from Mexico. There has been little change in Rubbers.

A firm tone has prevailed in Near Eastern securities. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. at 69, Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent. 1898 at 66, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 at 70 are all the same.

In Greek shares the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan at 43½ xd. is ½ down, while the 5 per cent. 1884 is also 43½ xd. The 5 per cent. 1890 is 41, while Fundings have gained a point at 41. The 4 per cent. 1910 Loan is unchanged at 30, but the 4 per cent. 1902 Loan at 33 xd. is 3 down. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is unchanged at 39.

In Land shares, Beheras have risen ¼ to 7¾, but the preference shares are unchanged at 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments have shed ¼ at 3, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 2d. lower at 10d. Egyptian Delta Lands are unchanged at 6s. 6d., but Gharbieh Lands are ⅜ down at 1⅛. New Egyptians are 6d. up at 22s. 3d., while Union Foncières have gained ¼ at 1⅞ xd. Sudan Plantations are ⅛ up at 3 1-16.

In Oils, Anglo-Egyptian are 3-16 down at 1½, while Phœnix are unchanged at 11s. 9d. Roumanian Consolidated are 6d. down at 12s. 6d., but Steaua Romana are 1s. up at 15s. 6d. Burmahs are 6 19-32.

In Banks, Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are 51¾, and Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are 53¾. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 8½, while the National Bank of Egypts are 17 7-16.

## EGYPTIAN CENTRAL OILFIELDS.

The Egyptian Central Oilfields, Ltd., has been registered, with a nominal capital of £75,000 in £1 shares, to adopt an agreement with W. M. Cranston and the New African Co., Ltd., and to produce and refine oil. The first directors are: L. R. Davies, 264-273, Salisbury House; T. F. Dalglish, 264-273, Salisbury House; E. Rowley, 10, Kennedy Street, Manchester. Remuneration, £200 each per annum (Chairman £300), free of income-tax, and 10 per cent. of the surplus profits divided between them. Registered office: 264-273, Salisbury House, E.C.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on June 17 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4, Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 3-64 ex.; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2 5-16; Associated Cotton Ginners, 21-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr 56; Behera Ord., £E7 3-16; Behera Priv., £3 3-32; Bonded Stores, £9⅝; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 70; Building Lands of Egypt, ⅝; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, ¾; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 80 ex.; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 595½; Credit Foncier 1885 Oblig., Fr. 314; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 221½; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 226; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 77; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 101; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 3d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4¾; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £9⅜; Gabbari Lands, 5-16; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £4 15-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2⅝; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4⅛; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £33 9-16; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 39½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 270 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £6 5-16; Ramleh Railway, £1⅝; Salt and Soda, 27s.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 41; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 41; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £1 15-16 ex; Egypt Hotels, £1 61-64; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 27-32.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 27:—During the week ending June 18 rainfall nearly general except in the Punjab and United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, where falls light to moderate. Since that date monsoon stronger than usual in Central and Northern India. General crop prospects unchanged. Bombay cotton market weak. Fine M.G. Oomra July Rs. 301, September Rs. 317½. Calcutta jute market unchanged. Imports and prices practically same as in previous week, and with steady demand from balers, stocks have decreased by about 30,000 maunds. Slightly better inquiry from mills for rejections at Rs.5 to Rs.5½ per maund landed; Hessians quiet but steady; marked inquiries for heavy C's and cornsacks and rates have hardened. Rangoon paddy arrivals continue on fair scale. Rates are Rs. 220 to Rs. 225 for both rail and boat paddy. In white rice, market is very firm at Rs. 580 for small mills quality, June-July, and Rs. 575 for large mills quality. Government of India have issued a memorandum based on the Coalfields Committee's recommendations in which they invite opinion on the following questions. Firstly, of obtaining statutory powers to secure coal conservation; secondly, of increasing staff of mines department with a view to control working and prevent waste. Finally, they realise that an attempt to remedy deficient wagon supply must accompany steps to prevent wasteful working. No change in bank rates.

A further cable, dated June 30, states:—Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to June 24, 1921, were 2,480,000 bales, as compared with 3,118,000 during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay imported piece-goods market shows some improvement with better inquiry for staple goods. Local goods moving steadily. Rangoon paddy arrivals continue on fair scale. s.s. Mathura sailing to-day from Rangoon with 13,700 tons of rice for Germany. Calcutta jute market shows steady demand from balers. Imports affected by stoppage of steamer services owing to strikes and stocks are reduced by about 1,000 tons. Mills continue to show very little interest. Weather favourable, and jute plants benefited by spells of bright sunshine. Cutting in some districts proceeding, and imports into Calcutta expected in limited quantities during next week.


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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## DANUBE NAVIGATION.

Traffic on the Danube is now internationalised, and, if brought into close conjunction with the railways, should prove to be a means of solving the problem of communication between Hungary, the Riparian States, and the west and east of Europe during nine months of the year, states the Report on the Commercial and Industrial Situation of Hungary, by the British Commercial Commissioner there. The International Commission of the Danube has done excellent work in attaining this end, and is doing its best to see to the proper working of the river under the changed conditions. From a commercial point of view one of its principal objects will, no doubt, be to order that vessels in transit are neither held nor delayed unnecessarily for Customs examination, etc. The interests of the river and traders demand that where examination has to take place on the frontiers of two countries through which a vessel passes, this examination should be done at the same time under joint supervision, and that they should not be first cleared by one authority and then on the opposite side of the river have to be searched again by another authority. This is of especial importance to British trade, for now that British interests have either partly or mainly acquired the principal river lines, such unnecessary delay will prove a severe handicap when competition sets in.

At certain times of the year the depth above Budapest does not exceed 1.5 metres at low water, and in the higher reaches above Vienna scarcely more than 1 metre. At Budapest itself a minimum depth of two metres is always obtainable. For this reason the latter city is considered likely to become the point of junction between west and east, bisecting the navigation line Sulina-Budapest and that of Budapest-Ratisbon. Having this in mind, the Hungarian Government decided some years ago to build a large commercial harbour on the island of Csepel, south of Budapest. The plans were prepared, and certain preliminary works commenced prior to the war. The entire scheme embraces:—(*a*) Local harbour; (*b*) transit harbour for transhipment; and (*c*) an industrial harbour. It was originally intended that these works should be taken in hand by the Hungarian Government itself, but altered conditions have rendered it necessary to seek the aid of foreign capital.

In connection with the above scheme it has been proposed to take advantage of the 4½-metre fall in the river during its 60-kilometre run, and by building a lock at the northern end and one at the southern end of the so-called Soroksur arm of the river, to develop some 7,000 horse-power. Foreign capital is also needed for this scheme, but although both British and French firms have examined the proposition, no definite offer has yet been made. A preliminary concession has been obtained by a firm of Swiss engineers to harness a branch of the river near Pressburg (Bratislava) and Györ. This, if undertaken, would yield between 20,000 and 45,000 h.p., according to the state of the river, and would be of great value to the industrial town of Györ. A third river power scheme is proposed in the neighbourhood of Vaez. Much interest has also been taken in the proposed Danube-Tisza Canal, but very little progress has been made in the three plans for want of capital, and even their feasibility has been questioned, on account of the porous nature of the soil.

Tractor trials are to be held on September 5, and subsequent days, near the Zeitoum Bournou Munition Factory, Constantinople.


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*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 20).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Kenneth, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 19).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 11); s.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, etc. (Swansea, July 12).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Malatian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 9); s.s. Trentino, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, July 30).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Poona, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 18); s.s. City of Marseilles, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, July 23).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of Rangoon, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, July 14).

*Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glentara, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 14); s.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 28).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Inventor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, July 13).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Amarapoora, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 13); s.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 27).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Elpenor, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, July 15); s.s. Pyrrhus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, July 22).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 20).

*Maindy Line.*—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of July).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 6).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Egyptian, for Malta and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersyne, Jaffa, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.] (Liverpool, July 20).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Sicilia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, July 15); s.s. Devanha, for Bombay [taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden (with transhipment at Bombay), for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports] (London, July 15); s.s. Nagoya, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, July 29).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. *Chanda, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 29); s.s. †Trevorian, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 30); s.s. *Hatarana, for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 27); s.s. ‡Nirvana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 30). *Taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports; †taking cargo for Port Sudan, Port Said, Suez, and Aden; ‡taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden.

## TURKISH IMPORTERS CANCELLING ORDERS.

A cable received by the London Office of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York from its Constantinople Office reports that important Turkish import houses have arranged to cancel orders placed last year in Manchester for this year's delivery, paying the penalty provided by the contracts. The cable states: "Important commercial houses here have arranged for the cancellation of 1920 Manchester orders for 1921 delivery against penalties. Petroleum importers who were previously interested in the Batoum market are now purchasing in Roumania, which is sending substantial consignments here. The Anatolian Press reports that the Government, after investigation of the economic situation, has decided to abolish export duties."

The Yugoslavian law establishing a monopoly of saccharine and other artificial sweetening products now applies to the whole kingdom.

H.M. Consul at Zagreb has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade particulars of certain concessions for coal fields in the Zagreb district, in respect of which the concessionnaire hopes to attract British capital.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 531.—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *France and the Sevres Treaty.*

It is now known, on the authority of M. Briand, that the French Government has informed the Allies that France will never consent to ratify without amendment the Treaty of Sèvres, which is held to be in direct opposition to French interests. France, her Prime Minister declares, desires to see a lasting and durable peace made with Turkey, which should be given the means of becoming once more an independent self-supporting Power. The statement helps to clear the ground, although it leaves open the question of the extent to which the Treaty of Sèvres is to be amended. There is, however, no room for the slogan which has found favour in some quarters, "The Treaty, the whole Treaty, and nothing but the Treaty," and an additional argument is provided for those who are urging that the moment is opportune for a complete redrafting of the settlement, or non-settlement, devised by the Supreme Council. The suggestion is prompted solely by the desire to see peace restored to the Near East. It is obvious to the most superficial observer that the Treaties of Sèvres and Neuilly, as they stand, have not introduced stable conditions in the Balkans. In this connection attention may be called to the guarded warnings of our Sofia Correspondent. The situation existing in South-Eastern Europe at the time of the Armistice has been profoundly modified by a variety of circumstances. Why should not the Allies recognise the fact in the interests of European peace?

### *A Weak Case.*

M. Briand's statement supplies the *reductio ad absurdum* to the contention still urged so eloquently by M. Venizelos on behalf of Greece that the latter is fighting because "Turkey is trying to tear up the Treaty which ended the old war." The Treaty has fallen to pieces owing to the faulty material of which it was composed, and Turkey and Greece are at war because hostilities were resumed after the London Conference. It is of no use to try to make the Allies' hair stand on end by emphasising the danger to which Constantinople is being exposed. French opposition to the Treaty of Sèvres, together with the logical conclusions of that attitude, must be met, and this can only be done by calling off the Greek Army, which was landed on the coast of Asia Minor on the Allies' instructions, and by a personal meeting with Mustapha Kemal Pasha. When the Allies are not divided by trying to bolster up a weak cause, but are conscious of having a strong case, it will be time to discuss military measures for dealing with Turkish intransigence.

### *Welcome to the Egyptian Delegates.*

With the arrival in England of the Egyptian Delegation events enter upon a new stage, and one which is bound to be critical. As we observed last week, Adly Yeghen Pasha and his colleagues may feel sure that the people of this country wish them well, and hope that the negotiations now opened will be fruitful in good results. It is not in this country that we should look for those who would like to see all the earlier negotiations rendered nugatory and the Delegation forced to admit failure and return to Egypt empty-handed. It may suit Zaghloul Pasha in his present jealous mood to denounce the British as the true enemies of Egypt; but to less prejudiced judges the state of the country to-day compared with what it was before the British Occupation affords instantaneous and complete proof to the contrary. Great Britain has been a good friend to Egypt, and she wishes to be a good friend still. She will do what is right, but she will do it in her own way; and while she wishes to consult Egyptian opinion, she will not be bullied or hustled by the Egyptian mob, prompted by self-seeking agitators. The fact that Adly Yeghen Pasha and his colleagues do represent responsible Egyptian opinion makes it possible to hope for satisfactory results from their visit to London.

### *Dissentient Voices.*

In Egypt the opposition to the Official Delegation is still active; though what it hopes to achieve, beyond the glorification of Zaghloul Pasha, it is rather difficult to understand. We have this week received a telegram signed by certain inhabitants of Tahta *markaz*, Girga Province, which states that the inhabitants referred to—

> beg to protest most vehemently against departure of Official Mission. The sole representatives of the Egyptian people are Zaghloul Pasha and his friends, and any negotiations without their consent and co-operation can neither bind nor satisfy us. Nothing can shake the nation's will to complete independence."

The message is signed by three notables, four advocates, as many merchants, a student, and a teacher. A cynic would probably find amusement in noting the proportions of the different classes represented. For our part, we admire greatly the command shown of the English language; and hope that THE NEAR EAST will rapidly make fresh friends for itself in this go-ahead *markaz*. But we cannot help wondering whether the telegram is

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one of those said to be "fabricated" wholesale in Cairo. Moreover, we fear that the sentiments expressed bear a strong resemblance to those which were widespread in the early days of the Arabi rising. The "student" who signs the telegram may never have heard of those distant days, and some of his seniors may have forgotten them; but cannot the "teacher" instruct them?

### *Flight in the Near East.*

Surveying as an art is popularly held to have had its beginnings in Egypt, where the annual inundations made it imperative to devise some means by which the owners of land might either restore their landmarks washed away by the flood, or, at least, secure an area of land equal to that which they owned before the submergence. The Nile Valley between the Delta Barrage and Aswan has just been surveyed in quite the latest way—by aeroplane. The work was carried out by the Middle East Air Force, on behalf of the Egyptian Government, and it is reported that it has already proved of great use to the Irrigation Department. The value of the aeroplane in the Near East, especially in overcoming difficulties of desert crossings, is becoming more apparent almost daily. Only last month it was announced that the R.A.F. had opened up a practicable route from Jerusalem across the Syrian and Arabian deserts to Baghdad—the achievement being all the more remarkable because a chain of ground stations has been established, with refuelling and revictualling stations. Although we must certainly expect trouble along this route, its surveying and laying out constitute a fine feat in themselves, and the flights already recorded—one of twelve hours from Cairo to Baghdad by Sir G. Salmond, and three of about fifteen hours each in the other direction—show the value of the route. Another development in Near Eastern travel is promised in the form of a London-Constantinople service to be inaugurated shortly by a Continental firm. We should like to see such a service run by a British firm; for there might then be a chance of British mails and British goods competing on equal terms with those of our Allies and rivals.

### *Bolshevism v. Islam.*

Owing to a variety of causes, it is hard to ascertain what progress Bolshevism is making, or has made, among the peoples of the Near East. Among those who have nothing to lose, and think they may have something to gain by upsetting the existing order of things, it will probably gain adherents in Georgia as in Glasgow or Whitechapel. It is certain, however, as we have pointed out before, that no good Moslem can become a Bolshevist, and though, for political purposes, certain Turkish leaders and their friends may show civility to Moscow, they must in their hearts despise it and its doctrines. It is unlikely, therefore, that a speech of the new Soviet envoy to Angora had quite the effect he aimed at. Emphasising the "friendship" of the Bolshevists for the Kemalists, he declared that Russia no longer wished to see the Cross restored on Sta. Sophia, the Russians having repudiated all Tsarist ideals. His generous assurance seems to have fallen on deaf ears; and Mustapha Kemal, replying to his oration, made pointed reference to Turkish traditions and to the suitability of the Angora Administration to the needs of the Turkish people. It is a pity that the Turks do not show as good sense on other occasions.

### *The Agitation in India—*

Lord Lytton's statement on the position in the Indian country districts is calculated to reassure those sections of the public who have been impressed by recent assertions of imminent danger to European residents in Bihar and elsewhere. The official view is that these assertions are greatly exaggerated, and that the situation has substantially improved of late, but the agitation which has been conducted among the ignorant and excitable masses has undoubtedly left its mark, and Lord Sinha, the Governor of Bihar, has at the moment a difficult task. Readers who are inclined to distrust official pronouncements may be referred to Mr. William Irwin's letter published in the *Statesman* at the end of May, which also condemned current statements as exaggerated, and put forward the view that extreme repressive measures were not called for. According to Mr. Irwin, who is in a position to know the facts, the agitators have demoralised the labourers and misled the tenants in Northern Bihar; but the labour difficulty is being met by the importation of tractors and other machinery, while a small change in legal procedure would suffice to convince the tenants of their mistake, and only a clear lead from the authorities is required to stamp out the unrest created by the agitators.

### *—And Its Results.*

The latest news from India goes to show that the results of this pernicious agitation are in effect anti-social rather than anti-European, though it may have been directed primarily against Europeans in districts like Bihar, where they form an important part of the social structure. We have heard of disturbances at Aligarh in the north, and Madras in the south. At Aligarh, an unprogressive town, with an idle and potentially dangerous proletariat, the trouble arose out of the trial of an agitator, and the activities of the mob appear to have been directed primarily against the police. In Madras the disturbances resulted from the attempts of mill-hands on strike to coerce a section of their body which had returned to work, arson and the use of fire-arms being the accepted methods of a persuasion which is certainly not peaceful. It is clear enough that in these two cases, as in various other incidents of the last few months, the respect for law and order, a very modern sentiment in India, has been undermined by agitation, and the position does not call for spectacular measures, but rather for the methodical enforcement of the ordinary law.

### *Indian Journalism.*

A somewhat similar conclusion appears to be crystallising out of the deliberations of the Committee on the restrictions imposed on the Indian Press, and, though no decision has yet been announced, we expect to see these restrictions repealed in the course of the next session. The discussion has, however, taken a new turn through the prominence given to a suggestion that the Press should take measures to reform itself, and that Indian journalists should organise themselves as journalists in other countries have already done. We trust that this suggestion will lead to business, for the time has now come when it can give results of real value. The standard of Indian journalism has been rising rapidly, many of the foremost organs are now well worth reading, particularly by those who differ from their political views; and a definite step forward would be taken if the new standard could be imposed on the bulk of the profession, which still suffers to some extent from the lack of any corporate ideals. What is wanted now is that the young Indian journalist should be imbued with a sense of the dignity and responsibility of the career which he has chosen; it is not, as it once was, a refuge for the failures of the colleges, and the work to be done is essential to the building up of the new India.

### *The Sikh Shrines.*

The further announcement made by the Punjab Government shows that, as we anticipated, the idea of special legislation for the control of the Sikh shrines has been definitely dropped owing to the impossibility of securing agreement regarding the constitution of the Commission which it was proposed to set up; the reformers are now referred to the ordinary courts, which, as a matter of fact, have considerable powers of interference, and, if they want more, they are promised facilities for any private Bill they may bring before the legislature. The result is not such a fiasco as it appears. Public opinion was quite suddenly raised to fever-heat by the events at Nankana, events which are still before the criminal courts, and the offer of special legislation was probably necessary. The discussion of its details was accompanied by a marked fall in the temperature, and brought home to the reformers the magnitude of the practical difficulties which they had at first tried to ignore; it gave time, in fact, just when time was wanted, and the Government may fairly claim that their action tided over a dangerous emergency.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**Peace.**

The prospect in politics as well as industry appears to be definitely brighter, and the conclusion of a truce with Ireland and the more hopeful news with regard to Japan and America will take a weight off the public mind. A month ago the Irish situation looked utterly hopeless; it is not yet solved, or even near a solution, but at least a step has been taken out of the Slough of Despond, and when that is possible, it is evident that greater things are not impossible. The invitation of Mr. Harding to discuss the Pacific problem, and the general question of a limitation of armaments, is understood to be the sequel to a long series of more or less informal conversations between Britain and America.

**The Irish Truce.**

There were moving scenes in Ireland last week while the terms of a truce were being discussed; women stood in the public streets with heads bowed in prayer while the politicians conferred, and there could be no doubt whatever that the public desired peace. But for some time it appeared doubtful whether even a temporary truce could be arranged. Here, as on so many previous occasions, General Smuts played the part of a tactful negotiator. He was unable to assuage the old feud between Dublin and Belfast. But the Southern Unionists, with Lord Midleton at their head, played their parts well. They are, it is true, numerically insignificant, but their quality and weight atone for their lack of quantity; they have great interests in the South, and many of them are respected by Sinn Fein; they are by no means enamoured of partition, and they have always sought peace since the beginning of the present troubles.

From the Sinn Fein point of view it was almost impossible to refuse the Government's offer of an unconditional conference; the whole world would have been convinced that Sinn Fein was merely out for destruction and wreckage. At the same time it must in fairness be admitted that it was not easy to agree to meet Mr. Lloyd George, for if the negotiations break down—a possibility by no means to be excluded—the position of Mr. de Valera will be compromised. The mere admission on his part that a conference is possible weakens him with the extremists; the failure of the conference would weaken him with the moderates, who include the bulk of the old Nationalist Party, now nominally Sinn Fein.

The terms which de Valera would accept are pretty well known in London: they have been sketched in print two or three times, and they do not insist on a republic or separation. But apparently they do insist on the inclusion of Ulster. That is one danger-point; the other is that the gunmen of Sinn Fein may not accept the truce, and may repudiate their own leader. Indeed, outrages have been committed in Ireland since the truce was proclaimed. But it would be as foolish to anticipate a breakdown as to expect that the negotiations will march forward easily to settlement.

**The Pacific Question.**

In the discussions over the Pacific problem the questions and interests involved are large and difficult; in many respects they are highly controversial. But there will be frank speaking without offence, because all parties really desire peace. The difficulties have arisen, in fact, from natural conditions, and not, as in the case of Germany ten years ago, from the ambition of politicians. This fact alone makes an enormous difference; when men want to agree, they generally contrive to do so.

The matter of the general limitation of armaments raises wider, indeed world-wide, problems. On that question the most that can be said with any confidence at the moment is that England and America are united in desiring the reduction; it is by no means certain that they will receive enthusiastic support elsewhere. After all, man was a fighting animal before he was an economic unit.

**Labour Recriminations.**

Some time ago, moved by the desire to make a prophecy which would be both safe and capable of a pretty quick fulfilment, I predicted that a good deal of dirty linen would be washed in the Labour camp as soon as the coal trouble was over. It is always pleasant to be right, but I will admit that I did not expect the unmentionables to be hung out to dry within a week of the miners returning to work. Such, however, is the case.

A Mr. Noah Ablett, a minor Labour light, of South Wales, has attacked Mr. Frank Hodges for going to Chequers to see the Prime Minister. Mr. Hodges retorts that he would go to Blenheim or Buckingham Palace or anywhere else to get a proper settlement. But Mr. Ablett also hints that Mr. Hodges took too much upon himself, and did not do what he was told by the miners. To whom Mr. Hodges replies that he could have got a better settlement if he had been allowed his own way; that he wanted to talk about wages, whereas the Abletts of the day insisted on the pool, the whole pool, and nothing but the pool; and in effect, that he had to run a campaign on lines that he did not believe in, and was thwarted and overruled at every stage by his followers. In other words, Mr. Hodges holds that if Labour cannot trust its own leaders, it can, will, must, and shall go to the devil.

Mr. Thomas, in the meanwhile, who is just back from the United States, has been fighting for his life on the National Union of Railwaymen. It appears that he had a good deal to do with the breakdown of the Triple Alliance on "Black Friday," and he has been accused of treachery. He defended himself vigorously, and told his audience quite frankly that nationalisation was impossible until the country approved of it, and that it did not do so at present.

These recriminations add to the variety of life, and make quite good reading. But they suggest that the dictatorship of the proletariat is a good way off at present. As a matter of fact, there are probably more disputes and personal jealousies in the political Labour camp than there were among Liberals in the famous days of "cross-currents," which is saying a good deal, and I doubt whether we are at the end of the revelations. But hard words break no bones.

**Official Housing Dropped.**

The great Government housing scheme has gone by the board, and the Ministry of Health, its parent and only begetter, is in mourning. Partisans are attacking the scheme for extravagance, and defending it for relieving the house shortage; both are right. It built houses when they were most badly needed, but it necessarily built at the highest price of wages and materials. Both have now come down since last year—a house that cost £900 in 1920 can be put up in 1921 for £650—and private enterprise, which in practice means the jerry-builder, will again come into its own. It is the fashion to revile Dr. Addison for his housing scheme, but we may yet live to bless him.

**Railway Excursions and Finance.**

Now that coal is again available, it is evident that the railway companies intend to make a good fight with the motor-charabancs, which have cut them out very badly this last year, owing to high fares and lack of trains. The popular week-end ticket has not yet returned, but practically every railway company is advertising weekly and fortnightly tickets at single and a-third fares for the double journey. This is certain to bring in a considerable revenue, for the motor-charabanc cannot beat that even if it tries; and it may be taken

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as the first sign of the slackening of official control. The limited excursion trains of last year, which were like a tea-cup in the ocean of popular desire, represented the best that officialism was capable of.

But even cheap tickets are not the crux of the railway problem. Freight rates will have to be lowered somehow, if the trade of the country is to recover and railway finance is to be placed on a proper footing; and both coal and wages will have to come down before that is accomplished. Wages are falling automatically as the cost of living drops, but coal is still far too high. It is unlikely to drop for the time being, as everybody wants it—household coal is actually to go up—but there is hope that by the autumn it will be considerably cheaper. If not, then the railway question will be insoluble.

**The Ashes Lost.**

The stars in their courses have fought against English cricket. At the third and decisive Test Match at Leeds, Hobbs, our best batsman, was taken suddenly ill and at once operated on for appendicitis; Mrs. Douglas, the wife of the English acting captain, fell ill the next day with the same complaint, and was also operated on. Colonel Douglas did extraordinarily well in circumstances of peculiar anxiety, but there was no question of saving the game. Fate is against us this glorious summer, and we must recognise the fact, and submit to fortune.

There is some compensation in the weather, which simply cannot go wrong. The sun has shone almost continuously since April, and the farmers are beginning the harvest in the South this week—probably the earliest on record. Some of the smaller rivers have practically dried up with the drought, and the Thames is lower than living memory recalls. There is talk of rationing the water supply of London if these conditions continue another fortnight.

**A Bombshell from "Barabbas."**

The publishers have come to a serious decision; nothing less than to give up publishing for the present. The fact is that the costs of printing, binding, and other things are so high that even if they sell large numbers of copies of a book they often make a loss; if they raise the price they cannot sell it at all. So the only thing to do is to wait until costs—particularly printing costs, for that is the main trouble—come down.

Meanwhile the publishers will live on their fat, or what is left of it. Most of them have a list of standard works in print and in constant demand, and these will probably keep the wolf from the door. They will still consider new manuscripts, I understand, and young authors of the rank of Shakespeare, Milton, or Homer will be welcomed if they put in an appearance. But no talent of the merely "promising" variety has much chance for the next few months; only immortals or best-sellers—particularly best-sellers—need apply. The ordinary "masterpiece" of the reviewers will remain under the counter until the author calls for it.

**The Real Book Difficulty.**

I doubt whether literature will lose much in the long run by the abdication of publishers for a year. The economic troubles of publishers—who are often honest and even educated men, in spite of their bad name—affect scientific and "serious" work much more than the ordinary run of novels and popular books. In spite of the publishers' resolution, I do not think that a new Dickens would have to wait very long for acceptance. But a modern Bacon, with a twentieth-century "Advancement of Learning," would be a very different proposition, unless he could pay for publication himself, or the publisher had private means.

Young authors are very pessimistic about the prospects of fame, and I sympathise with them. At the moment they are shut out of the gates of the literary paradise, and have to look to journalism instead of pure letters for a living, and to talk to editors instead of publishers; but editors, as everybody in Fleet Street knows, are to publishers what blackbirds are to eagles, as pussycats to tigers. They sing more prettily, and purr quite nicely when you stroke them; but for the really big game of letters you must hunt with the greater beasts.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents.)*

## EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 26.

On Wednesday the Residency followed the example of the Palace, and the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, accompanied by the Residency Staff, proceeded to Alexandria, where they will remain until the autumn at the Zervudachi Villa, which has been the summer headquarters of the Residency for several years now. It has been stated that the Sultan will go for a cruise in the Mediterranean on his yacht the Mahrusa, which has recently been completely overhauled, and that the High Commissioner may snatch a brief holiday in the early autumn. Nothing definite has been decided, however, in either case, and the programme at the Palace and the Residency will entirely depend on how the local political situation develops.

**The Official Delegation.**

All the arrangements have now been made for the departure of the official delegation, who are due to sail by the Italian steamer on July 1, and the announcement of the nomination of the experts who are to accompany the delegation is momentarily expected. H.E. Abdel Khalek Pasha Sarwat, Minister of the Interior, will act as Prime Minister; H.E. Ibrahim Pasha Fathi, Minister of War, as Minister of Finance; and H.E. Ahmed Ziwar Pasha, Minister of Communications, as Minister of Public Works. As the time approaches for the departure of the delegation, more and more support for the Cabinet is forthcoming, and it can safely be said that it has by now obtained the approval of the whole of the responsible element, though, for reasons on which there is no need to dwell, some of the latter are still afraid publicly to express the views which they do not trouble to conceal in private conversations.

As regards Zaghloul Pasha, the approach of the departure of the delegation appears to be driving him to despair, and to be impelling him to adopt an attitude which is alienating more and more the thinking classes. His latest venture has been a speech, in which he openly incited the people to attack the English, who, he said, are their real adversaries and responsible for all that the Cabinet is doing. This is undoubtedly the most dangerous phase that we have as yet reached in Zaghloul Pasha's campaign, and it only goes to confirm those who have throughout characterised him as a demagogue and agitator, who would stop at nothing in order to attain the satisfaction of his own desires.

**The "Kufra" Expedition.**

Great interest is being taken in the addresses and lectures which are being given in London by Mrs. Rosita Forbes on the subject of her recent wonderful journey to Kufra. At the same time considerable surprise has been expressed at the apparent omission of any reference to Ahmed Bey Hassanein, the young Egyptian who accompanied her, and without whose valuable assistance Mrs. Forbes could certainly not have achieved her wonderful success. Hassanein Bey, for his part, in the one lecture he gave here, accorded all the credit to Mrs. Forbes and never even mentioned that during the last few but hazardous days he had had to travel with a broken collar-bone; but Mrs. Forbes, in private conversations, on more than one occasion declared how much she was indebted to Hassanein Bey not only for the information which she was able to obtain but also for the safety of the expedition, and it is a matter of sincere regret to Englishmen as well as Egyptians that hardly any reference, if any, has been made to the part he played. The hope has been freely expressed that this intrepid lady traveller will in the near future repair what is obviously an unintentional omission on her part.

**The Egyptian General Post Office.**

The annual report of the Egyptian Postal Administration issued by Borton Pasha reveals the steady development of that public service. There was an increase of over 24 per cent. in the articles of correspondence dealt with, as compared with the previous year, and every branch of the service has undergone considerable expansion. The fact that out of over six million registered letters only nine disappeared, and that other branches of the service showed similar satisfactory results, redounds to the credit of all concerned in the running of what is in this country a most difficult but at the same time most efficient public administration.

**The Cadre Commission Report.**

In Government circles the main topic of conversation next to the political situation is the report of the Cadre Commission. This Commission was set up two years ago for the purpose of regrading the whole service, and Sir Paul Harvey handed in his recommendations before he left for England, about a month ago. The document is a confidential one, and cannot be made public until it has been approved by the Council of Ministers, but, as invariably happens in this country, most of the details have leaked out, and there is a considerable amount of movement among the officials who, in many cases, consider that they have not been sufficiently well treated. It is understood that in the aggregate the recommendations will in the long run involve an addition to the salary bill, though a relatively moderate amount will be necessary in the early years. One of the reasons for the hesitation on the part of the Council of Ministers to approve of what is understood to be a very able classification is, of course, the present financial situation; but as the Service, especially the junior grades, have been promised improvement as soon as the Cadre Commission reported, and various reductions in bonuses have recently been made on this understanding, it is difficult to see how the Government will be able to evade acceptance of the proposals without seriously discontenting a very large proportion of the official class.

## SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, June 22.

**The Political Situation.**

In view of the continual efforts of the Egyptian Nationalist party to spread their propaganda throughout the Sudan, the recent spontaneous expression of loyalty to British rule on the part of the Hadendoa chieftains addressed to the Governor of Kassala is an interesting tribute to the Administration of the Sudan. The address, which was, of course, in Arabic, may be translated as follows:—

We, the Nazir, Wakil Nazir, Omdahs, and Sheikhs of the Hadendoa, wish that our voice may be heard by our just Government, through your intervention, in order that our feelings of gratitude may be made known to all.

We have been told of circulars having been introduced into the country warning us to be on the alert lest we should be deprived of our properties, lands, and not only these, but our faith. Apart from our unutterable amazement at these statements, we are not exaggerating if we avow openly that, although the authors are unknown to us, we have felt the disgrace and shame of their actions. Should we not make known our opinions in this connection, we should be behaving in a cowardly manner and be guilty of ingratitude, and we are neither cowards nor ingrates.

With joy we wish it to be known all the world over that until the advent of our present Government we never understood the meaning of justice.

To Great Britain and her just sons are all thanks due for enabling us to enjoy peace and plenty. You have given us life after we tasted the bitter dregs of misery and distress.

You and you alone have been responsible for the reign of justice throughout the Sudan. Our clearest proof is the recent great war when the whole world suffered death and pain, but the Sudan enjoyed peace and plenty after our country had been the theatre of bloodshed. Through your justice we have been blessed with health and wealth, we have multiplied in numbers, and have seen justice done, since you prepared our sons to hold responsible positions of trust in the Government, such as Mamours, Sharia Kadis, Engineers, Clerks, etc. You have rebuilt our decayed mosques, and you have proved yourselves to be the faithful guardians of the widowed and orphaned. Your justice and forbearance have won the admiration not only of all classes, but also of the ignorant and wild.

We envy no nation in the whole universe so long as we live in peace under the British Flag. Where the British Flag flies

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there justice predominates. We ask God that this blessing should continue to be our lot.

"GOD SAVE THE KING."

Your faithful subjects

(Signed and sealed),

The Hadendoa (Kipling's Fuzzy-wuzzy) are a large and powerful tribe inhabiting the Eastern Sudan and the Red Sea Provinces. Their Nazir, Sheikh Ibrahim Musa, M.B.E., M.V.O., was a member of the Sudan Delegation to London in 1919. He was presented for the first time to the King at Port Sudan in 1912.

**Tram and Ferry Service.**

The gross revenue for the municipal tram and ferry service for the month of April last amounted to £E3972.175 m/m., giving a net profit of £E1458.608 m/ms., constituting a record in each case, much surpassing the figures for any previous month's working since the service was instituted.

**Kindness to Animals.**

On Monday, May 31, a special police inspection was made of all animals, carriages, carts, etc., plying for hire in Khartoum. Prizes were given for the best-kept animals and vehicles, from a fund collected by Mrs. Fleming, to whom the main credit is due for the inception of the scheme and its successful inauguration. It is now proposed to hold a similar inspection on the last Monday of every month, and it is hoped that an animal show may be held in January or February.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, July 3.

**The Attempt on the Regent.**

The daily press will have informed you of the attempt on the Regent's life as he was returning from taking the oath to the new Constitution. On leaving the Parliament, accompanied by M. Pashitch, the Prince drove up the avenue of Milosh Veliki, past the Ministry of Public Works, where there are scaffoldings and builders at work. Just before the carriage reached the building a bomb was thrown from an upper window. Fortunately it burst on a telephone standard, wounding about ten people, but involving no loss of life. It appears that the Prince was not aware of the attempt until it was reported to him on reaching the Palace; for the sound of cannon was expected, saluting the auspicious event, and it is a common thing in these regions to fire into the air from sheer lightness of heart, especially on glad occasions.

The miscreant, terrified by his own act, bolted immediately, although in the possession of three more bombs and an automatic pistol; but he was quickly stopped by a café waiter and a couple of workmen, who tripped, or threw him into a slime pit. It was not without difficulty that the police succeeded in preventing the enraged crowd from lynching him; which would have deprived the authorities of the information that they have since been able to extract from him.

Although the hostile press tries to make out that this was an act of revenge on the part of some so-called "oppressed minorities," it is already practically proved that it was a move in a definite terrorist plot, inspired by a Communist committee in Vienna, under orders from Moscow. The perpetrator is named Spasoje Stejitch, and it appears that his father is a German from Bachka, who assumed a Serbian name many years ago, and his mother a Magyar. He calls himself a plasterer, but seems to be a ne'er-do-well who has tried several trades with equal failure. He was a Hungarian prisoner in Russia; joined the Volunteer Division in the Dobruja, but went over to the Red Army, where he served for a considerable time; then returned to his own country, and so gained the confidence of the Bolshevists that he acted as their courier.

His evidence is interesting: he states that the plot was ordered by the Communist committee in Vienna, under instructions from Moscow. The details were left to the Executive Committee in Belgrade, who were accused of lukewarmness in the cause, and were anxious to clear themselves. This committee consisted of three members of the Communist Party in the Skupshtina, by name Filipovitch, Chopitch, and Kovachevitch. His revelations have startled the authorities, and led to a whole series of arrests at Novi Sad, which has been the headquarters of the organisers. Meanwhile, the Privilege Committee of the Skupshtina has handed over the three implicated Communist members to the authorities. Filipovitch, who is a man of good family and education, claims to be a purely theoretical Communist, and disavows any connection with the terrorists. There has also been arrested a Magyar in Belgrade, who was a former officer of Bela Kun, and two servants of the Communist Club, a chauffeur and two active accomplices, who were to have completed the work if Stejitch failed. They seem to be but poor villains, for their courage failed them at the critical moment, well armed though they were. Further particulars are awaited with interest, but the whole thing is illuminating, in that it shows the ramifications of an international and dangerous plot, as to the existence of which many people were inclined to be sceptical.

**The Constituent Assembly.**

The Constituent Assembly has resolved itself into an ordinary Skupshtina and adjourned until October 20, during which period two committees will prepare the ground for its future work, and from now Yugoslav politics enter into a new phase. The first sign of splitting in the parties has appeared. The Bosnian Mohammedans are not very satisfied with their bargain, and have divided into two halves under Dr. Spaho, Minister of Commerce, and Dr. Karamehmedovitch, Minister of Public Health, respectively, and some members have definitely left the party. There are also indications of splitting in some of the bigger composite parties, which may resolve themselves into their component parts in the face of the new situation. Yugoslavia now has its own Irish Question, in Croatia; for a great number of Croats are very dissatisfied with the Constitution and especially regret the disappearance of the ancient office of Ban. The attitude of the Narodny Club still remains enigmatical; but it seems more likely that they will join up with one wing of the Democratic Party rather than with Raditch, who is to be accused of high treason.

The Croatian Question is the principal one now before the country, but there is little doubt that it will be settled satisfactorily in the course of time. All Croats know that they cannot stand alone, and Serbia knows that it cannot afford to allow Croatia to be a stepping-off place for her enemies. Sensible men on both sides recognise that the differences are not fundamental, but superficial, that their main interests are really identical.

**The Voting on the Constitution.**

Particulars are now available about the voting for the Constitution, and they are interesting. The Yugoslovenski Club or Slovene Clericals of Dr. Koroshets, the Narodny Club, Communists, and Raditch's Peasant Party all abstained, making a total of 161 members absent. Of those present, 35 voted against and 223 for, which is twelve more than the minimum necessary to make it a legal resolution.

The last few days before the voting had been a time of feverish bargaining, the several small parties selling their votes for concessions. At the eleventh hour it seemed that there would be a hitch, for the Macedonian Moslems sent M. Pashitch an ultimatum that they would not vote "for" unless he gave them an explicit undertaking in writing that he would grant them all their demands, and these were pretty heavy. But the veteran was equal to them, and at once sent for the Peasants, good Serbs, but not always wisely led, put the case before them, and asked them to save the situation. They agreed that if the worst came to the worst they would indeed vote "for," in which case they hoped that the Government would in loyal gratitude grant their demands. So M. Pashitch received the Turks with equanimity, with the result that they voted for, and the Peasants against.

**The Little Entente.**

The Little Entente is now a very real factor in European politics. According to the *Balkan*, it has advised the Hungarian Government not to admit the ex-Emperor Karl to their territory, and threatened a blockade of the country in the event of his attempting

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another adventure, in which case they would hand the matter over to the military authorities to deal with, and Karl would find his Elba on some lone Dalmatian island. The agreement with Roumania is a source of great satisfaction, and relations with Czechoslovakia are every day becoming more intimate. Czech business men are more and more numerous in Belgrade, and many Serbian officers are sending their children to Czechoslovakia to school.

## BULGARIA.

SOFIA, July 4.

**Relations with Yugoslavia.**

Signs are not wanting that Yugoslavia and Bulgaria may soon be on friendly terms once again. Much depends on the war now in progress in Asia Minor, as both this country and Yugoslavia stand to gain much and lose nothing if the Greeks are not successful against the Kemalists. It is recognised that Bulgaria is not satisfied with the situation in Thrace, and that she must inevitably look forward to the day when her countrymen will be free from foreign administration. Nor would she be human if she did not hope one day to regain an outlet on the Ægean Sea. When the conflict in Asia Minor is over, affairs in both Eastern and Western Thrace will become interesting.

Yugoslavia has always had her eye on Salonika. This port she regards as essential to her economic and industrial prosperity, and when occasion presents itself she will almost certainly make a bid for it, although the methods employed are not likely to be warlike ones.

Thus the two Slav nations of the Balkans, nations that, in spite of mutual distrust and dislike have a real admiration for each other, will find themselves more or less united in their aims and ideas. Bulgaria's past must necessarily be a subservient one, owing to her inferiority in population and strength in comparison with the Yugoslav State, but the Bulgarians are always able to rely on the fact that, although a small State, they are compact and are not divided among themselves.

Of late Serbian public opinion has veered round towards the Bulgarians, and the strong check that the Sofia Government has kept on the Macedonians and their activities has not passed unnoticed at Belgrade. It is pleasing that the few remaining Bulgarian prisoners of war in the hands of the Serbians are on the point of being liberated; and other little incidents, although trifling in themselves, go to show that relations are beginning to enter into a more cordial phase. Regarding the desire of the present Bulgarian Government for a speedy and close *rapprochement* there is no doubt; but it must not be forgotten that hates die hard in the Balkans, and the Serbians cannot all at once forgive the former invaders of their country. Nevertheless, Thrace and its neighbours may serve as an avenue of friendship, and there would be no entente more calculated to create a stable situation in the Balkans than one between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

**Damaging Rumours.**

A statement that appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of June 28 has attracted a good deal of attention here. The writer stated, *inter alia*, that the Bolshevists and Kemalists are in close touch with the Bulgarian Communist Party and that a secret treaty has even been made with them. The article immediately afterwards refers to a possible attempt being made by ex-King Ferdinand to regain his throne. These two theories—one can scarcely call them anything else—are rather far apart, as surely a king will not be brought back and a Bolshevist régime adopted at one and the same time. There are ample grounds for stating that there is very little sympathy felt for ex-King Ferdinand in Bulgaria to-day; and the peasants are far too devoted to young King Boris to dream of trying to restore his father. M. Stambolisky also is not likely to move an inch in support of a step that would at once undo all the good results he has so hardly attained.

The article further states that ex-King Ferdinand has been invited by several Bulgarian notables; it would be interesting to know who these notables are. Undoubtedly some of his old favourites and friends, while in Germany, have called on their ancient Sovereign, but it is not to be believed that anyone holding an official position of importance has seen the ex-King. Enemies of Bulgaria are, however, always on the look-out for means by which they can discredit their country in the eyes of the Western Powers; and it is to be feared that this article is yet another case in point.

## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 28.

**In Parliament.**

M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, having recovered from his indisposition, the debate upon his Bill was resumed this week in the Lower House. One extreme Socialist deemed it politic to propose that the King's personal property should not be exempted from taxation; but M. Yorga pointed out the irrelevancy of this demand, remarking that the Civil List is the only emolument paid by the State which has not been increased in consideration of the currency depreciation, and that the greater portion reverts to the people in the form of donations made by Royalty to public and charitable institutions. M. Vaida suggested an increase of the Civil List. The Minister, whilst welcoming the expression of the real loyal feelings of the whole nation for the Crown, regretted that the increase could not be made now, as it would involve a change in the Constitution. The Opposition complained of the rapidity with which the Bill was being discussed and voted; the Socialists denounced it as oppressive for the poorer classes; the Minister repudiated this assertion, and disproved it by figures. Finally, the Bill was put to the vote and passed by 157 votes to 70.

**Agrarian Reform.**

An exciting scene marked the proceedings this week in connection with this bill. The Decree Law of 1918 provided that the expropriation of each estate should be made in proportion to its area at that time. Since then many landlord have sold a portion of their land, others have divided it among different members of their families, and, again, many properties have been split up through inheritance. The text of the Bill now under discussion takes the present area of each property to be expropriated, thus sanctioning all above-mentioned curtailments; but the Opposition contends that by this means the peasants will be deprived of about 60,000 hectares to the corresponding benefit of the landowners. A member of the Governmental Left Wing, without previously notifying the Minister, moved an amendment that the provision of the text of 1918 should be respected. This motion was eagerly seized upon by the entire Opposition, and put to the vote was carried with the help of the Left Wing, to the great exultation of the Opposition and the consternation of the Cabinet. The disconcerted Minister of Agriculture left the House, and the sitting was suspended for the day. The general belief was that the Minister would resign, but the Prime Minister smoothed matters out. At the following sitting the same article was again put to the vote—a flaw having been discovered in the previous voting, and was passed by the disciplined majority, the Opposition violently protesting and announcing that they would propose the same amendment again.

**"Votes for Women."**

The sittings of the Senate are usually models of calmness and moderation. One sitting this week, however, was extraordinarily turbulent. The exciting cause was a discussion on Woman Suffrage. Vehement speeches were made pro and con, and feeling rose to such a pitch that the sitting had to be suspended four times. Finally, a proposal for "obligatory voting of women at the Communal elections" was passed by a small majority, the result being enthusiastically acclaimed by the winning side and by the fair sex, which was well represented in the public gallery. The Parliamentary session has been prolonged to July 20.

**Personalia.**

The papers report that, after the closing of Parliament, the King intends leaving for a French spa to take the waters for a month. The announcement of an official visit to France is contradicted; but it is possible that the King will also visit Paris.

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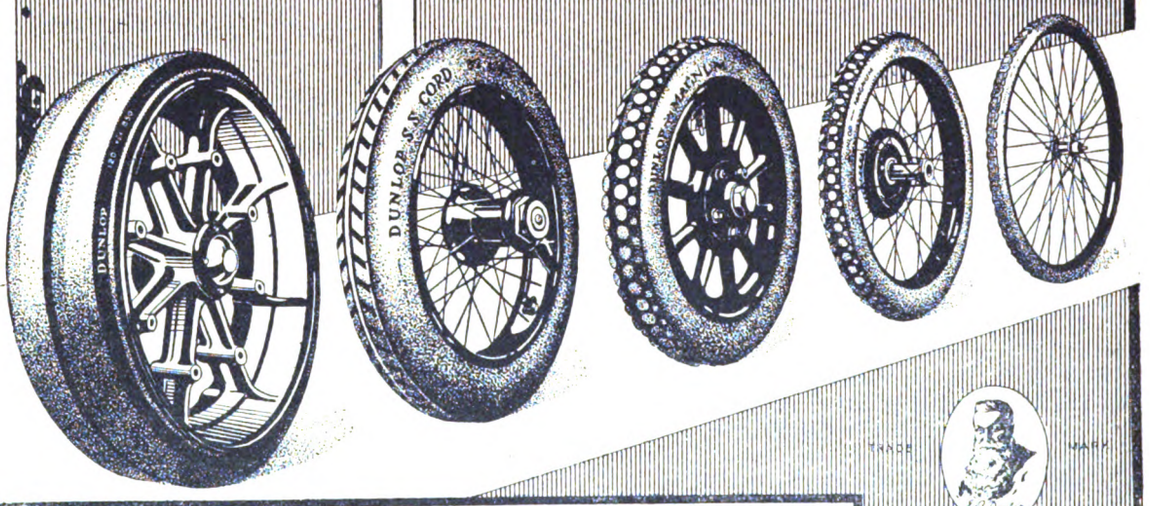


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The school for nurses organised by the Committee of the General Hospitals, with the co-operation of the nurses of the Canadian Mission, was inaugurated at the Coltzea Hospital in the presence of the Queen. The first diploma of this school has been awarded to Her Majesty as a mark of admiration.

The visit of the Japanese Crown Prince to Roumania has been officially announced for the month of August.

Mr. Peter Jay, the American Minister Plenipotentiary to Roumania, arrived on Saturday. The following day he was received with the usual ceremonial by the King, to whom he presented his credentials.

Sir Herbert and Lady Dering have left for England on two months' leave. The affairs of the Legation will be carried on by the First Secretary the Hon. Eugene Millington-Drake.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, June 25.

### The Allied Note.

Up to the time of writing the Government has not replied to the Allied Note presented to it on Tuesday by the British and French Ministers. The Greek reply was drawn up on Thursday at a Council of Ministers held under the presidency of M. Gounaris, who had returned hurriedly to the capital from Smyrna, and was immediately telegraphed to the King for approval. No news from his Majesty had been received up to this morning, and consequently the Allies are still ignorant —at least officially—whether Greece will accept or reject their offer of mediation. I write "officially" because practically everyone knows that the Government has decided to decline the offer with thanks. In acting thus the Greek Government would be voicing the wish of the whole nation. It could be safely said that there is not a single Greek who would like to see the Smyrna question settled in any other way than by that of arms. The Greek is very grateful to the Allies, and to Great Britain in particular, for the interest shown, and for their efforts to settle the matter amicably; but he is absolutely convinced that nothing but the complete crushing of the Turk would ensure a lasting peace.

It was persistently rumoured in Athens last night that the offensive had already commenced. The rumour was still afloat this morning, but so far official confirmation is lacking. It is generally believed, however, that the attack will be launched simultaneously with or immediately after the handing by the Government of the reply to the Allied Note. The long preparations on the Greek front are now quite complete, and the fourteen divisions of well-trained and admirably equipped troops are impatiently waiting for the order to advance. The presence of King Constantine in Smyrna has had a tremendous effect on the *moral* of the Army. His Majesty expressed the desire to be among his men when the fighting begins, and is expected to leave for the front to-morrow or on Sunday. Prince Andrew has been given command of the XIV. Division, and is also up the line.

Everything points to a bitter struggle for supremacy, and everybody here realises that if the Army fails in this last and greatest effort Smyrna is lost to Greece for ever.

### A Murderous Motor-car.

Motor car accidents are very regular occurrences in Athens and are mostly due to the reckless driving of the Greek chauffeurs, but the feats of a motor car narrated below have beaten all records of automobile frightfulness, and it is to be hoped that the perpetrator, when arrested, will be very severely dealt with by justice.

At 10 o'clock one evening last week a motor car going along Alexandra Boulevard at a tremendous speed ran over a barrel-organ player outside the Mourouzi Café. The unhappy musician was killed on the spot, but the driver, unheedful, continued his mad run. Two policemen who witnessed the accident immediately jumped into a motor car waiting near by and followed the first car, which was swiftly disappearing in the darkness of the night. The pursuit continued up to the end of Alexandra Boulevard with the second motor car rapidly gaining on its rival, while the two policemen were firing their revolvers to force it to stop. Just before reaching Patissia Street, a police sergeant attracted by the revolver shots, and noticing the two cars racing like maniacs, stepped into the roadway and ordered the first one to stop. But the driver, without the slightest hesitation, knocked down the sergeant, and, running over his body, the murderous car vanished in Patissia Street, the two policemen being obliged to abandon the chase in order to offer their assistance to the second victim.

It was ascertained on the following day that the car belonged to a well-known lawyer, but the driver, after driving same to its garage, disappeared, and has not so far been arrested.

## TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 1.

### A Dangerous Situation.

With the evacuation of Ismid by the Hellenes the road to Constantinople became open for the Kemalist forces. It is true that hitherto the neutral zone, as defined by the Allies, has been respected by the Kemalists, but a frontier that is not defended by an adequate force stands a poor chance of remaining intact when reasons of "military necessity" may be invoked by the commander of the stronger army. The Kemalists are said to have promised to respect the neutral line, but that promise has not been made to the Allies, nor has it been officially announced; and experience has shown that even the signed bond of the official representatives of the Angora Administration has very little value. Except for the British Navy, there is not the slightest obstacle to the advance of Kemalist forces to the Bosphorus at the present moment, and a more serious guarantee than an alleged promise on the part of the Angora Administration is required if the integrity of the neutral zone is to be respected.

What makes matters worse is the nature of the Kemalist propaganda campaign that has been carried out during the last six weeks or so under the very noses of the Allied authorities. Thousands of pamphlets have been circulated containing illustrations of Turks mutilated in the most barbarous manner, as alleged in the text, by Hellenic soldiers, and incitations to the Moslems of Stamboul to emulate the example of "the Arabs of Alexandria" in attacking the Greeks. The ostensible purpose of the propaganda in question is to


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bring about a general boycott of Greek shops and merchants by Moslems, but the language employed to justify such proceeding is of a nature as to encourage more violent action. It is common knowledge that a Nationalist Committee exists in the capital, and that it has established centres in every quarter of Stamboul and the suburbs. There is little doubt here that each centre possesses a secret depot of arms and munitions, and that "fedai" have been recruited in sufficient numbers to keep the total forces of the Allies more than merely busy when the right moment comes. Now that there is an opportunity for bands to raid the suburbs on the Asiatic, and perhaps the European, side of the Bosphorus, "the right moment" seems to be drawing dangerously near. On the last occasion when Beykos was raided, security was only restored with the assistance of a strong Hellenic detachment. This time there will be no Hellenes to help. The belief that the Bosphorus will prove a sufficient obstacle to the activities of Kemalist bands on the European shore does not, perhaps, take into consideration the presence of numerous bands operating for some time past in the Belgrade Forest, and in the Chatalja area. Within a stone's-throw of the capital there are centres which form the bases for the lawless activities of Laze bands. These bands have hitherto been occupied with the transport of contraband war material from Constantinople to Angora, and the traffic has been pursued without the slightest interruption, despite the inter-Allied Control, but now that Ismid is taken, the Lazes may be utilised for more spectacular work. Quite recently a band leader named Rushdi was rounded up by a combined force of French and Turkish gendarmerie, but not before a fight; and there are others fully prepared to take Rushdi's place. The Central Government is now entirely subservient to the Angora Administration, and the faint show of independence made by certain Ministers and officials who have recently been replaced has been followed by an almost feverish eagerness to obey the slightest desires of the Kemalists. Thus practically the entire police and gendarmerie services are, so far as the Turks are concerned, now at the disposal of the Kemalists, and the Allied forces have been reduced to a mere skeleton.

**The Arrest of Russian Undesirables.**

It was perhaps some realisation of the circumstances described above that decided the British Military Authorities to effect a slight clearance among the more prominent undesirables of the numerous Bolshevist elements that have gradually installed themselves in the capital. Long before the arrival of the Kudesh mission a Bolshevist organisation existed in Constantinople; but after the arrival of the famous "Trade Delegation" that did anything but trade, the activities of the Bolshevists received a tremendous impetus. The fate of the tens of thousands of refugees from the Crimea has been such that the majority of those who are still in Constantinople would be unable to resist the temptation to join in the looting of fat Byzantine merchants if an opportunity were to occur; and there is every reason to believe that the Bolshevists were making it their business to create that opportunity. How far the Kemalists are a party to the scheme it is not easy to say, but in view of the fact that the Turko-Bolshevist Convention includes a clause concerning Constantinople and the Straits, it may reasonably be conjectured that the Kemalists were to play a certain not unimportant part.

The first effect of the operations was to arouse a certain amount of nervousness among the partisans of the Kemalists in the capital, but when it was realised that only Bolshevists were the object of the operations, feelings of relief mixed with irritation became general, except amongst the anti-Kemalists and Greeks. The total number arrested is not believed to exceed fifty, and of these some appear to have been arrested by mistake, and were subsequently released.

**Nationalist Policy.**

Much is being made in the European Press of a supposed division among the Nationalists into "Moderates" and "Extremists," and it is widely believed that Mustapha Kemal himself is prepared to come to a reasonable understanding with the Allies. If this is so, Mustapha Kemal has adopted strange methods of signifying his espousal of a "Moderate" policy. The official organ of his own special party, the *Hakimet-i-Millie*, has continued to publish the most violent diatribes against the British, even after the publication of the Allied offer of mediation. The same paper quite recently reproduced the same lying reports spread by the Germans during the war to the effect that British doctors in Egypt had deliberately blinded Turkish prisoners of war—a slander all the more foul by reason of its antiquity.

Neither are there the faintest grounds for the belief that the Nationalists have in any point, however insignificant, altered the political programme which has been published on innumerable occasions almost without even verbal variations. That programme includes not only the restitution of Thrace and Smyrna to Ottoman sovereignty, but also the abolition of the Capitulations and complete freedom from control in matters financial and military, to say nothing of the abandonment of Constantinople and the Straits by the Allies before the application of the peace terms, whatever they may be. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that these terms have been set forth in detail on numerous occasions by Mustapha Kemal Pasha himself, amidst the unanimous and enthusiastic approval of the Great National Assembly, and that there is not as yet the slightest ground for the belief that Mustapha Kemal has retreated from this position. It is said that the Nationalist leader is hostile to the Bolshevists, and that the latter are desirous of installing Enver in his place as being a more servile instrument—after the pattern of Narimanoff, of the Azerbaijan "Republic." That is, however, a personal rather than a political matter, and it may be safely affirmed that even if Mustapha Kemal desired to modify certain parts of the Nationalist programme, he dare not even make the attempt. He himself has raised the Frankenstein of Turkish fanaticism; he himself resuscitated the Unionist organisation in Anatolia; and to-day if he showed the slightest sign of wavering he would be hurled from his position as decisively as was Abdul Hamid for his weakness in connection with the Muersteg scheme for Macedonia. Because Mustapha Kemal loves power above all things, and because also he, unlike Abdul Hamid, is fully aware of the strength of the forces around him, he will not weaken.

There is only one way to settle the question of the possibility of an *entente* between the British and the Kemalists, and that is to leave the Smyrna and Thrace problems aside for the moment. The essential interests of the Allies are centred about the Straits, the control of Turkish finance, and the limitation of Turkish armaments. Let the Allies ascertain forthwith the minimum desiderata of the Kemalists in these vitally important matters first, and if an agreement is possible it will then be time enough to discuss the Smyrna and Thrace problem

## ALBANIA.

TIRANA, July 2.

**Albania and the League of Nations.**

The attention of all Albania has been focussed upon the League of Nations' sitting at Geneva. The Albanians had placed their faith on the League and had given the fortunes of their country into its hands: they had requested it to make their frontiers and the integrity of their land respected.

It was on June 25 that the Council of the Society, at a public sitting, heard the Albanian representative, then the Greek, and finally the Yugoslav. The Albanian delegate, Mgr. Fan Noli, after demonstrating that the Albanian frontiers were definitely fixed in 1913 by the Conference of Ambassadors in London, and by the Convention of Florence of the same year, went on to show how critical was the situation brought about by the Serbian occupation of almost a sixth part of the Albania of 1913. During last August and September, he said, the Serbians had destroyed 140 villages, forcing 40,000 people to leave their homes. Albania's difficulties had been increased by the presence of Greeks in a region east of the town of Kortcha (Koritza) and by the constant menace that they would

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invade more Albanian territory. The Albanian representative concluded his remarks with an appeal to the League of Nations to make representations to the Governments of Belgrade and Athens to induce them to evacuate Albanian territory.

M. Frangoulis proved himself a skilful advocate, maintaining that the questions of Albanian independence and the Albanian frontiers had not yet been definitely settled, since the secret Treaty of London of 1915 envisaged the splitting-up of Albania, and the Peace Conference had several times considered proposals of the same character. He concluded by declaring that it was not the League of Nations, but the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris that was competent to decide regarding Albania—doubtless in order that the projects for the dismemberment of the country should be carried into effect! The Yugoslav delegate, M. Yovanovitch, wished to refute the Albanian complaints and to support his Greek colleague, but he added that in 1913 Yugoslavia was for Albania.

At the afternoon sitting, Mr. Fisher, the British representative, read the decision of the Council. According to this, the League of Nations did not deem itself incompetent to deal with the questions raised, but held that it could not consider them at the same time that they were under discussion by the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris. The Albanian delegate replied that he did not at all recognise the competence of the Conference of Ambassadors to make any change in the Albanian frontiers; it could only concern itself with the relations between the vanquished States and the victors. The Albanian delegate afterwards presented to the secretariat of the League a request that the Albanian demands should be brought before the Assembly General next September, and that the question should be reopened for discussion. The uneasiness of the Albanian delegation arises from the fear that the Ambassadors' Conference in studying the Albanian question would be guided by political considerations, while the League of Nations would deal with it objectively. In a word, it is feared that the Conference may go so far as to sacrifice Albanian territory to Albania's neighbours.

**Italo-Albanian Agreement.**

To prove that the integrity of Albania has been recognised by Italy, the Albanian delegation referred to Article 2 of the Tirana Protocol, signed on August 2, 1920, by the Italian Minister Plenipotentiary and Suleiman Bey Delvina, Albanian Prime Minister. This article runs: "The Italian Government, in order to give proof of its respect for the sovereignty of Albania over Valona and for the territorial integrity of Albania, will withdraw the troops now at Valona, on the coast and in the interior of Albania."

This Protocol of Tirana is a proof of the recognition of Albania's sovereign rights by Italy. Unfortunately it has not yet been published or notified to the League of Nations in virtue of Article 18 of the agreement, and the reason lies in the final article of the Protocol, which forbids the publication of the text without the permission of each contracting party.

**Feeling in Albania.**

The decision of the League has caused lively surprise in Albania. As to its frontiers, the country is not at all disposed to make the slightest change, and is, in fact, determined to oppose any change of the kind with all its forces.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, June 14.

**Reply of the Colonial Secretary.**

The Acting Chief Secretary, by letter dated June 15, has conveyed the reply of the Secretary of State to the long memorial which, it may be remembered, was sent by the Greek Archbishop and leaders, endeavouring to throw the blame of the events of March 25 on the local government, and asking that a commission of inquiry might be sent to the island. The reply states that the Colonial Secretary is fully persuaded that the disturbances arose from the attempt to organise processions in defiance of Government orders, and that he is not disposed to appoint any such commission. It may be hoped that this letter will close, for a time at least, the chapter of events which the ill-advised action of the memorialists brought about.

**A Cyprus "Bible."**

It only remains to add that the leaders referred to, wishing to make the most of the late movement, have compiled a large volume which contains the "resolutions" passed in about 500 villages in favour of "union." It would be superfluous to say more on the subject and origin of these resolutions. The volume is to be sent to the Secretary of State and the Greek Government.

**General News.**

The Government Offices will move to Mount Tröodos towards the end of June.

A Turk named Izzet Mehmet, who for a year and a half has been undergoing a sentence of seven years for attempted murder, has murdered a fellow prisoner named Mustapha Hassan, who had passed ten years of a sentence of fifteen years. Crime is deplorably frequent. A young Turkish girl of about fifteen has been found dead near a village, after suffering a criminal assault.

Cases of conversion are rare. The Archbishop was recently informed that a Greek girl in the Famagusta district had eloped with a young Moslem and had adopted Islam. An inquiry is being made by the police.

Dr. T. Petsas, who was about to proceed to Paris for instruments, etc., as the mail steamer was leaving Larnaca for Limassol in the evening, fell into the sea, and in spite of all efforts to save him was drowned. He was a young man about to practise in the island.

## ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, June 26.

Major-General Marden, the G.O.C. Constantinople, has left Smyrna in H.M.S. Sepoy (Captain Abbay), for Constantinople, after visiting the Eskishehir front. He was accompanied by Major Johnston, *liaison* officer of the Greek forces. It is understood that General Marden and staff will afterwards proceed to the Broussa front. Both Greeks and Turks interpret this activity on the part of the British General as being the preliminary to intervention, in their respective favours, by Allied forces.

H.M.S. Tuscan (Captain Simson) is still in Smyrna.

The Smyrna British Consular Court has been reopened with Consul A. B. Geary as judge.

Mr. R de Candole has been appointed general manager of the Ottoman (Aidin) Railway Company, and is expected to arrive in Smyrna early next month. He has had considerable experience in railway organisation, having been general manager of the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway Company.

## ANCIENT EGYPT'S LUXURIES.

The style and arrangement of houses containing kitchens, bake-ovens, open fireplaces, and bathrooms that were standing in Egypt about 1375 B.C. were described in an illustrated lecture on July 7 by Professor T. Eric Peet, of Liverpool University, at the Royal Society's Rooms, Burlington House. General Sir John Maxwell, who presided, laid stress on the importance of systematic excavation of such important sites as Tel-el-Amarna, where the work begun by the Germans before the war is being continued.

## A NEW PYRAMID THEORY.

Mr. D. Davidson, who collaborated with the late Dr. Aldersmith in his mathematical researches in Egyptology, told the British Israel Congress on July 8 of his intention of shortly publishing a book dealing with mathematical problems of the Great Pyramid, in which his deductions will be in direct conflict with eminent mathematical authorities and those connected with the British Museum. The unsolved problems of the Great Pyramid, declared Dr. Davidson, absolutely uphold and substantiated the chronology of the Old Testament, and gave a revelation of the Bible in terms of modern science and thought. Sceptics, who for generations had been seeking a sign, ought now to be satisfied.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"A HISTORY OF PERSIA." By Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.M.G.; with 14 maps and 193 illustrations. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1921. £3 10s. net.)

II.—"MY TERM OFF." By Norman G. Brett James. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

## I.—PERSIA: PAST AND PRESENT.

The first attempt to trace the chequered annals of Persia was made in 1815 by Sir John Malcolm, whose work lacked scientific value owing to an entire absence of dates. Exactly a century later Sir Percy Sykes issued a history of Persia which enabled Western readers to view the sequence of events in the Middle East in due perspective, and realise the sweeping changes wrought by internecine war and foreign conquest during six millenniums. A second edition was called for the happenings of the last six years; and Sir Percy Sykes has supplied a public want by bringing his monumental history up to date. Persia occupies the western and largest portion of a tract which stretches between the valleys of the Tigris and the Indus. It is defined on three sides by a mountain barrier, and southwards by the Indian Ocean. The average elevation of this plateau is 4,000 feet above sea level; but it is broken by vast depressions which are uncultivable owing to the absence of water. Aridity is the outstanding feature in Persia's physical aspect. The annual rainfall recorded in four great cities is only 8.6 ins., comparing unfavourably with 39.5 over the British Isles and 27.6 in the district of Delhi. The Karun is its only navigable river, the others basing themselves in swamps or discharging into landlocked water. Buckle's unfinished "History of Civilisation" emphasised the influence of environment on history, and Sir Percy Sykes takes the same views with regard to Persia.

But for the high ranges, the whole plateau would be a desert; and conversely the size of the cities and the destiny of the population depend on the height and breadth of the range from which their water-supply is drawn (p. 9).

Persia has a variety of climates which it would be difficult to match elsewhere; and yet, taken as a whole, its atmosphere is delightfully invigorating. Given an adequate supply of water, every product of the temperate zone comes to perfection. Its mineral wealth passes calculation, and a petroliferous zone traverses the plateau from the Caspian to the Persian Gulf. But exploitation on a commercial scale has scarcely begun. Transit is hampered by vast deserts and mountain ranges; such traffic as exists is still carried on by pack-animals, and railways are in the womb of the future.

Organised society was born in riverine tracts whose soil is perpetually renewed by alluvial action. The Persian plateau, being virtually waterless, could not support a dense population; but it marches westwards with Mesopotamia, which is fertilised by the rivers Tigris, Euphrates and Karun. In prehistoric ages their delta was occupied by two warring races, the first known as Sumerian, the second of Semitic descent. In their habitat arose the Kingdoms of Sumer, Akkad, and Elam, which attained a high degree of civilisation. Sir Percy writes:—

All nations that have passed away must be tested at the bar of history by their deeds, and Sumer can face the ordeal without fear. The most important achievements of this great race which have come down the ages as a legacy to mankind are the invention of cuneiform writing—one of the greatest triumphs of the ancient world—and the code of laws on which that of Hammurabi (2123-2081 B.C.) was based. Nor is our indebtedness confined to these two great boons. We owe the beginnings of art and science to this hoary civilisation. The more the mists that hang over the past are lifted, the more clearly shall we discern how astronomy, medicine, and art were learnt by the Greeks from this ancient land. . . . Indeed, it is profoundly impressive to follow the archæologist deeper and deeper into the past of Sumer, and to find in the fourth millennium B.C. organised communities enjoying a civilisation which was even then clearly old (p. 71).

By dint of Semitic conquest, Sumer and Akkad were incorporated in the Babylonian Empire, which was conquered in its turn by Assyria in 732 B.C.; while Elam retained its independence until 645.

The destinies of our race are profoundly affected by changes in the physical environment and the tendency of population to outstrip the supply of food. The globe's surface is known to rise and fall almost rhythmically. Continents subside into the ocean, and, conversely, fertile tracts are rendered uninhabitable by desiccation. During the second millennium B.C., Central Asia was inhabited by a race of shepherds and cattle-breeders, who styled themselves "Aryans"—"Illustrious." Driven from their lush pastures by a gradual uprising of the soil, which dried up the rivers and severed the Caspian from the Polar Sea, they poured over Europe, the Middle East, and India in successive swarms. The newcomers were highly mobile, well organised for battle, and possessed a latent genius for the arts of peace. The branch which settled in Persia gave its name to the whole plateau, and to this day the inhabitants speak of their country as "Iran"—*the* Aryan land. The earlier immigrants worshipped nature-powers, and their belief was strongly tinged with animism. In the 7th century B.C., a creed took shape in Persia which ranks as a civilising power with Christianity and Mohammedanism. Its prophet was Zoroaster, whom Sir Percy Sykes believes to have been a historical personage. He spiritualised Aryan Mytus, and evolved a deity whose sublimity approaches that of Isaiah's God. "It was Zoroaster," he writes:—

who preached the Aryan belief in the immortality of the soul, and whose message of hope has surely come from the remote past along the whispering-gallery of time, and has influenced this twentieth century in which we live, both directly and indirectly. According to his teaching man, in the eternal combat between Good and Evil, is free to take his choice; is supported by the good spirits and assailed by the evil; but knows that, in the end, Good will triumph over Evil, just as the rain-cloud dispels drought. In my opinion it is difficult to improve on the tenets of this religion.

Man cannot live by bread alone: his higher nature craves for the stimulus of a militant religion. The history of the ancient world was thenceforth a struggle between the Aryans of the North and the Semites of the South, which ended in a victory for the Aryans, because they found inspiration in a pure and ennobling creed. A Medo-Persian Empire rose on the ruins of Assyria and Babylon. It came into collision with Hellas, which owed its brilliant rise to an infusion of Aryan blood. But Medo-Persian expansion westwards was checked by a temporary coalition of Greece's warring city states. Then the pendullum of conquest swung eastwards, and Persia was absorbed in "Alexander's far-flung empire." After his death it was conquered by the Parthians, a Scythian tribe which assimilated Aryan culture. Like the Ottoman Turks of a later age, they were valiant fighters, but destitute of administrative skill. So Parthia succumbed to the organised might of Rome. On its decline Persia regained independence, and flourished during three centuries under a native dynasty whose achievements are written large in history and legend. The Sassanian Kings rolled back the tide of Mongolian invasion, and withstood the decadent Roman Empire established at Constantinople. But hither-Asian soil was not fit for the good seed sown by Zoroaster. The realm which arose from his teachings went down before the fierce onslaught of Islam; and Iran became a province of the Khalifate. Such, in its barest outlines, is the story unfolded with masterly skill by Sir Percy Sykes. It is pregnant with lessons for an Empire far greater than those of Alexander and Noshirwan. On closing his first volume, one calls to mind the weighty words of a mid-Victorian writer:—

By exposing to our view the magnificent phantasma of great communities entombed and great conceptions buried with them, it weakens the too-prevalent temptation to overvalue ourselves and our age.

F. H. S.

*(The second volume will be reviewed in an early number of* THE NEAR EAST.—ED.)

## II.—A SCHOOLMASTER'S TOUR.

Captain Brett James begins his book by telling us that after nine years of teaching and a year or two before the war he spent three months in travelling in the countries round the Mediterranean, and he proceeds to give a plain, straightforward account of his visits to many of the Italian towns, to Athens and Constantinople, to the Holy Land, and to Cairo. The book is written in the form of letters, and he sets down in detail his impressions of all that he sees. There is nothing very original in his comments. The historical facts that he mentions in connection with the places which he explores are such as any other tourist of an inquiring

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mind and armed with a guide book would discover—his criticisms on art and architecture are not far reaching and are obviously not meant to be.

All through we feel the keen enjoyment of the traveller and the clear, quick understanding with which each new sight is grasped, and these facts, aided by his delightfully simple, well-balanced style of writing, make this unpretentious book of travel extremely pleasant to read. For those who have seen all that he described it will awaken pleasant memories without any desire to dispute and disagree, and those who have not seen will enjoy a tour with a companion who is always eagerly interested, often amusing and never dictatorial.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### The Egyptian Situation.

The *Manchester Guardian* of July 7 contains an article, written by an Egyptian Correspondent, on "Zaghloul Pasha and his Influence." It begins by relating how and whence Zaghloul Pasha has gained his power. But there are difficulties in his way—

A review of the situation, however, leads one to believe that Zaghloul may not possess all the trumps. The rabble are for any party which incites them to excesses, and their problem is mainly a police problem. A very strong section of the upper and thinking classes have enough political acumen to know that Egypt cannot wisely jump in one year, as Zaghloul would drive it to do, where the maturer races have arrived after three or more centuries of progressive experience. And they would like to see clearly whither they are going. The students, who have been allowed too much licence, will certainly prove a serious embarrasament to any future native Government, and there is a tendency all round, except among the leading Zaghloulites, to favour their repression. The recent Alexandria riots will probably prove to be not unconnected with Kemalist agents inciting the mob against the Greeks. The fellaheen, whose political knowledge is nil, but who suffered under the riots of 1919, and are, above all things, anxious about their future economic relations with their landlords—many of them extremely avaricious in the past—are not desirous of sudden change. And the principal Powers, whose peoples in Egypt constitute the bulk of the trading, technical, and professional classes, and who have important protective rights under the Capitulations which it is sought to abolish, will probably need much persuasion and adequate provision before they relinquish these rights. In the meantime, several of Zaghloul's principal adherents have been driven by his unreflecting extremism to support the farther-seeing policy of Adly Yeghen Pasha.

The writer continues with some comments upon the position of the Egyptian people:—

Well organised propaganda through committees and newspapers, with frequent demonstrations and the narrowing of the issue at each turn to one point easily understanded of the people, are the secrets of his public success. The Egyptian people in the meantime are generally as ignorant of the British and foreign point of view as can be. Many have only a very hazy and inadequate idea why the British are there at all They have no conception that the real problem for Egyptians does not exist now, but will arise after the projected change. They have little grasp of the ultimate problems of the country, of the questions of feeding a much-increased population, of the irrigation difficulty involved, of the larger army—even now unpopular—which must be maintained to protect the country against probable invaders, and the taxation which these and other necessary projects must bring. They do not understand that if the British were to quit the country their own peculiar dependence on foreign Powers for the financial and progressive elements of civilisation, and most of all their unique geographical position, would certainly involve them sooner or later in diplomatic trouble and its consequences to a small unwarlike race. The recent policy of training enough Egyptians to undertake the technical services of the State is yet in its infancy, and its results cannot be foreseen. The recent attempt to found a purely native bank has ended, as on previous occasions, in almost complete failure.

In the meantime modern Egypt, principally through foreign experts, enjoys the material benefit of European civilisation, and so thinks herself as good as the rest, without having yet shown any genius in adding to the common stock of knowledge or improvement of the common resources. Nor can she do so until she achieves such a measure of independence as is compatible with the limited political instincts, the pecular social development, and the geographical position of her people. Naturally, with the present lack of prevision, extravagant results are sometimes anticipated from so-called "complete independence." It is much as it was when the people of Turkey, after centuries of political ignorance and ineptitude, imagined that the Committee of Union and Progress would create a new heaven and a new earth by some new political magic; only to find in the sequel that the new trick was an old trick under a new name, which left them the sadder and the poorer. It is precisely the repetition of this calamity which those who love Egypt and know the delightful side of the Egyptian temperament—its humour, its courtesy, and its friendliness—must seek to avert. The establishment of a reasonable political settlement with England depends to a great extent on combating the insidious propaganda of the extreme Nationalists by finding some adequate means—which is not impossible—of putting the true facts of the case before the Egyptian people.

### Constantinople.

*The Times* of July 8 is very firm in its conviction that, in the present circumstances, Great Britain must not interfere between Greece and Turkey.

The position now is that if, after having refused the good offices of the Allies, the Greeks and the Turks will persist in fighting, their war is not our war. This must be said frankly in order that there should be no possibility of misunderstanding. And if the Greeks should lay to our charge an inconsistency between our present attitude and the encouragement the Allies at one time gave to their enterprise in Asia Minor, we can only remind them that we cannot have the same confidence in a Greece led by King Constantine as in a Greece led by our staunch and tried ally, M Venizelos. As far, then, as the conflict in Asia Minor is concerned, this country is and must remain neutral. Should the area of war extend to Constantinople or the Straits, where Great Britain has definite interests and obligations, the situation would be changed. So long as the Treaty of Sèvres remains unratified, or until it is replaced by some other agreement with regard to the status of Turkey, the responsibility for the protection of the Straits and of Constantinople, with its large and motley population, rests upon the Allies.

It then discusses the rather pusillanimous cry that Constantinople is in danger:—

The news now made public that, on the invitation of Mustapha Kemal, General Sir Charles Harington, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces at Constantinople, accompanied by Mr. Rattigan, the Acting British High Commissioner, is to meet the Nationalist leader at a Black Sea port to hear from him whatever proposals he may have to make, certainly shows that the Nationalists are not in the mood for an immediate advance on the Turkish capital. But, whatever the results of these conversations may be, we are convinced that there is little cause for alarm in regard to the safety of Constantinople. The forces at the disposal of the Allies should, in any case, be adequate for the defence of the city. At the same time, there can be no question of any offensive action on our part against the Kemalists. The only attitude of wisdom is one of resolute aloofness from the conflict in Asia Minor, combined with a readiness to exert our influence to bring about a satisfactory termination of a war that promises satisfaction to nobody concerned.

The social intercourse in the Y.M.C.A. at Alexandria, in Egypt, has done much to mitigate unrest. In a hut near the Square, where in May last machine-guns had to stop a riot, the *effendis* are fraternising with British troops, and over a hundred pay for the privileges which are free to the troops. A quite new spirit has been evoked by such social contact.


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## MUSICAL NOTES.

### A Bulgarian Singer.

Madame Todorova, who gave a vocal recital at the Æolian Hall on July 11, is, as far as I know, the first artist Bulgaria has sent to us since the war, but I hope that others will soon follow. Generally speaking, a foreign artist is sure of a welcome in this country, but there is one thing that we do like them to bring with them, and that is some music of their own land. Now Mme. Todorova's programme was made up wholly of Russian, Italian, and French *arie*, and of Russian and Italian songs—things that were well-known by the average concert-goer in London. I personally wish she had sung some Bulgarian folk-songs, and she would have won rather than lost attention had she introduced some Bulgarian composers. She has a voice of unusual power and of wide range, in which, however, there are certain inequalities; and, what was perhaps her chief failing, there was a rather consistent inclination to sing out of tune. I should imagine that this faulty intonation is due to her habit of forcing, a habit in which there was no need to indulge, seeing the natural volume of her voice. Her group of Russian songs, of which Moussorgsky's "Hopak" was the best, was her most capable achievement, though she certainly infused a well-poised fervency into Meyerbeer's "Ah, Mon Fils." In Pergolesi's "Se tu M'Ami" there was not nearly enough lightness; I doubt, indeed, whether her voice (which, by the way, is more mezzo-soprano than contralto) is suited to such dainty, elastic stuff as this. If one may end on a word of honest advice to this singer, who has great charm of manner and many potentialities, it is this: That in London the inclusion in one's programme of songs such as Godard's "Viens avec nous petite Vivandière," or of any of Tosti's, goes against the singer. These things can be done, I believe, in places like the Albert Hall, but not in those halls that are primarily devoted to art.

It should be noted that Mr. Ivor Newton, who in the accompaniment of Russian songs is superb, was excellent at the pianoforte.

### Mlle. Marie-Antoinette Aussenac.

In the playing of this Spanish pianist there is great charm, intimate, superficial, and deep. There was enough of different styles at her recital at the Steinway Hall on July 8 severely to test her—Franck's "Prelude, Chorale and Fugue," Chopin's B minor sonata, and some slighter things by Fauré and Granados—and it was, taking all in all, a very fine evening's playing. Her perception of the Franck work was both delicate and reverent, though I think her indulgence of *rubato* in the Prelude and Chorale robbed the music a little of its stateliness. With her Chopin there was nothing wrong at all—her tone in the Largo was magnifient, and the Scherzo was as exquisitely done as ever I have heard it. Why she chose to play the tiresome "Eight Variations on a Popular Russian Air," I cannot guess, for not even in her hands could they sustain much interest; but they were more than compensated for by some perfect playing in Corlot's arrangement of Fauré's "Fileuse." That waywardness in the use of *rubato* which was noticeable in the Franck was indulged with a freedom that I myself did not care for in the Spanish dance in G major of Granados, but one dare not say of so fine an artist as Mlle. Aussenac that she is wrong, one can merely and very modestly disagree with her.

### The Chamber Music Players.

I know of no similar organisation in the world to equal the Chamber Music Players (Albert Sammons, violin, Lionel Tertis, viola, Felix Salmond, 'cello, and William Murdoch, pianoforte). All of them are universally admired as individual artists, and in a quartet they are as near perfection as may be. At the Wigmore Hall on July 4 I heard them only in the last movements of Chausson's Quartet in A major, and in Holbrook's Quartet in G minor, and though neither of these is consistently a great work, the playing of them was a rarely moving experience. The tone, the finish, the spirit—all were excellent; so beautiful was their *ensemble* indeed, that one was under the spell of the loveliness of their performance.

### A Youthful Pianist.

Miss Edna Iles, who gave a pianoforte recital at the Wigmore Hall on July 6, is a young artist of considerable technical achievements. Naturally her immaturity was less evident in a thing like Bax's "In a Vodka Shop" than in Liszt's Sonata in B minor, but even in the greater work there were an amount of boldness and an absence of affectation that won admiration. It is true that at present her pedalling is poor, and that she does not sufficiently realise the value of the inner parts, but her technique generally is quite facile enough for her to achieve much in time.

### An Italian Pianist.

I admire Busoni's pianoforte playing more than anyone else's in the world, but it was evident at the recital at the Wigmore Hall on July 8 of M. Franceso Ticciati, who is a pupil of Busoni, that the master's methods need perfection in their execution. Busoni can impose upon you a cold, clear outline of Chopin or of Schumann: M. Ticciati just fails to do this. For this recitalist's technique, though quite wonderful, is not infallible; his pedalling, though extremely efficient, does not play happily with huge masses of sound; and his cold, staccato manner does not always spring from the music. Liszt's Sonata was done admirably, but not overwhelmingly, so that its terrible purple patches were not obscured; Schumann's "Etudes Symphoniques" were gratefully cold in conception, but not architectural enough in design (the Finale, moreover, was badly played); while Chopin's Valse in A flat was a travesty, its nature being almost disregarded. But in spite of all these things there is much in M. Ticciati's intellectual playing that I immensely admire; he has a straightforward unaffectedness that was particularly engaging in Busoni's "Sonatina ad usum infantis," and in his "Turandots Frauengemach." Here what he felt himself was at one with what he had learned, and the result was a perfect interpretation.

ANDANTE.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

July 14 (New Style).
July 1 (Old Style).
Julkada 8, 1339, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 8, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Serbian Prince Regent has arrived in Paris.

The Maharaja of Patiala left on July 8 for Paris.

M. C. Constantinesco, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Italy. He will be absent several weeks.

Mr. B. W. Fagan, the son of Mr. P. J. Fagan, C.S.I., Financial Commissioner of the Punjab, has been taken into partnership by Mr. Edward Arnold, the well-known publisher.

The engagement is announced between Captain A. Russell Sienesi, M.C., 4th Gurkha Rifles, and Audrey Elisabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Candler, 8, Kensington Court Place, London.

The marriage arranged between Major D. O. W. Lamb, 10th Lancers, and Theana, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Stewart, Alipore Park, Calcutta, will take place on November 21, in Calcutta.

Sir George A. Touche, who resigned recently his position as a City Alderman, has presented to the Corporation for their art gallery at Guildhall Sir Edward Poynter's once-famous picture "Israel in Egypt."

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Woodhouse, Indian Army, and Mary, youngest daughter of Mrs. Murdoch and Robert Murdoch, deceased, of Broughty Ferry.

Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson has received from Gen. Gouraud, commanding the French Army in Syria and Cilicia, a message thanking him for his telegram of congratulation on the failure of the recent attempt on Gen. Gouraud's life.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Bombay in October, between Captain C. H. H. V. Orr, I.A., attached 1/1 Brahmans, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Orr, of Londonderry, Ireland, and Constance (Peggy), youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Dick, of Seacombe, Parkstone.

Tuesday was the anniversary of the birth of King Peter Karageorgevitch. A reception was held at the Yugoslav Legation by the Minister, M. Gavrilovitch. Among those present was Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, who conveyed the congratulations of King George V. A religious service was subsequently held at the Russian Church, Welbeck Street.

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The King has ordered that General Lord Byng, the new Governor-General of Canada, shall be a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

General Lyautey, who has arrived at Marrakesh, will proceed to Agadir, Tarudant, and the Sus region. The Sherifian military medal for Merit has been conferred on Glawi Basha, the Governor of Marrakesh.

General Blakeney, Director-General of State Railways and Telegraphs, and El Lewa Herbert Pasha, Director-General of the Egyptian Military School, have arrived at Marseilles from Alexandria on board the Sphinx, on their way to England.

The engagement is announced between Lieut. Philip George Brée, 66th Punjabis, and Olivia Mercy, younger daughter of the late Major-General Wauchope, of Flowerhill, Crieff, Perthshire, and of Mrs. Wauchope, Hill House, Saltwood, Kent.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Cecil George Graves, M.C., the Royal Scots, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Graves, and Irene Helen, youngest daughter of the late H. W. J. Bagnell, I.C.S., and of Mrs. Bagnell, Oulton Lodge, Aylsham, Norfolk.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Arthur Kenneth Norris, Indian Army, Royal Military College, Camberley, second son of the late A. J. Norris, of Banstead, and Elsie, youngest daughter of the late Colonel Robert Johnston, and widow of Captain E. Carlton Baker, Royal Engineers.

On July 11 the Egyptian Official Mission arrived in London. Its chief members are the Egyptian Prime Minister, H.E. Sir Adly Pasha Yeghen, K.C.M.G. (president), H.E. Sir Hussein Pasha Rushdi, G.C.M.G., H.E. Ismail Pasha Sidky, H.E. Mohammed Pasha Shafik, and H.E. Youssef Pasha Soliman. Experts on different matters and secretaries are accompanying the mission.

The engagement is announced of Major Cyril Alexander Murray, D.S.O., the King's Own Scottish Borderers, only son of Lieut.-Colonel Cyril Murray, C.B., M.V.O. (late Indian Army), and Mrs. Murray, 3, Artillery Mansions, S.W., and Marjorie Lilias, younger daughter of the late Dr. Jennings Milles, F.R.C.S., of Shanghai, and Mrs. Jennings Milles, 8, Nevern Road, S.W.

Last week, at a meeting of the City of London Corporation, it was unanimously resolved to confer the Freedom of the City on his Highness the Maharao of Cutch and the Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, India's representatives at the Imperial Conference. A similar compliment was paid to the Maharaja of Bikanir and Lord (then Sir Satyendra) Sinha when they attended the Conference in 1917.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in August, between John Ford Sale, Indian Civil Service, only son of the late Colonel M. T. Sale, C.M.G., R.E., and of the late Mrs. Sale, of Staffa Lodge, Guildford, and Zara, youngest daughter of the late Herbert Clogstoun, C.S.I., Indian Civil Service, Madras, and of Mrs. Clogstoun, of 34, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court, S.W.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has appointed Mr. Pran Krishna Parija, B.Sc. (Calcutta), B.A. (Cantab.), to the Indian Educational Service, to be Professor of Botany at the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack.

It has been announced in the *London Gazette* that the dignity of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath had been conferred on Admiral the Hon. Sir Stanley Cecil James Colville, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O. It will be remembered that Admiral Colville, as a lieutenant and commander, saw much service in Egypt and the Sudan. In the latter rank he commanded the flotilla on the Nile during the advance of the Egyptian Army, under the late Earl Kitchener, on Dongola, being severely wounded. For this service he was promoted to captain and received the C.B. As a captain he served as Chief of Staff, Mediterranean.

**Travellers to the Near East**

Can obtain all information as to the journey from
**Continental Traffic Department,**
**Victoria Station (S.E. & C.R.), S.W.1.**

## MRS. ALEC. TWEEDIE'S IMPRESSION SKETCHES.

The exhibition of impression sketches which Mrs. Alec. Tweedie held last week at the Alpine Club Gallery, Conduit Street, should have been of peculiar interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST, for the majority of the subjects were taken from Egypt, the Sudan, Syria, India, and Palestine. It was not really so much an exhibition of pictures as the publication of what the author called "impression sketches," made, she tells us in a curiously individual preface to her catalogue, with four brushes only. In this catalogue, after relating the difficulties under which her sketches were done, Mrs. Alec-Tweedie turns her intelligent and elliptical pen to politics, giving breezy vent to views which may or may not affect favourably the reception of her art. Having written seven pages which, for all their vivacity, cannot be called modest, she concludes: "After two years in Eastern lands I feel that Britishers made India and Egypt, so let us keep them; but let us leave all the other places to keep themselves."

Mrs. Alec. Tweedie's talent has enabled her always to retain the vividness of the scenes she has depicted, and her general management of colour is happily managed; what we do not always feel is the reality behind the impression. Curiously enough it is not in the Near Eastern subjects, which assuredly she knows as well as may be, that one feels her power most strongly; it is rather in a poetic visualisation like "Pallanza at Night" or in the realistic beauty of the "Hernani Wine Shop" that talent is merged in genius, that the impression of things seen becomes an interpretation of things experienced. Her work, as we have indicated, is unequal; consider, for instance, her somewhat unconvincing architecture with her boldly successful treatment of the sea. But in all her sketches there is undeniable interest, and this exhibition has once more proved the astonishing, perhaps unparalleled, versatility of Mrs. Alec. Tweedie.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

A message received by the Foreign Office states that the Albanian Government has resigned.

Zaghloul Pasha's organ, *Al Nizam*, has been suspended for six months for having defamed the Sultan of Egypt.

A telegram from Bucharest states that the Roumanian Chamber passed the new Agrarian Reform Bill on July 9.

Writing from Sofia on July 7 a correspondent says:—"Another horribly cold spell is on us, and my office has the heating on this morning."

The British Danube flotilla will pay an official visit to Belgrade on July 19. Preparations are under way for a great Anglo-Serb celebration.

The preliminary report of the census of Malta and its dependencies shows, according to Reuter, that the population on April 24 last was 24,680.

Prince Aziz Hassan left Egypt on July 8 at the request of the military authorities, and other notables have been warned to moderate their political activities.

According to a Reuter telegram from Lisbon, a commission has been appointed to settle various questions outstanding between Portuguese India and British India.

The Smyrna correspondent of *The Times* reports the arrival there of the Queen of the Hellenes on July 7. Her Majesty intends to work in the military hospitals.

The Bulgarian Government has addressed a request to the Reparation Commission asking to be allowed to postpone payment of all sums on account of reparations for a period of three years.

According to information received in official quarters in London Serbian troops have occupied all the Gashi and Krasnitch country in Northern Albania, as far as the River Drin, and it is feared that they may even cross over into the Puka.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON."*
*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1921.


## HOT WEATHER DIPLOMACY.

The Turkish problem appeared to have taken a distinct turn for the better when it was announced that a meeting between General Harington, the British Commander-in-Chief in Constantinople, and Mustapha Kemal Pasha had been arranged. An inquiry, it was stated, had been received from the latter as to whether General Harington could meet him, and a reply was at once sent suggesting that the meeting should take place on board a British man-of-war at a Black Sea port. General Harington was to be accompanied by Mr. Rattigan, British Acting High Commissioner, and together they were prepared to listen to Mustapha Kemal Pasha's views, without actually entering into definite negotiations. A meeting of this nature would have proved a natural and excellent preliminary to an understanding between Great Britain and Nationalist Turkey. On receiving the British reply, Mustapha Kemal seems to have considered it necessary to make his position clear in writing, and sent a communication which has been variously described as unsatisfactory, as arrogant, and as misrepresenting facts. The Nationalist leader, taking up, no doubt, a phrase in the British Note, pointed out that the first suggestion had come from the British side, and went on to indicate the lines on which he would be prepared to make an agreement with Great Britain or the Allies. For reasons which are not apparent, the British Government is understood to have taken exception to the attempt to fasten upon it the responsibility for suggesting an exchange of views, and it has declared its inability to accept the terms set forth by Mustapha Kemal as a basis of the exchange of views. Accordingly the proposed meeting stands abandoned. It is difficult not to feel something akin to dismay over this mishandling of a favourable situation. The important thing was to get into personal touch with Mustapha Kemal, and it would have been entirely to the British Government's credit if it had made the first move. What actually happened was that a former officer in the British Army, still designated by his rank—Major Henry, D.S.O. —was visiting Anatolia on his own account, and was instructed by the British authorities in Constantinople to discuss with the Angora Government the subject of the British prisoners of war still held by them. Major Henry, and through him the British Government, gained the impression that the Angora authorities were anxious to effect a settlement and wished to lay their views before a British representative. The Angora Government, on its side, came to the conclusion that the British authorities were anxious to arrange a meeting with Mustapha Kemal. Whatever margin of error there was on either side or on both sides was a perfectly natural one, and was of no importance one way or the other. It is certainly unworthy of British diplomacy to "call off" the meeting on this paltry question. As for Mustapha Kemal's "conditions," it requires little imagination and even less knowledge of human nature to enable one to realise that the Nationalist leader's position is difficult. That a British Government with generations of experience of the Orient behind it should have allowed itself to be deterred from holding the meeting which both sides desire by a device that has been practised on the occasion of probably every single conference that has ever taken place must necessarily cause keen disappointment to those who are anxious for a speedy settlement of the Near Eastern question.

A strange obtuseness besets most of the discussions of the Turkish question. At the time of the Armistice the Allies had Turkey completely beaten and prepared to accept any terms. But not only did they refrain from imposing conditions of peace upon her; they also made it abundantly clear that they were at variance among themselves as to the terms that were to be imposed. Their vacillation paved the way for the Nationalist movement, and the treaty of peace was not finally drafted until Angora had become an important factor in the Near and Middle East. No better way of adding to its strength and consolidating its influence could have been found than that adopted by the Allies—the employment of Greece as the Allied mandatory in an attempt to bring the Nationalists to reason. The attempt failed; the completeness of the failure was recognised by the Allies, and as a result a Conference to be attended by Greeks and Turks was summoned to meet in London. Certain terms were presented for the acceptance of Greece and Turkey, tacitly admitting the justice of the Nationalist contention, but before either country could give them formal consideration, the war between the two was renewed. As is usual in such cases, each side blames the other. The Turks, it is alleged by the Greeks, were withdrawing troops from Cilicia, and in self-defence the Greek army had to resume the offensive; this version is, of course, repudiated by the Turks, who affect to regard the Greek resumption of hostilities as unprovoked. Whatever may be the rights of the matter, according to the Turkish point of view, the Greeks are the mandatories of the Allies, having occupied Smyrna in that capacity, and are at war with them. In these circumstances is it surprising that Nationalist Turkey should act *à la guerre comme à la guerre?* Its enemy is admittedly an implacable foe, and, with the Turks, belongs to a part of the world where war is not waged with kid gloves or according to drawing-room standards of seemly procedure. The Allies' protests of neutrality or academic aloofness, in view of the fact that Greece started the campaign on their behalf, are received with scepticism, and as the struggle continues—no doubt to the increasing embarrassment of the Turks—the latter are constrained to leave nothing undone, according to recognised war practice, that may prejudice the enemy. The anomalous position of Constantinople and the neutral zone protecting the Greek flank are bound to come under the notice of the Angora General Staff; but loud denunciations are heard of the wickedness of the Turk in not keeping one hand tied behind his back when he is being belaboured by the Allies' official executioner.

There is no need to labour the point; still less is it desirable to appear to justify Turkish intransigence. But we do urge a commonsense point of view, which will take into account the mistakes and anomalous acts of the Allies. The latter cannot have it both ways. Either they were right in regard to the Treaty of Sèvres, or they were wrong. If they were right, they spoiled their case by the London Conference; if they were wrong, they will not put themselves right until they remove the source of all the trouble, the pitting of the Greek Army against the Turks. Angora showed itself ready to send a delegation to London. It subsequently repudiated him, it is true; but it is only fair that this action should be viewed in the light of the renewed Greek offensive. An opportunity of negotiating direct with Mustapha Kemal Pasha has now presented itself. Is it to be rejected over a petty dispute as to who did not take the right step first? Our French and Italian Allies, it will be noted, took umbrage at the prospect of an official meeting between a British representative and Mustapha Kemal Pasha, and were careful to emphasise the fact that General Harington would represent Great Britain only and not the Allied Powers. Who will say that this superfluous *caveat* may not also have influenced Mustapha Kemal in the tenour of his reply to the British Note? In any case, we are confident that the British public looks for a speedy settlement of the Turkish *impasse*, and will view with displeasure a mere diplomatic indulgence in riding off at a tangent from the main issue, which is an agreement with Nationalist Turkey. Nor is the same public likely to take as seriously as our authorities Mustapha Kemal Pasha's attempts "to keep his tail up" as long as possible.

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# SIR MURDOCH MACDONALD.

## AN UNCONVENTIONAL PORTRAIT.

(From a Correspondent in Cairo.)

It would be incorrect to say that Cairo will miss MacDonald; he was more often in his office than in Society; but he will be missed by Egypt, or rather something will be missed that represented MacDonald. People will find the official world a little less easy to get on with; and he will be particularly missed by a number of Egyptians. I suppose that works, whenever they start again, will get on pretty well, but they are not so likely to get on by leaps and bounds, which was MacDonald's incorrigible way. And, if one only knew, the State archives will sparkle a good deal less for want of his notes and letters, which were often little masterpieces of common sense.

He was one of the rare business men in the Government; he could always be trusted to make a good bargain, though official red tape gave him less freedom to use this talent than he would have had in private business. His touch is firm but very light. I was present at an interview once, during the war, between a group of officials, who had got into their heads that they were being "had" by the contractor for a certain work, and the contractor, who felt that he was being treated with a suspicion he did not deserve. Relations were strained, and MacDonald, who was running out the roads and light railway lines east of the Canal towards the Turks, was called in to see what he could do. He heard what the officials had to say, and then turned to the contractor. "These gentlemen," he said, "want more information about your prices. They are afraid you may not be allowing yourself a sufficient profit." The rest was easy. I heard him say to an acquaintance of his in business: "Well, I suppose you've made your fortune out of this war." "I might have done," was the answer, "if I hadn't met you."

He is very fond of a balance-sheet. Those annual statements of accounts from clubs, churches and charities which many of us throw into the waste-paper basket with their wrappers untorn, always attract his eye, and are given a rapid but critical perusal. One of the dependencies of the Ministry of Public Works is the Cairo Opera House, built by the Khedive Ismail to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal. Soon after he became Adviser, MacDonald was taken round to see the theatre, which has a very interesting musical library and an enormous wardrobe. Among other curiosities they pointed out sundry old accounts for frocks and frills for long-since-disappeared dancers. To the astonishment of the custodian, who no doubt supposed his visitor to be viewing the documents with suitable feelings regarding the fleeting nature of human beauty, he pulled a pencil out of his pocket and corrected a figure in one of the additions.

Before returning to London he has left behind him the striking outline of a new north-east quarter for Cairo, and the land is already being levelled and the streets laid out. The chief thoroughfare joins the El Hakim and Barkuk Mosques, and is specially planned to give full views of these fine monuments. Other roads are designed with vistas of the Citadel and one with a dropping view of the Pyramids. Is it too much to hope that no orderly official will arise to spoil the splendid irregularity of MacDonald's plan? I believe he has left it in excellent hands at present.

The building of the Menufia Main Regulator in seven months in 1910 was, for its kind and size, the quickest piece of work ever seen in Egypt, and its completion before the flood prevented a disaster. Esna Barrage was built under his control, and he was on the Aswan Dam from the beginning. His chief personal contribution to the Dam was its apron, or protective work. Sir Benjamin Baker was particularly pleased with this, and I am told the masonry has remarkably justified his opinion.

MacDonald is the author of the inscription on the Aswan Dam:—

"This Dam was designed and built
by British Engineers.
Egyptians, assisted by Greeks,
excavated to the rock foundation
and built the rubble masonry.
Skilled Italian workmen
dressed and built the granite ashlar."

This is as plain and durable as the dam itself.

# CONCERNING KURDISH ETIQUETTE.

(From a Correspondent.)

The following notes have been compiled in the hope that they may assist the prospective traveller, whether he be bent on business or pleasure, over the thorny path of etiquette in a country where the "politeness of princes" is the very essence of its language and customs. The average educated Englishman is, I think, a naturally shy man, in that he has an inherent dread of committing a "bêtise" by word or by action; and to this is due the fact that he is, generally speaking, slower at picking up a foreign language than other people. He hates to be thought an ignoramus or impolite, and this often leads to a certain brusqueness of manner which is as often misinterpreted as rudeness. The writer has unpleasant memories of occasions when, through ignorance, he broke one or other of the rules of etiquette, and it is in the hope that others may be spared similar memories that these notes are penned.

On arriving at a Kurdish village, or encampment, you can usually take it for granted that you are a welcome guest, and without further ado enter the tent, or house, of the headman. An Englishman may safely give the usual Mohammedan salutation of "Salaam aleikum," to which the host replies with the customary "Aleikum es salaam." In Kurdistan, Christians and Jews, instead of "Salaam aleikum," say "Good morning" or "Good afternoon"—in Kurdish "Subaita bekhair" and "Aiwareta bekhair"—to which the host replies, "Qowi bekhair salamat." The host then invites the guests to be seated, using the formula "Karam beka."

In most Oriental rooms the seating accommodation consists of cushions or divans laid on the floor around the sides of the room; and in sitting down you must do so tailor-wise, and not with your feet towards your hosts. If, however, the tightness of your riding boots or any physical disability makes this a form of torture, you must apologise by some such expression as "Please excuse my Farangi habits."

When seated, look towards the various people in order of precedence, raise the right hand level with the face, and say "Marhabba"; the reply to which is, "Marhabba mizhta minata" ("I am much obliged to you").

Cigarettes will now be produced and coffee, which it is impolite to refuse. No invitation will be extended to "stay and take pot luck," because it is taken for granted that you, as guest, are invited and that the best the house can provide will be prepared for your delectation. The interval of waiting while the feast is prepared is frequently long and trying, but cigarettes and more coffee fill in the period. Before the meal is served, and again afterwards, a basin, serviette, and possibly soap, will be brought to you as you sit cross-legged, and a second servant will pour water over your hands from a lordly ewer. When all have washed their hands, the meal will be served. In all probability a large brass tray will be set in the midst containing the first course of a steaming pile of rice, and a dish of eggs fried in butter. Opposite each guest will be placed an enormous "Chuppattie," folded like a serviette. As guest, it will be your "honour" to start the round by breaking a piece off your chuppattie and dipping it in the dish of eggs; but, above all, don't eat with your left hand. Course will follow course with appalling frequency, but each must be sampled, despite a probable feeling of intense repletion after about the third.

When you wish to take your leave, say to your host: "Be khatir āwā," or for an important personage. "Be kimm mat āwā." The host replies, using one of the following three formulas:—(1) "Be khair hātī" (Persian "Kosh madid"). (2) "Sar sara hati." (3) "Sārā chaw hātī."

A more elaborate and ceremonious dialogue, on parting, is as follows:—

Guest: "Izn ā min beda az bechim" ("With your permission, I will be off").

Host: "Av rū suba nacha" ("Don't go to-day, or even to-morrow").

Guest: "Ishā min gelleka az gellek mamnān zhé 't'ā' busy").

Host: "Ishtaghfar ul illah min ché kirrīa tū zhe min minaté dagirri" ("God forbid, what have I done that you should be obliged to me?").

Guest: "Be khatir awa" ("Good-bye").

Host: "Be khair hātī" ("Your coming was auspicious").

If your host has entertained you to a considerable extent, and you wish to express your thanks warmly, use the following formula: "Az zhé wa gellek mamnūn būm. Hawa gellek ajiat haisha" ("I am very much indebted to you. I am afraid I have put you to great inconvenience").

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Having once left the tent or house of the headman, it is not etiquette to return to it without an invitation. A request should be prefaced with "Karam beka" ("Have the goodness to"). For "thank you," use "Tashakar dakum." In most cases, however, it is sufficient to raise the head in token of recognition. The response to "Tashakur dakum" is "Be khair hati." Educated Kurds, however, often say "Ishtaghfar ul illah."

When you are paid a return visit, welcome your guest with "Be khair hati." "Sar sara hati" and "Sara chaw hāti" are used for very big personages, or by inferiors to superiors. The guest replies: "Khudé zhé ta rāzi bit az gellek zhe ta mamnūnam" ("May God bless you; I am much obliged to you").

It should always be remembered that the senior by precedence takes the initiative in all matters of ceremonial and greeting.

# THE NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*July* 4.—Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. Ormsby-Gore that General Franks proceeded to Ismid with representatives of France, Italy, the United States, and the Turkish Red Crescent on June 28. He reported that the situation there is quiet, and the discipline of the Kemalist troops who entered the town on the morning of the 28th good.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. Aubrey Herbert that, contrary to rumours, the Greeks had not closed the Dardanelles to shipping.

*July* 5.—Mr. Wise asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether gold had been transferred from Vienna to London on account of the Ottoman Debt; if so, what debt this gold goes against. Sir Robert Horne replied that under Article 210 of the Treaty of St. Germain the Austrian Government has to deliver for safe custody to such authority as the principal Allied and Associated Powers may designate, the sum in gold deposited in the Austro-Hungarian Bank in the name of the Council of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt as security for the first issue of Turkish Government currency notes. The gold in question is being transferred to London. It will not be credited to the Reparation Commission.

Mr. Fisher informed Lord Robert Cecil that at the recent meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva, which sat from June 17 to June 28, the Council was invited by Albania to send out a Commission of Enquiry for the purpose of examining certain alleged grievances against the Greeks and the Yugoslavs, arising in point of fact out of the unsettled state of the Albanian frontiers. The Council decided to inform the Albanian delegate that, as the Council of Ambassadors was already deliberating at Paris on the question of the frontiers of Albania, it was hardly possible for the Council of the League to embark upon an identical enquiry at this moment. At the same time the Albanians were informed that the Council would carefully watch the development of the question, and all three parties were strongly urged to abstain from any hostile or provocative acts pending a decision by the Council of Ambassadors. The Albanian Delegate declared his intention of laying the case of Albania before the Assembly of the League at its meeting next September.

*July* 6.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Colonel Wedgwood that on June 29 the Commander-in-Chief in Constantinople arrested fifty-two undesirable persons, of whom eighteen belonged to the Russian Trade Delegation. Of these eighteen persons, nine were released on the same day and nine deported. He understands that the offices of the Trade Delegation were searched, but has received no particulars as to how the contents of those offices were disposed of. General Sir C. Harington's action was necessitated by the discovery of a plot to produce a revolution in Constantinople, which was to begin with his own assassination. The Commander-in-Chief is responsible for the maintenance of order and the administration of martial law in Constantinople, and the measures taken by him in this case seem to be entirely justifiable. A note was received yesterday from M. Krassin in which he asks for an explanation of the case, and the reply is under consideration.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir Charles Yate that the disbandment of the South Persia Rifles had now been decided upon owing to the refusal of the Persian Government to take the force over, and British trade and interests would have no further guarantees in Southern Persia than they now have in the North. H.M. Government are at present considering the question of what is to become of the guns, stores, animals, etc., supplied by the Indian Government, and the arrangements for securing the safety of the British officers and men attached to the force.

Mr. Montagu informed Major Glyn that the sanctioned estimate for the new Imperial capital at Delhi stands at present at 9 crores 28 lakhs, but that a revised estimate is under preparation, which is expected to amount to 12 crores 92 lakhs. The actual expenditure up to March 31, 1921, was 4 crores 33 lakhs. None of the Government offices had, so far as he was aware, been completed yet. The earliest date at which it is expected that the work on the new city, including the Viceregal residence and the secretariat buildings, will be completed is 1926.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. Aubrey Herbert that so far from wishing to exclude Bulgaria from an economic access to the Ægean, the principal Allied Powers elaborated a special Treaty guaranteeing this outlet to Bulgaria. He added, however, that the Black Sea ports of Bulgaria were more suitable, and have always been more extensively used than others for the export of Bulgarian produce.

*July* 7.—Commander Kenworthy asked the Prime Minister whether the full text of the Greek reply to recent Allied representations had been received, and what steps were being taken to end the hostilities between Greece and Turkey or to limit their scope and area. The Prime Minister replied that the Greek reply just received was of a simply negative character, and did not in itself call for immediate further action on the part of H.M. Government. While for the moment no further steps seemed open to H.M. Government to end or circumscribe hostilities, no opportunity of doing so would be overlooked.

Questioned by Mr. Shaw, Mr. Chamberlain stated that the British Mediterranean Fleet was about to visit Constantinople in the ordinary course. No fresh instructions had been issued by the Admiralty, and he had no reason to anticipate hostilities.

## SOFIA AND ANGORA.

The Bulgarian Legation in London has sent us the following official denial which it received on July 7 from the Bulgarian Foreign Office:—

Insinuations and rumours are still being circulated regarding the Bulgarian Mission supposed to have been deputed to Mustapha Kemal, the relations between Bulgaria and the Soviet Government of Russia and Kemal Pasha, the arrival at Varna of a Bolshevist Mission, the alleged visit of certain Bulgarian statesmen to the ex-King Ferdinand, and the sale in the streets of Sofia of photographs of Mustapha Kemal.

We are authorised to deny in the most formal and categorical manner all those entirely false statements, spread in order to discredit the Bulgarian Government before European public opinion and the Governments of the Allied Powers. We do not exclude the possibility that certain Bulgarians travelling as private individuals may have crossed to Asia Minor from Constantinople.

The Bulgarian Government, firmly resolved to maintain the most strict neutrality in the conflict between Greece and Turkey, has never entrusted to any delegate whatsoever a mission to Angora, such as the one alluded to above. In view of the critical position of the Bulgarian nationals living in Russia under Soviet rule, the Bulgarian Government had the intention of sending a delegate there for the purpose of obtaining some alleviations of their distress. But owing to all the above insinuations, the Bulgarian Government did not put this into execution.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

***Bulgarian Reparations.***

A report is current to the effect that the Bulgarian Government has applied to the Allies to be allowed to postpone the payment of reparations of any kind for a period of three years. In view of the fact that the leva has still further depreciated until the pound sterling was worth towards the end of last week 460 levas, it would not be surprising if the report were true, as at this rate of exchange foreign payments must become almost out of the question. It is evident, however, that the Allies will not feel justified in acceding to the Bulgarian request without further inquiry into the collapse of the leva. There is a strong feeling in Bulgaria itself that recent legislation is at the root of the trouble, because people with money have been seized with a feverish anxiety to get as much as they can out of the country before it is entirely confiscated. M. Stambolisky, it is to be feared, is experiencing the disadvantage of having the brains of the country in political opposition to him. The retention of a Coalition Government would have helped towards the bulk of the parties pulling together in the interests of the State, and Bulgaria might have been spared the amateur mistakes or worse of such a body as the Consortium.

***Britain and Oil.***

The British position with regard to oil is ably expounded in the memorandum sent by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Washington and issued last week in the form of a White Paper. The salient portions of the memorandum are reproduced elsewhere, and it is therefore unnecessary for me to deal with them in detail here. The memorandum owes its being to the fact that the attitude of Great Britain in respect of oil supplies has been the subject of grave misunderstanding in America in connection with the mandate for Mesopotamia. We need not enquire too closely into the fundamental causes of the misconception. The fact remains, however, that the idea gained wide prevalence that this country aimed at an oil monopoly. The absurdity of such a notion on the part of a country whose production of oil amounts to something like 80 per cent. of the world's supplies scarcely needs emphasis, but when individuals or a nation have an *idée fixe* it is difficult to persuade them to be logical, and the view that an island country, whose supremacy had been built up on coal, might very naturally be expected to show more than a little concern about its supplies of the world's future fuel, does not appear to have entered into America's consideration. The memorandum will, it may be hoped, have had the effect of showing the position from another angle. The oil areas within the Empire are the subject of detailed comment, and it is shown that our oil production is limited, and that further there is no ground for the belief that there is any general policy of the exclusion of foreigners, which disposes of one of the principal American grievances. We have set up no definite barriers in the British Empire in regard to the exploitation of oilfields, and it is only natural that we should expect to be allowed to play our part in developments elsewhere. As the memorandum aptly states in conclusion, "It is becoming increasingly obvious . . . that there is ample scope for the activity and enterprise of all nations in searching for and bringing into use the world's stores of petroleum as yet undiscovered."

***Burmah Oil Prospects.***

The annual meeting of the Burmah Oil Company, which will be found elsewhere in this issue, was once again rendered notable by an exhaustive review of the oil industry by the chairman, Sir J. T. Cargill. The most important part of his speech was that in which he dealt with the future of the company. As usual he was exceedingly cautious, while admitting that he was no pessimist as far as the company was concerned. He pointed out that there was one extremely favourable feature in the current year, the termination of the excess profits duty, but he expressed astonishment to find how many people had jumped to the conclusion that supposing the company's net profits for 1921 were the same as for 1920 the whole sum would be saved to the company, and he pointed out that it would be subject to the deduction of 6s. income-tax and 1s. corporation tax, equal to £630,000, so that the net saving would be £1,170,000. Against this he explained there would have to be placed the reduction in profits through the fall in the prices of petrol, paraffin wax, and candles, the fall in the Indian exchange, and higher working costs. "How far the one will go against the other," he added, "it is impossible for me to attempt to forecast at present, but I feel that we can with every confidence look forward both to satisfactory trading results for the current year and to the future of the company for many years to come."

***Phœnix Oil Progress.***

Mr. Edward Manville, M.P., chairman of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, has recently visited the company's properties in Roumania, and his report, which will be found in another column in this issue, is calculated to give the shareholders justifiable satisfaction, for from what he says it is evident that the company is making excellent progress with the work of development. Mr. Manville, who pays a notable tribute to the company's staff, expresses himself as greatly impressed with the prospects. The progress made may be judged from the fact that of the twenty-three wells that were plugged during the war, fourteen have been freed, and the production from them has already been practically doubled. The work of restoring the others is proceeding, and ten new wells are to be finished this year, while the refinery at Ploesti has been rebuilt and other developments are taking place.

***Bank of British West Afr ca.***

Despite the trade depression, which has been particularly severe in the area covered by the Bank of British West Africa, the report of the bank records a further advance during the past year. The net profit amounted to £139,803, as compared with £125,147 for 1920 and £83,767 for 1919, and the available balance is £170,180, as against £147,827. Of this amount the interim dividend of 4 per cent. absorbed £32,000, and it is proposed to utilise a further £48,000 in a final distribution of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year. This compares with 10 per cent. for the previous year, but the present dividend will be paid on a capital increased by £400,000 by the issue of shares to the London County, Westminster and Parr's Bank, the National Provincial and Union Bank, and the Standard Bank of South Africa. £20,000 has been utilised for the payment of the stamp duty on the new capital, £20,000 is allocated to the premises account and the bank's insurance fund, and the carry-forward is £50,180, as against £30,377. In the circumstances the report should give the shareholders every cause for satisfaction, suggesting as it does the promise of great achievements in favourable conditions.

***Banking at Constantinople.***

An interesting development at Constantinople has been the establishment of a Bankers' Clearing House, which was opened for business early this month. The lack of facilities afforded by such an institution has always been a serious handicap to the banks in the Turkish capital, and developments resulting from the war have naturally increased the disadvantage of having to convey large sums, mainly in the form of small notes, through the streets. The Imperial Ottoman Bank has, I understand, taken a leading part in the scheme, and as a temporary arrangement has provided office accommodation for the Clearing House.

COMMENTATOR.


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# Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

## GREECE.

ATHENS, June 25.

**Shortage of Machinery and Motors.**

The requirements of the Greek market for machinery and agricultural implements are very great to-day, and will increase considerably with the conclusion of the war in Asia Minor, which has deprived the country of so much labour required for cultivation of the lands.

New Greece, and particularly Thrace, is in great need of agricultural implements such as ploughs, reapers, threshing machines, etc. Up to the present the farmers in these regions have been using instruments of a very old type, and it goes without saying that many thousand implements of a modern type will be required when the war is over and the waste lands in Macedonia and Thrace are about to be cultivated. Greece is also in need of incubators. A small number of these were imported into this country six months ago and distributed to various farmers in the provinces, but a good many more are now required.

The Greek market also offers a great opening for large motor-cars or omnibuses. In view of the lack of means of communication in some of the provinces, the demand for these cars and for motor lorries is very great. The lack of motor lorries is particularly felt in the island of Crete, which, although a very important centre of production, nevertheless lacks railways to transport its produce.

The importation of machinery, implements, etc., into Greece has diminished considerably lately, owing to the unfavourable exchange. There is no doubt, however, that there will soon be some good openings in this country for British firms, and manufacturers should therefore lose no time and spare no efforts to secure orders before the Germans renew their pre-war activities and capture the greater part of the business.

**General News.**

A decree has also been published recognising the establishment of a Greek Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

A royal decree has been published ratifying the commercial and navigation treaty concluded between Greece and the United States of America in October, 1920.

According to a telegram received from the Greek Chamber of Commerce in Alexandria, the unsold stocks of Greek tobacco in that town amount to 57,000 bales.

At the adjudication for 34,000 tons of wheat which took place recently at the Ministry of Supplies, the lowest bidders were the firm of L. Dreyfus, of Paris, and the "Union Bulgare." The former will supply the Greek Government with 19,000 tons American wheat, Manitoba No. 2, at the price of 7 dollars 41 cents c.i.f. any Greek port, or 7 dollars 51 cents c.i.f. any two Greek ports. The "Union Bulgare" has secured an order for 15,000 tons of Bulgarian wheat at the price of 82 French francs per 100 kilos c.i.f. any Greek port, or 82.75 francs c.i.f. any two Greek ports.

The Inter-Allied Commission in Paris has authorised Greece to take delivery of various pharmaceutical products which have been allotted to her by Germany against her share of the indemnity. These products are of a value of over five million drachmæ. The first instalment, representing 42 tons, of a value of 1,200,000 drachmæ, will be taken over by Greece immediately.

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## ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 28.

**Miscellaneous.**

The privileges of the law for the protection of national industries have been extended to some of the industries in Transylvania.

The export tax for cattle from Transylvania has been reduced from 250 lei to 100 lei per head, plus a commission of 20 lei.

Ten locomotives and 40 tank cars of the 150 locomotives and a large number of oil-tank cars ordered in Germany by Roumania were despatched from the Rheinische Metalwaren Works, Dusseldorf, on the 14th inst.

The contract between the Roumanian Government and the Brutinel Group for the supply of locomotives has been cancelled on the proposal of M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance.

The Cabinet has made arrangements for the recovery of all material taken by the Germans during the occupation. A special commission will start for Germany shortly for the identification and retransportation of same.

## CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, June 14.

**Torrential Rains.**

The first week in June was marked by a rainfall during several days which exceeded in quantity and violence anything that "the oldest inhabitant" can remember in a summer month. It has done very serious damage in the Nicosia and Morphou plains and throughout the island. The torrents swept away several bridges and parts of the railway, damaged roads, and interrupted traffic. Many sheep were killed, and a few persons lost their lives, while the water invaded village houses, carrying much property down the swollen streams. Many riverside gardens, with their summer produce, were destroyed, and much grain on the threshing-floors and in sheaves was lost. The total destruction will be very considerable.

In spite of heavy losses from late rains, the cereal harvest should be a good one. As regards carobs (locust beans) the prospect is exceptionally good, and should no abnormal heat prevail before mid-August the crop should be a very heavy one. Meanwhile, the general trade depression continues, with great want of money. The Government is considering the removal of restrictions on export of animals and various articles which cause much complaint.

**Irrigation Projects.**

In reply to a question by Irfan Bey in the Legislative Council as to whether fresh works for water storage were in contemplation, the Chief Secretary stated that arrangements were being made for a visit by Major W. M. Ellis—formerly Engineer-in-Chief in Madras—who will examine local conditions and report. He is expected to arrive at the end of August, and to remain six months, or more if necessary. He will examine the existing reservoirs, constructed by Mr. Medlicott (also from India), as provided for by Mr. J. Chamberlain when Colonial Secretary. The matter is, of course, one of the very greatest importance for Cyprus. The reservoirs referred to have not been a success, and when Professor Wyndham Dunstan reported on the question of cotton cultivation in Cyprus some years ago, he strongly advised that no future works should be carried out except under the very highest expert advice that could be obtained. There can be no doubt as to the wisdom of this advice, and the Government and Colonial Office will no doubt proceed with the greatest caution in the matter.

It must be confessed that the advice given by experts who have been invited to report on matters affecting island agriculture has not, as a rule, been wisely followed, chiefly, no doubt, owing to a policy of economy. But then the island was not, as it now is, a British possession.

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It is estimated that the output of Naxos emery for 1921 will be 11,268 tons.

Burmah Oil.—The letters of allotment in respect of the Burmah Oil Company 8 per cent. preference issue have been posted.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended June 10 amounted to £E7,322; total for year, £E63,041. For the corresponding period of last year, receipts amounted to £E10,340 and £E80,239.

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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## III.—TURKEY.

We give the following extracts from the report of Captain C H. Courthope-Munroe, Commercial Secretary to the British High Commission, Constantinople on the trade and economic conditions of Turkey in 1920 :—

Throughout the year 1919 trade in Turkey was in general booming, and very large fortunes were realised both by retailers and wholesalers. During the opening months of the year under review the repercussion on the world's markets for high prices ruling for commodities since the Armistice had not commenced, and trade for the first three months was brisk. Importers, encouraged by the previous year, increased their orders in proportion to their resources, and to the full limit of the normal capacity of absorption of this market, with the result that when the moment arrived to take delivery of their merchandise the traders, large and small, found difficulty in paying for their goods. In addition, early in the spring of 1920 General Denikin's defeat in Southern Russia had an adverse effect on commerce of all kinds. The meteoric victories of his successor, General Wrangel, did little to relieve the situation, and his eventual collapse removed all hope of a revival of trade in the near future. A great quantity of goods despatched to Turkey, although in the first place consigned to the Customs House in Constantinople, were in reality intended for transit to South Russia, and were only suitable for that market. The débâcle in this part of the world caused a very considerable congestion of goods in Constantinople, many of the wholesale houses became overstocked, and some of the banks who had advanced money on very small margin were also seriously inconvenienced. Apart from the legitimate trade of the regular importer, there were also very large speculative imports on the easiest of all markets, a steadily rising home market, by certain individuals of no special knowledge of the lines they were handling, and it was not an uncommon thing for a metal merchant to be offering silk textiles, or a textile firm to be offering paints or oils, and a gunsmith linoleum.

### Effect of Nationalist Rebellion.

The commercial situation became considerably worse during the month of May on the development of the Nationalist rebellion in Anatolia against the established Government. This party in March occupied practically the whole of the chief railway line of importance, *i.e.*, the Anatolian Railway, which runs from Haidar Pasha through the main towns in Anatolia into Syria, thus causing an almost complete breakdown of commerce with the interior. Shortly after this date the towns on the littoral of the Sea of Marmora and the Black Sea were occupied, either by brigand bands or regular forces of the rebels, and the export trade thence to Constantinople also ceased. In view of the high and rising prices of the commodities which prevailed in Europe during the earlier part of the year, the local effect of these conditions were not at first seriously felt. Although the local markets were closed, the commercial community hoped and believed that these conditions were only temporary. It was generally considered that peace could not be long delayed, and the reopening of the interior markets would immediately bring relief. On the other hand, in view of the continued rise in prices in Europe, stocks which had been purchased earlier showed a profit on the prices ruling in the places of origin.

During the summer months, owing to the stagnation of import trade, goods, more especially textiles, lying in Constantinople were in many cases re-exported to the United Kingdom. At the same time numerous orders from Manchester and elsewhere intended for the Constantinople market were cancelled. Egyptian firms during the summer months were sending agents to this market to purchase Manchester goods, which, although originally imported from the United Kingdom, were cheaper here than they could be bought in England at that time.

Peace became more and more uncertain as the year advanced, added to which prices at home, which attained their maximum in April, fell with increasing rapidity until by the autumn the present economic crisis in the world's markets was reached. In the early autumn there were still large quantities of goods of every kind stored in the Customs House and numerous other depots in Constantinople.

As a result of the political situation, during the greater part of the year, all commerce came to an end with Anatolia, with the exception of such districts as Ineboli, Adalia, and the Eastern frontier, where a certain restricted trade still goes on. Most of the larger firms in Constantinople, however, have ceased commercial transactions with the interior owing to the difficulties they have had to contend with. The Greek and Armenian shopkeeper to whom they were accustomed to consign their goods might possibly before their arrival be penniless or murdered. In addition, the villagers in the mountains, through fear of brigands, who infest the countryside, dare not come to the market towns to make their purchases.

During the month of August some of the ports on both sides of the Sea of Marmora, having been freed by the Greek Army from the Nationalists' régime, commenced trading with Constantinople. Very few exports, however, succeeded in reaching the capital either from Thrace or from the region of Anatolia occupied by the Greek troops, owing to the restriction placed on export by the Greek military authorities, on the grounds that all foodstuffs were needed for the provisioning of the Greek army.

A limited trade was taking place between the Crimea and Constantinople before the final defeat of General Wrangel's army, though it was always attended by serious risks. Merchants, however, as early as September were very chary in their dealings in this direction, and in November the complete defeat and the evacuation of the volunteer army took place. Numerous firms were seriously involved by this collapse, as they had large stocks awaiting sale, both in Sevastopol and other towns in the neighbourhood, which they were unable to evacuate, and which ultimately fell into the hands of the Bolshevists. They also possessed in many cases still larger stocks lying in the depots in Constantinople awaiting shipment for the Crimea. Many of these merchants suffered severe losses, which they have very little hope of ever recouping. The consequent result of both of the defeat of the volunteer army and the impossible position caused by the Nationalist army under Mustapha Kemal has been an almost complete cessation of trade in this part of the world.

The resisting power of the local merchant is very great, however. He is unwilling to admit defeat, or even to cut a loss. He simply puts off his creditors until such time as conditions return to normal. In this he is greatly assisted by local banking financial customs. Although the present crisis is very serious, it has not as yet been accompanied by many failures. The situation has been assisted to a considerable extent by the large profits made in the previous year, and it is generally claimed that though the commercial community find considerable difficulty in meeting their immediate engagements, the actual losses of the more serious firms at least would not in the event of immediate realisation exceed the profits made in 1919.

All exports from Turkey, practically speaking, have come to an end. Owing to the Nationalist's Government restrictions and the difficulties of transport, very small quantities of raw material ever reach Constantinople at all. The natural consequence is that in Anatolia large stocks of Turkish produce have gradually collected, and prices are very considerably lower in the interior than in the capital. Towards the end of the year certain small consignments filtered down to Smyrna and Constantinople, after paying taxes and enormous transport duties, but the results, from the economic point of view, are almost negligible. Imports have also considerably decreased, and, in fact, at the close of the period under review, beyond a certain irregular arrival of luxury goods, they are almost entirely confined to the necessary foodstuffs for Constantinople itself.

### The Fall in Prices.

The congestion which existed in the depots of the Customs House and also in the private warehouses which were opened in the late spring in order to compete with the heavy influx of imports then taking place, was by August considerably relieved. This was due partially, as mentioned above, to the fact that a certain trade during the summer did take place between Constantinople and the Crimea, and in part also to a certain amount of commerce which went on with Roumania and Bulgaria in spite of the unfavourable rate of exchange. At the same time home firms began to realise the commercial position in Turkey, and imports considerably diminished. Nevertheless, there are still remaining large stocks of non-luxury goods which were originally intended for the Anatolian market, and can find no sale here, except at "knock-out" prices. These consist more especially of Manchester goods of the cheaper class, and hardware, tea, cheap clothing, boots, certain chemicals, etc. It was announced that all goods that had remained in the Customs House unclaimed for more than one year and a day would be sold at public auction. The value of these was computed to exceed £T150,000.

At the close of the year, owing to the abnormal fall of prices at home, these stocks in many cases could be replaced in the United Kingdom very considerably cheaper. Consequently the owners find themselves in a fair way to suffer heavy losses. They are endeavouring, both by auctioning and selling in small retail lots, to unload their stocks at considerably below invoice prices in order to regain at least some of their capital. These stocks in Constantinople in December were estimated at a minimum of £5,000,000, although other and reliable authorities placed the figure as high as £12,000,000

Not only did the actual buyers suffer from this position, but in addition, many of the banks, more especially the Italian. Those banks who went in largely for speculative business made large loans earlier in the year, only allowing a very small margin in the event of the merchants not taking up their bills of lading. Owing to the change in the position, the merchants finally either could not or would not take delivery of many of their consignments. Consequently bales and bales of goods were left on the banks' hands, which, whether already auctioned or held for such disposal in the future, represent a considerably lower

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sum than that which was originally advanced upon them, and the banks are the losers.

In this connection attention may be drawn to the many difficulties British merchants had to contend with. Owing to the unstable conditions of commerce many native firms have refused to take delivery of goods on their arrival. No civil court exists from which redress can be obtained, consequently in many cases the consignor has had to make the best of a bad job and either sell his goods at a loss or re-ship them elsewhere.

The financial situation in respect to commerce has throughout the year been most unsteady, and the extraordinary fluctuations in the exchange have had a most deteriorating effect on all commercial enterprises, since the merchants when placing an order, could never be sure that on the date of the arrival of their goods, the variations in the exchange would not only do away with any profit, but might even entail a serious loss. At the close of the year the whole outlook of commerce in Turkey is most discouraging. The position is one of serious crisis and large losses are occurring daily. The whole situation can only be ameliorated by the opening up of the interior and by the opening up of trade with South Russia.

**Competition.**

The United Kingdom has during the current year not only held her own, but has had a preponderating influence on trade with Turkey. At the same time serious competition is being felt. The heads of important enterprises in Turkey state frankly that they know very little of the industries of the United Kingdom and it is of the greatest importance to let them see for themselves.

One of the chief competitors that Great Britain has to contend with at the present day in Turkey is undoubtedly America. This competition in pre-war days was of little importance. The articles in which it is most felt are the following :—Cabots, boots, motor cars, soda ash, tinned fruit, coal, fats and greases, etc., etc. American commercial activity practically commenced in Turkey during the year 1911, when the American Chamber of Commerce for the Levant was organised, which has done a good deal for American trade; this Chamber has established branches in Greece, Bulgaria, Roumania, Smyrna, Mersina, and has representatives in all the principal towns of Turkey and the Levant. Since the Armistice, and especially during the last year, many well-known American corporations have established branches in Constantinople with a view to extending their trade in the Levant.

The next important competitor that Great Britain has to meet in the Orient is Italy. Italy has an enormous advantage in geographical position and, in addition, an efficient merchant fleet. The articles in which competition is most felt are the following :—Different kinds of cotton goods and flannelettes, motor cars, and to a certain extent yarns, also electric fittings and cinematograph films. Three large Italian banks are interested in Turkish trade and are established in Constantinople.

Owing to the definite ruling laid down in the clauses of the Armistice with Turkey, German trade was forced to come to a complete standstill until the resumption of peace, consequently competition as such has not existed during the last year. At the same time numerous consignments of goods of German origin have been received viâ neutral nations. This more particularly applies to electrical goods.

**Methods of Business.**

During the current year, owing to the abnormal situation, practically all credits have been suspended, and in the month of December, owing to the rapid depreciation of the Turkish pound, the banks, in order to try and stop speculation, called in all loans possible and forbade all forward exchange operations.

Credit to-day is practically unknown in Constantinople, and there are really only two systems of payment obtaining : (*a*) cash against documents, but since a number of firms have refused to take up documents, many exporters are requiring cash with order, or, (*b*) bankers' confirmed credits, *i.e.*, a credit opened by a banker in which a foreign merchant may draw bills upon the banker against shipments, the banker agreeing to accept the bills if they are drawn in accordance with the stipulation in the credit. The credit is usually for a period not exceeding six months. With regard to the more important English houses, they of course have their own private arrangements with their merchants abroad, but for any new business undertaken, even with well-known firms here, it is customary to open a bankers' confirmed credit. With the smaller firms business is only undertaken for cash against documents

**Turkish Commercial Activity.**

While the business enterprises of the Ottoman Empire are for the most part non-Turkish, being generally in the hands of Armenian, Greek, or Jewish subjects, if not altogether foreign, considerable efforts are being made in purely Turkish circles to awaken that element to the necessity of commercial and industrial activity. The movement is not altogether new, but it has been stimulated by the defeat of Turkey and the consequent clearer perception of the necessity of seeking for the future some form of livelihood other than military or political office-holding. Quite a number of ex-officers of the Turkish Army have already gone into business, and the tendency is capable of considerable and interesting developments. While Turks of this type are handicapped by inexperience they have a considerable asset in the solidarity and goodwill of their compatriots and the reputation which they possess, at least, locally, of being more straightforward and honest than certain of their competitors. It is worthy of note in this connection, as a point of some importance in studying certain phases of the markets of this country, that the better class Turk of to-day is much less Oriental in habits and dress than is sometimes realised abroad. In items of dress, furniture, and toilet articles, for instance, the Turks, both men and women, are purchasers, and discriminating purchasers, of identically the same sort of goods as are in demand among similar social elements in Britain and France, and it may be remarked that their tendency is to spend rather lavishly on dress and toilet accessories. Trade in the latter line, and especially in soaps and perfumes, is extraordinarily large, and British productions are distinctly popular though less conspicuous than could be desired considering the importance of the market and the enterprising competition of the French and other firms. Prior to the war the Germans were very active in this line, but their goods were never regarded as the best and they do not enjoy any really solid popularity among the class to whom quality is the chief consideration.

**The Outlook.**

With regard to the troubles in Anatolia and the prospect of an early pacification and opening up of that region, it is impossible to state, with any degree of assurance, more than that the desire for a settlement appears very general among all the elements concerned. Counting this guerilla fighting, Turkey has now endured fourteen years of nearly continuous war, the burdens of which have fallen more heavily upon Anatolia than any other portion of the Empire. It would seem that sheer economic necessity must, at no very distant date, enforce a truce upon political differences however bitter. In counting upon a collapse of Kemalism from sheer exhaustion of the country one must not forget that the Anatolian peasant is inured to poverty, brigandage, extortionate taxes and requisitions, all these evils having been more or less normally part of the life to which he and his forefathers were accustomed. Given internal peace, however, Turkey possesses resources that could enable her to make a fairly rapid recovery. Despite all the adverse circumstances of the moment, stagnation of business, overcrowding of the capital city, rebellion in Asia Minor, depreciation of the currency, and many uncertainties of a political character, the prospects of the ultimate future are good; the general situation, as compared with last year, is more encouraging.

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Foreign traders, having realised that it is impossible to carry on trade in Georgia under the present Soviet administration, are reported to be leaving Batum, where the exchange is over 160,000 paper roubles to £1.

The Hon. Kenneth Mackay has been re-elected to a seat on the boards of the P. and O. and British India companies. He was a member of these boards before the war, but retired on joining the army.

Export without licence (except to Bulgaria and Albania) is now authorised from Greece for all European and local products, except combustibles of all kinds, including lignite, metals, and certain foodstuffs, etc. Goods in transit originally intended for other countries may be exported without special licence.


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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that COUPON No. 10 will be PAID on and after the 8th day of July, 1921, at the rate of 3s. per share, less Income-tax at 2s. in the £.

The above Dividend is at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the year ended the 31st December, 1920. The proportion of such Dividend payable in respect of the period up to and including the 31st August, 1920, is free of Income-tax, and the deduction of Income-tax at the rate of 2s. in the £ covers Income-tax at the full rate on the proportion of such Dividend payable in respect of the remaining four months of the year. Coupons should be left at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C., to permit of three clear days for examination.

By Order of the Board

THOMAS DAY,

Pinners Hall, Austin Friars, E.C.2, Secretary in London.

6th July, 1921.

Forms for depositing coupons may be obtained at the offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd.

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# ENGINEERING TOPICS.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

## A 10-Seater Biplane.

One of the finest passenger-carrying machines yet designed and constructed is undoubtedly the new Bristol ten seater, full details of which have just been sent me by my friend Sir H. White Smith, managing director of the Bristol Aeroplane Company, whose work in connection with the development of aviation is hardly yet recognised at its true value. Few concerns have done so much towards perfecting the heavier-than-air machine, and the success attained has been largely due to the extraordinary ability of its presiding genius.

The new machine is a single-engined tractor biplane, having an enclosed cabin for eight passengers and an open cockpit for pilot and mechanic. I would take this opportunity of mentioning that the engine fitted is one of the famous Napier Lions, an engine which has consistently justified the high opinions held by its designer and manufacturers.

This highly efficient engine is mounted on a readily detachable mounting, which also carries the nose radiator and oil tank. Complete access to the engine can be obtained by releasing six self-locking fasteners, it being unnecessary to remove any part of the cowl from the machine. Electric starting is fitted, and the engine can also be started by hand-turning gear when on the ground.

The saloon is entered through a door aft of the lower plane, and seats six of the passengers facing forward in separate chairs, the other two facing the stern of the machine. The seats are of the collapsible type, and when folded project only five inches from the saloon sides, leaving the maximum amount of floor space should it be desired to use the plane for cargo-carrying.

Windows, which can be opened, are fitted the full length of both sides of the cabin, and heating is provided by means of hot air muffs round the exhaust pipes. Due provision has been made for any passenger who—although this is extremely unlikely, owing to the perfect balance of the machine—may be attacked by air sickness.

When it is desired to use the machine solely for the transport of cargo, the space available is 10 ft. 6 ins. in length, the height at the centre being 5 ft. 9 ins. and the width 4 ft.

It is satisfactory to note that ample room is provided for the pilot and mechanic, the cockpit, which is situated between the steel fire bulkhead and the front spar of the top plane, being of large size and permitting a clear and uninterrupted view. Below the pilot's cockpit is a compartment measuring 4 ft. 6 ins. in length by 4 ft. in width and 2 ft. 6 ins. in depth, which is accessible through a trap-door in the underside of the fuselage. This is primarily intended as a receptacle for passengers' luggage, but when the plane is used for commercial purposes it would be used as an extra cargo compartment.

The plane should have a sufficiently wide radius for any ordinary purpose, as the two main petrol tanks are of 50 gallons capacity each. These are slung under the bottom planes at the inner interplane struts. Petrol is drawn from either of these by means of two Vickers' centrifugal pumps coupled in series and delivered through a Vickers' hand pump to the carburettors, any surplus passing to a 10-gallon gravity tank and overflowing back to the particular main tank in use. I understand that Smith's capacity gauges for both main tanks are fitted on the instrument board.

The chassis is of the four-wheeled oleo-elastic type, with wheels in tandem, brakes being fitted to the rear wheels and operated by a car-type brake lever in the pilot's cockpit. A gate is provided for the brake lever, so that the brakes may be operated together or singly, as may be required to meet the landing conditions.

Elastic rings are used for suspension, and the elastic carriers have been designed in order to permit of the ready renewal of these rings as and when this becomes necessary. The oleo plungers are fitted with a special type of tapered needle valve to control the passage of the oil through the plunger to give constant oil pressure throughout the stroke of 8 ins.

## The "Electra" Engine.

One of the most noticeable features in connection with the development of the internal combustion engine has been the steady reduction of size and weight per horse-power given out. At one time gas or oil engines were bulky and cumbersome masses of machinery, running at comparatively slow speeds; to-day speeds have been increased almost beyond belief, with a consequent reduction in the bore and stroke necessary for a given power development. Even the Diesel engine of to-day, which runs at a slow speed compared with that attained by a motor-cycle engine, is much faster and far more compactly designed than its pre-war forerunners.

An opportunity recently afforded for examining one of the "Electra" engines, and for going through the specifications kindly sent by Messrs. Fredk. Sage and Co., Ltd., of 58, Gray's Inn Road, London, who are the sole export distributing agents. The firm make the bold statement that there is more sterling worth in one of these engines, and more satisfaction to be derived from its use, than in any engine manufactured in this or any other country. This is a very sweeping statement, but the firm appear convinced as to its truth, and add that in their opinion no engine, whether paraffin, petrol, or gas driven, can compete with the "Electra" in efficiency of working, economy of running, and freedom from breakdowns. They add that they have conclusive evidence from almost every quarter of the globe that these engines are giving daily the utmost satisfaction under all kinds of conditions and for all classes of work.

The materials used are certainly of the highest quality, and every part appears to have been machined and fitted within limits of great accuracy. The finish of the engine is also good, and, so far as I can judge, every part has an ample margin of strength, and the engine should give no trouble in use even when run by an unskilled attendant.

The engine is made in two sizes, the smaller of which is a four horse-power single-cylinder model, and the larger an eight horse-power twin. Both models are water-cooled, and the cylinders are of a uniform bore and stroke of 95 by 110 millimetres respectively. Taking the four horse-power model first, the speed is 1,000 revolutions per minute, and I should be inclined to say that at that speed rather more than the rated power would be given out. The Treasury rating, for example, would be 5.59 h.p. for an engine of that size. The approximate shipping weights are 260 lbs. unboxed and 350 boxed, the approximate shipping dimensions being 2 ft. 3 ins. by 2 ft. 3 ins. by 1 ft. 9 ins. The eight-h.p. model is similar, but of course rather larger, and runs at 900 r.p.m., the shipping weights, boxed, being 450 lbs., and unboxed 370 lbs. The approximate shipping dimensions in this case are 2 ft. 9 ins. by 2 ft. 9 ins. by 1 ft. 9 ins.

Coming to a more technical description of the engine, I may say that the cylinders are of close-grained cast iron with large-sized water jackets, and nickel-steel valves are fitted. The crankshaft is a one-piece drop stamping from high-grade steel, machined and balanced, and the connecting rods are of alloy steel of great strength and toughness. The crank case is of close-grained cast iron with ample space for oil, and the lubrication is by a positive drive pump delivering oil under pressure to all bearings. The camshaft is also of alloy steel and the timing wheels of cast iron with machine-cut teeth, and the engines are fitted with governors of the centrifugal type, completely enclosed, working direct on the carburettor throttle. The fuel consumption per horse-power hour is very low, and I may add that the engines can be supplied for running on either petroleum, paraffin, or coal or other gas.

## Air Progress.

In the three months from March 19, when their London-Paris service started under the Government subsidy, to date, the Handley Page Transport, Ltd., has completed one hundred flights. These flights have been made without any accident to passengers or pilots or damage to the machines or freight. Altogether about 23,000 miles have been flown and 812 passengers carried. The passage has been flown under all sorts of weather conditions—in rain storms, through cloudy weather, fogs and blizzards, and against gales of head winds. The freight and luggage carried have been of the most mixed variety, goods including furniture, machinery, on several occasions motor spares (which were urgently required), special food delicacies, and live stock.

Messrs. Handley Page report that the London-Paris trip is becoming more and more popular, that the demand for berths has increased, and that bookings are frequently in excess of the berths available. On some days an extra machine has had to be flown to accommodate the heavy bookings. It appears to be certain that the usefulness and convenience of the air crossing has become recognised by business and pleasure passengers, and is firmly established as a means of cross-Channel transport.

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# OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

## Britain's Oil Policy.

A White Paper was issued last week containing a despatch dated April 21 from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the British Ambassador at Washington, enclosing a memorandum prepared by the Petroleum Department dealing with the general petroleum situation. We give the following extracts from the memorandum:—

"Statements have frequently appeared in the foreign Press during the past year to the effect that His Majesty's Government are co-operating with British commercial interests to secure an undue share of the petroleum resources of the world, and, while they are entirely without foundation, they may through constant repetition have obtained some credence.

"Great Britain is, next to the United States and (in normal times) Russia, the largest consumer of oil in the world. Over 90 per cent. of her navy is oil-fired (as compared with 45 per cent. before the war), as is a rapidly increasing proportion of her merchant marine. Her present home resources consist of one well giving a daily production of one ton, and Scottish shale fields which yield about 165,000 tons of oil products annually. In 1920 Great Britain imported about 3,368,600 tons of oil (motor spirit, kerosene, fuel oil, lubricants, etc.) of a total value of £67,000,000. Of this, 61 per cent. in quantity and 68 per cent. in value came from the United States, 37 per cent. in quantity and 30 per cent. in value from other foreign countries, and 2 per cent. in quantity and 2 per cent. in value from British possessions. During the war the annual imports of petroleum rose as high as 5,160,000 tons.

"The figures which have been quoted indicate that, although the consumption of Great Britain per head is only about one-sixth of that in the United States, her requirements are, nevertheless, very large, and are at present met almost wholly from foreign countries at an extremely high cost. Much has been written as to the so-called 'closed door' policy in the British Empire, but even if such a policy was in force it would surely not be difficult to find arguments in its favour in view of the very serious position of the British Empire as regards petroleum supplies. It is proposed, however, to deal with each part of the Empire in turn, stating also the position of Egypt, and to show what the charge as regards the 'closed door' really amounts to. At the same time, a brief note will be given of the production and prospects of each territory.

"*India.*—Prospecting or mining leases have been, in practice, granted only to British subjects or to companies controlled by British subjects. The production of petroleum in India is about 1,200,000 tons per annum, which is insufficient to meet the country's needs. Large quantities are imported from the United States, the Dutch East Indies, and, to an increasing extent, Persia.

"*Egypt.*—No nationality restrictions. Annual output 155,000 tons, produced by a single company, which discovered a valuable deposit in 1914. Several other firms have recently started prospecting operations.

"*Somaliland.*—No production. Prospecting is being carried out on behalf of Government. No nationality restrictions."

The memorandum goes on to state that the particulars given show the extremely small oil production of the British Empire, and the absence of any general policy of exclusion of foreigners.

"It will be seen," the memorandum continues, "that in the vast areas of territory where there are no restrictions no foreign country has taken the opportunity of exploring for oil except in the case of British North Borneo, whereas in Canada and Trinidad, where restrictions are in force, foreign capital has for many years past been actively at work both on its own account and by way of participation in British companies. It can therefore hardly be contended that the restrictions have imposed any serious disability on foreign enterprise. It has to be remembered that when such regulations were first introduced in India and elsewhere the oil situation was very different from that prevailing to-day. The problem was then not so much to find new sources of oil as to secure profitable markets for that already produced, and there was a real danger that oil-lands might be taken up by large oil companies and kept unworked so as to maintain prices.

"Apart from this consideration, however, it is evident that in regard to a 'closed door' policy no real parallel can fairly be drawn between the British Empire, with its small and scattered production, and a country like the United States, which at present produces two-thirds of the world's output within her home territory. With no nationality restrictions it would have been feasible for an isolated oilfield, such as Trinidad, to be taken up by German companies and worked with German personnel, with the result that on the outbreak of war the wells and plant might have been rendered useless and the supplies of oil from this source cut off for months. In the United States, on the other hand, the foreign holdings are bound to represent only a small proportion of the whole, and can be no source of danger. As a matter of fact, the foreign companies to which America has thrown her fields open are mostly registered in America, are staffed with Americans, and dispose of their production in America.

"Regulations were introduced last year in the Philippines restricting the exploitation of certain lands to citizens of the United States and of the Philippines. In this action, in almost her only detached territory, the United States appears to be adopting the very policy, and probably for the same reason, for which Great Britain has been so loudly condemned.

"In Mexico, United States companies control at least 80 per cent. of the production, while British commercial interests have a share in the remaining 20 per cent., which is largely Dutch controlled. As the growing production of Mexico, which increased from 3,750,000 tons in 1913 to 23,000,000 tons in 1920, is perhaps the predominating factor in the oil situation to-day, the strength of the United States' position will be apparent. Most of the Mexican production of crude oil is at present shipped to United States refineries.

"In Central and South America oil production is, except in Peru and the Argentine, still in the initial stages, the only other countries where commercial supplies have been found being Venezuela and Colombia. No evidence can be adduced from any of these countries of any attempt at British domination. If British-Dutch interests have considerable holdings in Venezuela, American companies are at least equally prominent in Colombia, while in Peru, where the oil industry was established by British enterprise and was at one time almost entirely in British hands, the control of all producing companies but one has passed to the Standard Oil Company.

"Among the criticisms levelled against this country is that of having secured a monopoly in Persia. It should hardly be necessary to say that the rights of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in Persia have no connection whatever with the British Government holding in the company, but are mainly derived from a concession which was obtained through the personal enterprise of Mr. W. K. D'Arcy in 1901, and for which it was equally open to any other individual, British or foreign, to apply. It was only after heavy expenditure and much discouragement that success was achieved, to the great advantage of Persia, and the suggestion that British Government influence was used to force a monopoly on an unwilling country can only be made through complete ignorance of the facts. The British Government did not acquire its present holding in the Anglo-Persian Company for thirteen years after the concession was obtained by Mr. D'Arcy, and it does not interfere with the company's commercial policy in any way.

"Little need be said of the other fields in which British interests are represented. In Galicia, where they were never very important, they have been reduced since the Armistice, while British firms have been temporarily driven from South Russia. In Roumania a one-eighth share in an ex-enemy company has been acquired by a British group, but the British share in the oil industry of that country is not more important than the American, French, or Dutch. The whole question of Mesopotamia, which has been fully dealt with in correspondence with the United States Government, need not be referred to here beyond saying that while there is no intention of discriminating against non-British interests, account must be taken of legitimate rights acquired before the war, and this applies equally to Palestine, where American claims are understood to exist.

"In conclusion, it can only be repeated that, although it is hoped that British interests will take an increasing share in the development of the world's oil resources, any suggestion that British domination is intended or possible is entirely unfounded. It has been frequently alleged that Great Britain has secured control of half the petroleum deposits of the world, but statements of this kind are based on entirely inadequate data and are mere conjectures. The United States has, through her unique natural resources, been able to develop a vast industry with great organisations, whose experience, wealth, and energy make it certain that her present overwhelming lead in oil production will be retained for many generations to come. Apart from her home deposits (of which fresh discoveries continue to throw doubt on pessimistic forecasts of early exhaustion), the United States is already taking the chief share in the development of the Mexican oilfields, and is certain to play a leading part in opening up those of Central and South America, as well as of other countries. It is becoming increasingly obvious, however, that there is ample scope for the activity and enterprise of all nations in searching for and bringing into use the world's stores of petroleum as yet undiscovered."

## Phœnix Oil.

Mr. Edward Manville, M.P., chairman of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, has recently returned from a visit to Roumania, and has made a report on the company's operations. He states that he is entirely satisfied with the whole administrative and executive organisation in Roumania, and Captain T. S. Masterson, director and general manager, is to be heartily congratulated on his choice of employees, all of whom seem to be working unselfishly and with keen interest in the company's welfare. The report continues:—

"There is much to be done in the early stages of a company such as ours, especially after the disorganisation caused by the German occupation: destroyed records have to be re-established; leases (of which there are over 2,000) have to be reviewed and, where necessary, renewed; stores and materials have to be traced and inventoried; all this, in addition to the new work commenced since our company took over the management, and Captain Masterson's own untiring efforts are reflected in the keenness displayed by the whole staff; also the extensive office organisation is equally efficient under the guidance of our commercial manager, Mr. W. H. W. Lacey.

"All the new materials ordered by this company (including about 100,000 ft. of oil-well casing) and four complete rotary drilling outfits have some time since arrived on the property, and, in addition, the allied companies possess a great quantity of plant and materials, including rigs, pumps, storage tanks, pipe-lines, and gas engines—the latter rendering the company at many of its wells independent of the inadequate electrical supply, which has recently handicapped so many of the companies operating in Roumania. The plant and materials in hand should supply the company's requirements for the next eighteen months if the present programme is adhered to.

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**Exceptional Progress Made.**

"I think it may justly be said that the company, in the short period of its existence, has made exceptional progress with its field operations. Captain Masterson's great experience of the Roumanian oilfields has enabled him confidently to set out a very extensive drilling programme. It will be remembered that he took a very active part, in conjunction with our colleague, Lieut.-Colonel Sir John Norton Griffiths, M.P., in destroying the wells prior to the German occupation in 1916, and doubtless the knowledge thus acquired is now serving him to good purpose, for no fewer than fourteen of the twenty-three plugged wells have already been freed, and the remaining nine are now in process of unplugging. The production from these old wells, mentioned in the prospectus, has already been practically doubled, and it will regularly and materially increase as the remainder are unplugged.

"The company's programme for this year, as agreed between Captain Masterson and the company's consulting engineers, Messrs. A. Beeby Thompson and Partners, includes the completing of ten new wells, and excellent progress in this direction is being made. Among these the No. 1 well at Moreni is drilled to a depth of over 2,500 ft. and should reach the oil sands very shortly. Well No. 5 in the same district is down over 1,000 ft. No. 1 well at Runcu is down 1,500 ft., and has only a further 350 ft. to go to reach the oil sands. No. 5 well at Baicoi is down 1,200 ft., and operations will be restarted there almost immediately, while No. 2 at Chiciura is down 1,300 ft., and has only 600 ft. to go to reach the oil sands.

"The company's refinery at Ploesti has been completely rebuilt, with considerable additional storage and other improvements, and is now about ready for operations; arrangements are also being made to provide our own siding in a convenient position on the railway." Mr. Manville states, in conclusion, that he is perfectly satisfied with the whole organisation and progress of the company, which is all that, under the circumstances, could be expected.

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The annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania will be held on July 27 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway will be held on September 30 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

The gross receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31 were £496,084, against £406,696, and working expenses £355,241, as compared with £257,683. The balance carried to net revenue account is £140,842, which, with interest and dividends earned, £21,002, and £93,273 brought forward, makes £255,118. The board recommends a dividend of 5½ per cent. on the preference shares for the year, carrying forward £95,283. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., July 28, 12.30 p.m.

## SUDAN NOTES

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, June 22.

Upper Nile Province.—The first steamer of the season, the S.G.S. Hafir, reached Nasser on May 24, the main river having risen at Malakal from M.9.82 to M.10.34. The total rainfall at Malakal for last May was 50.7 millimetres, as compared with 198 millimetres in the same month last year, resulting in very considerable progress being made in regard to new buildings.

Telegraphic reports from Gambeila under date June 17 state that the road has now been cut through to the Sako River, which still has to be bridged.

Kassala Province.—Very satisfactory progress is reported as regards the irrigation projects, the culverts on the Khatmia road having been completed. Bridges are in course of construction on the Suakin road and also at Wad Sherifai.

Kordofan Province.—Reports to hand state that the rainfall during the first half of June has been good, and that cultivation has now commenced throughout the province.

## BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

The report of the Bank of British West Africa for the year ended March 31 shows, after providing for current charges (including contribution to staff profit-sharing fund), rebate on bills, and bad and doubtful debts, a net profit of £139,803, plus £30,377 brought forward. The directors recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent., less tax; £20,000 has been applied to payment of stamp duty upon new capital, £15,000 to writing down premises and furniture, and £5,000 added to bank's insurance fund; £50,180 carried forward. During the year the authorised capital has been increased to £4,000,000 by the creation of 200,000 new shares, of which have been issued: 33,333 to the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, 33,333 to the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, and 33,334 to the Standard Bank of South Africa. The premium upon the issue price of these shares has been added to the reserve fund. Mr. R. E. Dickinson, Sir Frederick Eley, Mr. F. A. Johnston, and Mr. R. Hugh Tennant have joined the board. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., July 14, noon.

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There is a large market for various metals at Aleppo, including copper sheets, zinc, pewter, tin plate, iron, lead, aluminium, etc.


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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## BURMAH OIL COMPANY.

### Record of Unbroken Prosperity.

### Colossal Nature of Operations.

The annual general meeting of the Burmah Oil Company, Limited, was held on July 7, in Glasgow.

Sir John T. Cargill, Bart. (the chairman) presided.

The Chairman said: In these difficult and trying times when after a period of exceptional but undoubtedly in many ways artificial prosperity the swing of the pendulum has come with a vengeance, and in a very large number of cases shareholders are faced with much reduced dividends, and in many cases none at all, I feel it is a great privilege to be in the happy position of submitting to you a statement of accounts which marks another record—both as regards the total profits and the dividend proposed—in the company's long history of unbroken prosperity.

**Increased Gross Profit.**

The total gross profit shows an increase of £236,682 9s. 7d. on the 1919 record one of £4,654,793 19s. 10d., and, though the rate of dividend is only 30 per cent., as against 50 per cent. for 1919, the reduction on the rate is, of course, due to the capitalisation of reserves carried through last year, and the amount of the Ordinary dividend proposed to be paid is actually £1,543,050, as against £1,428,750 for 1919. Personally I look on this as, under all the circumstances, a most gratifying result of the year's operations, and I feel sure that the great majority of the shareholders will agree with me in this view. Looking to the exceptionally large amount—£1,291,000—placed to general reserve in 1919, and subsequently capitalised, I am just afraid that in some quarters there has been a certain amount of disappointment that more profit was not available for dividend purposes in 1920, but those of you who were present at the last annual meeting, or who read my speech afterwards, will no doubt remember the warnings I then gave as to the very heavy way in which our profits were bound to be hit by increasing taxation and increased working costs—especially in connection with our largely extended and much more expensive fields operations—and I suggested you should adopt my own attitude of what I called reasoned and reasonable optimism and not pitch your expectations on too high a basis and so run the risk of disappointment. As against the £1,291,000 placed to general reserve in 1919 we have placed £195,000 for the year 1920 in the accounts now before you, a difference of £1,096,000, and a comparison of the accounts for these two years will show you that the total taxation for 1920 appearing in these accounts, allowing £1,800,000 for Excess Profits duty and £135,000 for Corporation Profits tax, shows an increase of no less than £581,760 15s. 8d., as compared with 1919, while the amount written off the fields account in 1920 is £598,066 8s. up, as compared with 1919, so that the increases under these two heads almost account for the difference on the amount placed to general reserve and the increase of £236,682 9s. 7d. on the gross profit.

**Increased Taxation and Working Costs.**

As regards taxation, I told you last year that we roughly estimated the increase at £750,000, figuring on the same profit as for 1919, and taking into account the amount we pay for taxation in India, which does not appear in the accounts before you, and the refund of income tax we are receiving under the Boustead decision, our estimate has proved to be very near the mark. As regards the fields account, it was quite impossible for me at that time to even hazard an estimate of what the increase was likely to amount to, but no less than three times in my speech I emphasised, as I had done on several occasions before, the great increase working costs were going to show for several years to come owing to the enormously enhanced cost of drilling and all material; the very much deeper wells we are having to sink, especially in the Yenangyoung field; our largely extended drilling and testing operations necessitating the employment of a greatly increased staff and the general all-round increase on salaries and wages. It was really only in 1920 that all those factors began to take material effect, for as I told you at several past annual meetings we were fortunate in having bought ahead at pre-war prices very large quantities of pipe and drilling materials, and these cheap purchases pretty well covered our requirements until the end of 1919. Now the pipe and materials we are working on cost anything from three to six times what our pre-war supplies did. And in addition, as I told you in July, 1918, we have been using large quantities of secondhand pipe drawn from abandoned wells, and this, of course, kept our drilling costs much lower than they otherwise would have been. These supplies are now practically at an end, and this has also tended to unduly emphasise the rise in fields expenditure.

**700 Producing Wells.**

No one who has not seen—as I did during the course of my tour in Burma last winter—the extent and nature of the operations covered by what we call our fields account, can really have the slightest idea of what I think I can truthfully describe as the colossal nature of these operations, but the following comparatively few details will, I think, help you to grasp the position and realise why the expenditure involved under to-day's conditions is so great. Our American staff, responsible only for actual drilling and production work, numbers now fully 100, and we have about 100 strings of tools constantly working—many of them day and night—drilling wells. We have something like 700 wells actually completed and producing oil, all of which require more or less constant attention, and many of our wells have now to be drilled to well over 3,000 ft. Out of a total number directly employed in the company's service in Burma and India of some 35,000 we have, roughly speaking, between 13,000 and 14,000 Europeans, Americans, Indians, and Burmans on our oil fields operations alone, including a highly trained geological staff of 10, which is constantly engaged in searching for and examining likely oil-bearing land and advising on operations in the proved fields. Between Burma, Assam, and the Punjab we are either actually engaged on, or on the point of starting up, some nine tests in outside areas, mainly in outlying districts requiring heavy expenditure in road making, laying of water lines, and provision of accommodation for drillers and employees generally. We have always devoted a fair proportion of our profits to this exploratory and testing work because your directors have recognised that it is in the interest of the company and of the oil industry of Burma and India that we should do so. After all, crude oil is the life blood and very existence of the company, and I am sure you will all agree that no stone must be left unturned in order to try and discover fresh sources of supply, particularly in Burma and India, where the company both holds such a commanding position in the market and possesses all the transport, refining, and marketing organisation required to deal with a large production of crude oil.

**Assam Interests.**

It is because of this position and in this direction that, after careful geological examination of the properties of the Assam Oil Company, Limited, your directors, towards the end of 1920, decided to make their offer to the shareholders of that company to acquire their shares at £2 each for cash or in exchange for shares in your company, in the proportions of nine Assam Oil Company for two Burmah Oil Company shares. As you are aware, this offer was made conditional on at least 75 per cent. of the Assam Oil Company shares being thus offered to us, and this proportion and more being forthcoming the transaction was duly completed. Since then we have acquired further shares of the company for cash on a much lower basis than our original offer, and we now hold over 90 per cent. of the Assam Oil Company's capital. Although these properties may not be capable of very greatly increased production or yield wells of great calibre, our geologists advise us that the possibly productive area is greater than had been previously imagined, and that satisfactory, steady, and lengthened production can safely be looked for even only from the already proved areas.

At Badarpur, in Lower Assam, our developments have been fairly satisfactory during the past year, and give promise, if not of a big field, at any rate of paying production.

As mentioned in the report, in my speech at the recent extraordinary meeting of the company, and in the prospectus of the recent issue of Preference shares, our production from our proved Burma fields and their production potentialities for the future continue satisfactory.

We have not been fortunate to strike oil in any of our outside tests either in Burma or in India during the year, but as already mentioned, this policy of exploitation for oil is being energetically continued in every area of reasonable geological promise, and no effort is being spared within justifiably speculative limits to prove or disprove by the drill—the only real if expensive solution—whether these carefully selected geologically promising areas actually contain oil in commercial quantities. I say commercial advisedly because, as I have previously had reason to point out, not every oil show, or even oil well, means a commercially exploitable oil field, and this less so than ever, at least at the moment, when there has been such a heavy fall in the value of crude oils and a temporary overplus in the world's production.

**The Accounts.**

I will now run through the accounts, and refer briefly to the items calling for special comment. I have already referred fully to the large amount written off the fields account. You will observe that £112,413 1s. 9d. is added to the £100,000 at which this account stood in the last balance-sheet. This represents purely capital expenditure on buildings and machinery—as separate from the drilling and other expenses incurred in the production of crude oil, which we will continue to write off annually in the future as we have done in the past—and ample provision will be made from time to time for depreciation on this capital portion of the fields account and any further additions which may be made to it.

**Chairman's Visit to the East.**

I had the great pleasure and satisfaction of last winter taking the trip to India and Burma, which I told you last year I intended doing. I first of all visited the company's principal agencies in India and then spent two months in Burma, and this gave me ample time to inspect the company's properties and operations and to consult with the managers and agents on the many very important points in connection with those operations, and generally on the management of the company's affairs in the East, on which personal consultation with those on the spot is so helpful and so desirable. I am not going to detain you with any detailed account of my trip, and will only say that, taken all over, what I saw thoroughly satisfied me once more as to the immense value of the company's oil lands and the high state of efficiency in which all its properties—refineries, plant, and buildings generally, and fleet—are maintained, and I was more than ever impressed with the immensity and completeness of the arrangements for the production of the crude oil and its conveyance from the fields to the refineries; its refining and the transportation of the finished products to the main

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installations in India; and finally the sale and distribution of these products throughout the whole of India and Burma.

Owing to the war I had not been able to go East since 1913, and many changes had taken place during those eight years, but the one direction in which I saw no change was in the loyalty to the company's interests and the keenness in their work displayed by the managers, agents, and the staff throughout the entire business, and I welcome this opportunity of publicly testifying to the great value of these services to which in such a large measure the success of the company's operations is due. And again it was impressed on my mind how highly desirable it is in a corporation such as ours that, as far as possible, those at the head of affairs on this side should keep in personal touch with not only those in charge of the management on the other side but also those responsible for the conduct of every branch of the company's business and operations there, so as to promote and encourage in every possible way that good feeling between employer and employed which goes so far to ensure the successful running of any business, and so long as I am fortunate enough to remain chairman of this great company and am given the health and opportunities to do so it is my intention to continue to regularly pay these visits to the seat of our operations in the East.

The £70,499 8s. 7d., £30,000, and £80,328 15s. 9d. provided for depreciation on refineries, pipelines, and tankers and tank installation accounts respectively are on the usual ample scale.

The customary £20,000 has been added to insurance reserve, bringing this account up to the substantial figure of £360,000, and the fire and marine insurance account has been raised from £279,335 1s. 6d. to £366,988 13s. 8d.

After providing for the above appropriations and the £195,000 placed to general reserve, and paying income tax, directors' fees, and all charges there is a balance of £3,729,765 2s. 11d. From this fall to be deducted the interim dividends paid in November amounting to £537,881 5s., leaving a balance of £3,191,883 17s. 11d., and this your directors recommend should be applied in payment of the final Preference dividends amounting to £21,000, and of a final dividend of 4s. per share, free of income tax, on the Ordinary shares, £1,028,700, amounting together to £1,049,700, and leaving £2.142.183 17s. 11d. to be carried forward, subject to the payment of excess profits duty and corporation tax, which together we estimate at something in the neighbourhood of £1.935.000

## Over 7¾ Millions in Taxes.

While on the subject of taxation it will no doubt interest you to know that in the years 1915 to 1920 the total taxation paid by the company in the shape of income tax, excess profits duty, and corporation tax amounted to no less than £7,870,776, while in the same period the total Ordinary and Preference dividends paid to the shareholders have only amounted to £5,816,331, so that the National Exchequer has actually received fully £2,000,000 more from the company than the shareholders have.

In connection with the payment of the Preference dividends the directors have decided to bring the three classes of Preference shares into line and pay dividends on all three at the same time —namely, April 30 and October 31. The first full half-year's dividend on the new 8 per cent. Preference shares will be paid on April 30 next.

Under the provisions of the provident and pension fund, by which the members of the fund share in the prosperity of the company on the basis of the rate of dividend paid on the Ordinary shares, you will see that the substantial sum of £141,847 18s. 9d. has been credited to that fund. I was aware how greatly appreciated this fund is by the staff on this side, and during the course of my tour in India and Burma, when I came into personal contact with so many of our Eastern staff, it was very deeply impressed on me how far the creation of this fund has gone to still further strengthen the very friendly and harmonious relations which have always existed between employer and employed in our company.

The increase on interest account from £285,154 8s. 9d. to £319,816 16s. 1d. is almost entirely due to the larger dividend—10 per cent., free of tax, as against 8 per cent., free of tax, for 1919—received on our holding of Anglo-Persian Ordinary shares for 1920, and similarly the increase on investment account from £3,204,390 16s. 9d. to £4,266,963 3s. 3d. is practically accounted for by our increased holding in that company.

## The Staff and the Native Workers.

Last year I ventured to say we were a very large but, on the whole, a very happy family, and the warmth and kindliness of the welcome extended to me personally on every side, and all I saw of the excellent relations existing between the managers and the staff and the great majority of the workers in every branch of the business, made me feel how justified I had been in making that statement. As the outcome of the war, and in common with nearly all large employers of labour in India and Burma, we have been experiencing a certain amount of "liveliness" amongst our native workers, and have had several strikes to contend with. With practically only one exception these strikes have been engineered and fostered by outside and political agitators—Gandhi, non co-operators, and otherwise—whose main idea seems to be to stir up strife between employers and employees and clog the wheels of industry. As I have told you on more than one occasion we do everything in our power to make our native workers comfortable and contented, and our wages for both skilled and unskilled labour have for a long time past been at least equal to the highest, and in most cases higher than those paid by other employers of similar labour. We believe that the great majority of our workers are—and have been—quite satisfied with their pay and the conditions under which they live, but when a strike was declared many of them, though anxious and willing to work, were forced to join the strikers by intimidation of the most flagrant character. We have always been prepared—and still are prepared—to receive and give every consideration to any reasonable requests or complaints put forward in proper form by any of our workers.

## The Refineries.

Operations at our refineries during the past year were steady and results satisfactory in a further reduction in fuel consumption and increase in the volume of our more valuable products. Our refineries in Burma at present occupy three separate sites—at Dunneedaw, near Rangoon, and on that side of the river; at Syriam, some six miles down and on the other side of the river; and at Bogyok, some two miles or so from Syriam. In the direction of concentration of management and control we are now considering a scheme to bring our refining operations all together at Syriam, and, in the process, to apply the most modern and up-to-date methods of distillation and refining there. From these proposals very considerable economies in labour, management, and fuel consumption besides improvements generally in products are anticipated.

The substantial addition, £185,470 2s. 4d., to refineries account is principally due to the provision of a large amount of new gas-tight tankage for the storage of benzine, and also to considerable additions to the new type of refining plant to which I referred fully last year. These gas-tight tanks are expensive to erect, but amply repay the expenditure through the reduction of loss by evaporation.

## Additional Pumping Stations.

The £87,273 18s. 4d. added to the pipe-lines account is the cost of the two additional pumping stations which I told you in 1919 we were installing with a view to materially increasing the throughput of the line and lengthening its life by operating it at a reduced pressure. These two stations came into operation in December last, and have been working quite satisfactorily. In due course, when we have our oilfields electrification power house completed, it is intended to apply electrification to our main pipe-line pumps. The £35,016 6s. 11d. charged to the depreciation account is the cost of relaying about thirty-five miles of the main pipe-line which had become seriously corroded owing to the soil in that small section of the line being very heavily impregnated with alkali.

## The Company's Fleet.

The company's fleet has run steadily and without any serious mishap during the year. The construction of our new 10,000-ton tanker is now making fairly satisfactory progress in view of all the circumstances of to-day's labour conditions here, and delivery is anticipated early in 1922. The bulk of the £170,801 11s. 1d. added to tankers, etc., account is represented by the cost of a number of the launches and river steamers which I told you last year had been put in hand, principally to replace those purchased from us by the Government for Mesopotamia. Material additions have also been made to our installations and distributing facilities in India. While I was East I had the opportunity of inspecting nearly the whole of our fleet of tankers and launches, and the very high state of efficiency in which I found them all reflects the greatest credit on our marine superintendent, Captain Currie, and all the officers and engineers of the fleet.

Progress with the electrification of the Yenangyoung Oil Field has been satisfactory in all the circumstances of delays in receipt of plant, etc., consequent on labour troubles in this country, and two of our neighbours in that field have contracted to take their requirements of current from us.

## Interests in Trinidad.

As regards our interests in Trinidad, I regret that our friends the United British Oil Fields of Trinidad, Limited, have not yet succeeded in developing production either of a steady character or of important volume, but everything possible continues to be done to achieve these two essentials to success, and in this direction their board has recently made arrangements to place fields operations under the direct management on the spot of the technical experts associated with the producing companies of the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Limited, which company, as you know, is also interested in the United British Oil Fields of Trinidad, Limited.

As regards the market for our products in 1920, the report and the accounts before you speak fully for themselves. The recent very heavy fall in petroleum values does not affect your company as regards kerosene—by far the largest marketed product of our crude oil. And in the case also of our lubricating, etc., oils, which are similarly almost entirely marketed in India, these had not advanced to anything like the levels reached in other markets and consequently have not, at least meantime, shared in the decline in values elsewhere.

## Declining Prices.

The decline in the market value of petrols, paraffin wax, and candles affects us as it does others. In the former case the full disposal of our production is, however, assured, and in the latter, although demand is far from strong we see no reason to anticipate that our production will not continue to go reasonably satisfactorily into consumption. But in the case of these three products we shall require to be content with much lower values than have recently ruled—at any rate until world trade conditions become more settled and the markets at present more or less closed to consumption again become free buyers and consumers.

Our petrols continue to go largely into consumption in India, and in due course—at least on the basis of our present production—we should market our entire output there, and so cease to be exporters of this product. In any case what we do require to export will in less than a year from now be

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exported by us and sold on our own account instead of as at present on a profit-sharing arrangement with buyers under contract, and those new conditions should be to the advantage of the company.

At the recent extraordinary general meetings I fully explained the reasons necessitating the raising of further capital, and, as you are all aware, the recent issue of £3,000,000 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares was a great success and very largely over-applied for As you are also aware, the holders of the 250,000 preference shares of £1 and the 75,000 shares of £10 each were given the opportunity of consolidating these two classes of shares and having the rate of interest on them raised from 6 to 6½ per cent., but apparently owing to apathy the proxies returned fell very largely short of the majority required to carry the necessary resolutions, and the directors had perforce to drop the scheme.

## The Outlook.

In regard to the outlook for the future in general, and the prospects for the current year in particular, I am sure that in these abnormally trying and uncertain times you will not expect me to deal with this undoubtedly difficult question in any other vein than the cautious one I have invariably adopted in the past. As I said last year, I am no pessimist as regards the future of the Burmah Oil Company—the very reverse—but when it comes to looking ahead I always endeavour to see both sides of the picture—the unfavourable as well as the favourable—and every year it is more strongly impressed on me how impossible it is to foresee the course of events for any length of time ahead, and how foolish it is to attempt to enter into the dangerous realms of prophecy.

Dealing with the current year, the one extremely favourable feature is the termination at December 31 last, as far as we are concerned, of the excess profits duty, our liability for which for 1920, as shown in the accounts, is estimated at the huge sum of £1,800,000. I have, however, been astonished to find how many people—including even men of large business experience—have jumped to the conclusion that, supposing our net profits for 1921 were the same as for 1920, this whole sum would be saved to the company As a matter of fact, it would be subject to deduction of 6s income-tax and 1s. corporation profits tax, equal to £630,000, so that the net saving would be £1,170,000. Against the very large saving there will be under this heading will have to be placed the reduction in profits through the fall in the prices of petrol, paraffin, wax, and candles, to which I have just referred, the severe drop in the Indian exchange, and higher working costs, due principally to increased wages granted to our Indian labour. How far the one will go against the other it is impossible for me to attempt to forecast at present, but I feel that we can with every confidence look forward both to satisfactory trading results for the current year and to the future of the company for many years to come. And, fortunately, prices of materials and stores are distinctly on the downward grade, and, as I have said, we anticipate in due course considerable economies in working costs from the electrification of the oilfields and the concentration and further improvements of our refineries.

## Tribute to Late Colleagues.

I opened my address last year with an intimation of an apology for absence on account of illness from Mr. W. J. Chrystal, and I closed it with a reference to Mr. James Hamilton's retiral, for health reasons, from the post of manager of the company, which he had held for fifteen years. In less than a month afterwards Mr. Hamilton passed quietly away, and in April of this year Mr. Chrystal was also taken after a long drawn-out and painful illness borne with wonderful patience and fortitude. I need not repeat here the tribute I last year paid to Mr. Hamilton, and will content myself by again saying that after twenty-seven years' daily association with him in connection with the affairs and management of the company no one can speak with greater knowledge than I can of the immense value of the services rendered by him Mr. Chrystal joined our board in 1911, and proved himself an ideal director, regular in attendance at all board meetings and keenly interested in all the affairs of the company. His career—commercial, public, and private—is too well known in Glasgow to require any panegyric from me, and, speaking for myself and my co-directors, I will only say that through his death we have lost not only a valued and trusted colleague, but one whom we always felt it was a privilege to call our friend.

## New Members of the Board.

Acting on the powers conferred on them under Article 89, the directors appointed Mr. Gilbert C. Whigham to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Hamilton's death, and you will be asked in due course to confirm this appointment. After serving the company for 14½ years in Rangoon, Mr. Whigham came to the London office at the end of 1919, and has there taken an important share in the management of the company's affairs, and the board ask you with every confidence to confirm their action in appointing him to a position which he has so worthily earned.

From the report you will have seen that to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Chrystal's death the directors recommend the election of Mr. David McCowan. Mr. McCowan is so well known in the commercial and public life of Glasgow that I feel there is no necessity for me to enlarge in any way on his fitness for the position, and I am sure you will heartily and unanimously endorse your directors' choice.

I now beg to propose "That the report of the directors and audited statement of accounts, including the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account, as at December 31, 1920, presented to the meeting be received, approved, and adopted." I call on Mr. Ashton to second the motion, and after it has been seconded an opportunity will be given to the shareholders to ask questions or make any comment.

Mr. H. S. Ashton.—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I beg to second the motion.

The Chairman.—Gentlemen, are there any questions anyone would like to put, or any remarks anyone would care to make? There being none, I now beg to put formally to the meeting the resolution which I have proposed and which Mr. Ashton has seconded.

The motion was carried unanimously.

## The Dividends.

The Chairman.—I have now pleasure in moving that the following dividends, recommended by the directors—namely, "First, on the six per cent. First Preference shares of £1 each, of 7 1-5d. per share, equivalent to 6 per cent. per annum, from June 30 to December 31, 1920, less tax; second, on the six per cent. Second Preference shares of £10 each, 6s. per share, equivalent to 6 per cent. per annum, from June 30 to December 31, 1920, less tax; third, on the Ordinary shares of £1 each, 4s. per share, free of tax, making, with the interim dividend, 30 per cent. for the year—be adopted and that the same be hereby authorised to be paid on July 26, and that the balance of £2,142,183 17s. 11d., subject to excess profits duty and corporation tax estimated at £1,935,000, be carried forward.". I shall ask Mr. Honeyman to second the motion.

Mr. O. H. Honeyman.—I beg, sir, to second the motion. The motion was adopted.

## Election of Directors.

The Chairman.—I now beg to move that Mr. Gilbert C. Whigham be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr. William Robb.—I beg to second.

The motion was adopted.

The Chairman.—I now beg to move that Mr. Robert I. Watson be re-elected a director.

Mr. T. H. Gollan.—I beg to second the re-election of Mr. R. I. Watson.

The motion was adopted.

The Chairman.—I also beg to move that Mr. H. S. Ashton be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr. William Auld seconded the resolution which was adopted.

The Chairman.—I beg to move that Mr. David McCowan be elected a director of the company

Mr. Robert Clark seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Colonel D. S. Morton.—I beg to propose the appointment of Mr. J. Herbert Wilson, C.A., as auditor of the company, at the remuneration of 500 guineas. This is an increase on last year. I understand that the last increase took place in 1916. As every business man knows, like ourselves, the auditor has to pay largely increased salaries to the staff; not only so, but the work connected with the auditing of a company like this has increased, and is increasing, year by year, and I think, under the circumstances, you will agree with me that the augmentation of the remuneration is amply justified.

Mr. J. B. Couper.—I have much pleasure in seconding the proposal of the appointment of Mr. J. Herbert Wilson, C.A., as auditor of the company. The motion was adopted.

The Chairman.—That, gentlemen, is all the business, and I have to thank you very much for your attendance here to-day.

## Vote of Thanks to the Chairman.

Mr. R. C. Greig.—I should like, just in a very few words, to ask you to accord to Sir John Cargill, our esteemed chairman, a hearty vote of thanks. By his speeches in the past he has set himself a high standard, and I venture to say the speech we have listened to to-day is more than worthy of its predecessors. We have received an interesting account as to the present position of the company, and also with regard to the future. In proposing this vote of thanks I should like also to make special reference to the visit paid to Burma by Sir John during the past year in our interest. As many of you know, travelling is still uncomfortable and subject to the post-war conditions. When he started out the reports from India of unrest were not reassuring. It is only in keeping with Sir John's *esprit de corps* and devotion to the interests of this company that he should have cast aside these considerations and hastened to personally oversee the important developments which have taken place. He has given us a most satisfactory account of the state of the staff, and I am sure that they, on their part, will feel that his visit has inspired them. I ask you to accord Sir John Cargill a most hearty vote of thanks. This was seconded, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—Mr. Greig, ladies and gentlemen, I have once again to thank you most heartily for the very kind reception you have given to me to-day, and Mr. Greig specially for the very kind and encouraging words he has used in proposing this vote of thanks. I referred to the very kindly reception I got on all hands when I was in the East, and I again ventured to liken my 35,000 odd employees there to a happy family. I feel now that I can add to that already not inconsiderable family the very large body of shareholders, some 20,000 odd now, on this side, so that together I am at the head of what I think I might call a very large family. But I think I can say this family is so extremely well behaved that it does not cause me any real anxiety, as is evidenced by the fact that when my barber was cutting my hair two days ago he told me he had been looking for a grey hair, and he could not find one. I think that is a very excellent testimony to the behaviour of my large family. I can only say what a great pleasure it was to me to take my trip to the East, and I purpose, so long as I am given health and strength, to do so again so that I can come before you, ladies and gentlemen, with a thorough knowledge of every branch of my business and give you first-hand information of what is going on on the other side, where, after all, the real work of the business of the company has to be carried on. I thank you very much indeed.

The proceedings then terminated.

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## SUDAN PRODUCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, June 22.

Blue Nile Province.—It is reported that the Government have completed the purchase and taking over of 5,000 tons of dhurrah as a province reserve. It is stored in underground pits called *matmura*, with an average capacity of 400 ardebs, and, according to the natives, can be kept for at least four years in this manner. According to James Bruce, who visited Sennar in 1772, the practice of storing grain in *matmuras* owes its introduction to the Fung Empire to Sheikh Shadli, whose tomb is still standing to this day.

## DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., in their report for the fortnight ended July 5, state:—

Currants.—The feature of our market during the months of labour unrest has been its remarkable steadiness, but unfortunately the coal strike has hampered progress to a far greater extent than was fully realised in the early days of the stoppage. We finished the month with a general desire on the part of sellers to unload some of their holdings even at some concessions in price. We have no wish to prophesy any immediate improvement in trade, but it is anticipated that, the coal strike being terminated, buyers will have to replenish their stocks, as they have been working for a long time on a hand-to-mouth policy, and are carrying no reserves. Another important point to bear in mind is new crop prospects, and the latest reports are of damage to the vines by peronosporos. S.s. Bosnian arrived with 1,200 tons, and the best grades of Panariti and Zante should meet a good reception when trade revives, as the Vostizza growth is exhausted. The little business passing has been Gulf at 63s. to 66s., Panariti 75s., Patras and Zante 62s. to 78s. (the latter price for speciality smalls). Total arrivals from commencement of the season, 24,100 tons. Quotations are:—Pyrgos and Amalias, 48s. to 60s.; Patras, 60s. to 65s.; Zante, 62s. to 78s.; Gulf and Panariti, 63s. to 75s.; Vostizza, 82s. to 95s

Valencia Raisins.—Market is now bare of stock.

Sultanas.—The market has been replenished by some small arrivals of Smyrnas from America and a few further supplies from India. Values have continued on their upward course, improving daily, and recent sales record a considerable advance over closing figures of last month. Yellow Afghans have been sold at 137s. 6d. and Reds at 105s. Greeks have also risen in price to 140s., and Smyrnas sold at 135s. to 170s.

Figs.—Stocks are exhausted.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 4:—During the week ending June 25 weather conditions and crop prospects unchanged. Since that date monsoon strengthened on west coast of peninsula and in Burma. Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomra, July Rs.311, September Rs.327. Piece-goods market quiet but steady. Local goods moving steadily. Good inquiry for fancies. Calcutta jute market firm, and sellers inclined to raise limits. Business reported in first substitutes at Rs.57.8.0. Hessians and heavy goods quiet but steady. Rice control reimposed in Ceylon, as export surplus in Rangoon is strictly limited. Ceylon has in hand three months' supply of rice on strictly rationed basis, or two months' normal supply. Rationing system again resorted to and maximum prices fixed. At tea sale on June 28 Dooars, Terais, and a few first flush Assams very good. Few new season's Cachars and Sylhets good and sold at 3 to 6 pies above same qualities old stock; common grades and dusts firm to slightly dearer. 17,685 packages sold to date at average price of 8 annas 6 pies per lb. Kurla Bombay Railway survey (five miles) by Great Indian Peninsula Railway Co. and Hebo-Inle Valley, preliminary survey of seven miles by Burma Railways Co. sanctioned. The former is with a view to expansion of Bombay residential accommodation, and the latter is just a railway extension in the Southern Shan States. No change in bank rates.

A further cable dated July 7 states:—Weather continues favourable, and jute plants growing well. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to July 1, 1921, were 2,542,000 bales, as compared with 3,182,000 during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay imported piece-goods market quiet. Calcutta jute market dull. Imports have increased, but with balers continuing to buy steadily, stocks are reduced by 1,360 tons. Prices firm. Rice Commissioner in Rangoon has cancelled licences for export of rice to foreign countries, including Ceylon. Prices of Specials rose to Rs. 590 per 100 baskets of 75 lb. each on July 2, and opened at Rs. 580 on July 4, but declined to Rs. 550 by end of that day. On July 6 prices fluctuated between Rs. 552 and Rs. 500, closing at top. Forward contracts reported for February, March and April, 1922, at Rs. 415 and Rs. 420.

# COTTON AND COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Business in the market during the past week has been on quite an extensive scale, and it is possible to state that on Tuesday more trade was done than has been the case for many months back. Raw cotton rates have continued to harden, which is a favourable sign. Business on all sides tends to broaden, and there is every possibility of more business being done in the near future. Although the cloth demand for Egypt has not been very substantial, some useful lines in fancies have been put through, but it is reported that the financial position out there is not all that could be desired. Recent reports, however, show that stocks of goods are gradually being liquidated, and it is generally believed that there is a shortage of Lancashire goods in the up-country districts. Buyers for Constantinople and the Levant have not been altogether idle. Quotations for Egyptian spinnings have continued firm, but users appear to have enough stocks on hand to meet with their requirements, with the result that sales have not been satisfactory. With regard to India, the demand for piece goods has been on quite an extensive scale, and some big lines in dhooties, mulls and jaconets have been booked, with Calcutta as the principal buyer. Varied reports have been received with reference to the monsoon, but late advices state that the rains are proving more or less a success. Shippers to China have bought rather more freely, but there is a lot of leeway to be made up. Greys and whites have received increased attention. The position with regard to South America does not improve. Taking the market as a whole, it is fairly safe to say that we have definitely turned the corner towards better times, and buyers are operating more freely on account of the possibility of prices going against them in the near future.

### British Cotton Exports.

An idea of the vastness of the Lancashire cotton industry, of which more than three-quarters of the total production is sent abroad, is obtained by a study of the recently published official statistics relating to the shipments for the six months ended June 30 last of manufactured articles from the United Kingdom. The total of the twenty headings under which the exports are classified is £319,229,784, of which cotton yarns and manufactures account for no less a sum than £94,415,882, equal to 30 per cent. This is more than twice the amount absorbed by the next largest item—machinery—which is responsible for £41,120,395, or 13 per cent. Iron and steel, £38,150,482, representing 12 per cent., and woollen and worsted, £32,156,468, about 10½ per cent., occupy the third and fourth places on the list. The figure of £94,415,882 given for cotton yarns and manufactures, consists of piece goods, £75,104,452, and yarns, £10,301,588, the remaining £9,009,842 being made up of miscellaneous goods such as thread, net, and flags, shawls, and handkerchiefs not in the piece.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 7:—During the past week a distinct improvement has taken place in the inquiry for Egyptian cotton, and if this inquiry has not yet grown to any very large proportions it must be borne in mind that the mills are still only working short time, and that some little while must necessarily elapse before the dislocated machinery of trade can be put in order, and a return to something like normal conditions can be attained. On every hand now there are signs of a general settling down of industry, and one has to be a very confirmed pessimist not to admit that prospects for the future are brighter now than they have been for many weary months past. It was refreshing, for example, to find certain firms buying Egyptian cotton this week (even though only a few bales) who had not previously touched it for the past six months, or longer. A total of 500 bales for yesterday's sales also administered a fillip to the market. Sakellaridis still claims most of the attention—generally speaking types 30-39. Upper and brown are still neglected, although prices rule firm, particularly for the former. Prices are very irregular, and already a tendency has appeared to force them up, but this policy seems unwarranted at the moment, as there are plenty of easy sellers about. There is, undoubtedly, more doing in c.i.f. business, and a feature of the week in this department has been a demand for new crop. The good trade in cloths and yarns, which has been reported from Manchester for some time now, seems to be continuing, but little purchasing of actual cotton would appear to be taking place in that quarter so far, and it is useless to shut our eyes to the fact that a considerable quantity of the trade reported consists in manufacturers and spinners throwing overboard old stocks, very often at an actual loss. A certain amount on the spot here has been done for the Continent, and the inquiry from that source also shows signs of improvement. Quotations of Sakellaridis are raised ¼d. per lb. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 16.00d. Total sales, 1,000 bales.

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## HARVEST PROSPECTS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports to the Department of Overseas Trade that, according to statements in the Press, the 1921 harvest, especially as regards the earlier cereal crops (among which maize is not included), is likely to be very poor, owing to adverse weather conditions. Very heavy rain storms have been experienced, causing great floods in Bosnia, where it is said villages have been destroyed, many head of cattle lost, bridges washed away, and railway communications interrupted. Even in those areas not actually flooded great damage has been occasioned to the crops, the heavy rain and hail having beaten down wheat, barley, and the like, which were almost ready for reaping. A very heavy storm in the Department of Timok has beaten down the corn to such an extent that it is said that in many of the communes there will be no harvest.

## CZECHOSLOVAK SUGAR.

One of Czechoslovakia's most important industries is the production of sugar. The republic, which is the only European State able to export this commodity, is the second largest beet-sugar producer in the world, having some 500,000 acres of beet under cultivation. In 1920-1921 some 715,000 tons of sugar were produced, 189 factories and refineries being engaged in the industry. According to a report just issued by the Foreign Trade Department, the republic, after satisfying home demands, had some 300,000 tons available for export, of which 216,000 tons have been sold, the proceeds amounting to 2,126 million crowns. Inclusive of the sugar sold to France and Austria in the way of "compensation"—that is, in exchange for other commodities—and assuming that the stock which still remains in hand will be sold at the market price prevailing to-day (which is very considerably lower than the prices hitherto obtained), the total amount accruing from the export of sugar for 1920-1921 is about 4,000 million crowns. After deducting the home cost of the sugar and the expenses of transport, etc., the net profit from export is 2,000 million crowns. This sum was devoted to the purchase of flour from England, America and other countries.

## PRESENTATION TO MR. C. E. TOWN.

On July 6 the permanent staff of the London Chamber of Commerce presented Mr. C. E. Town (Assistant-Secretary of the Chamber), on the occasion of his retirement, with a handsome antique mahogany bookcase, with silver plate attached and engraved.

The gift was accompanied by an illuminated, framed address, bearing the names of seventy-eight members of the staff, and was executed by Mr. C. W. Norris, 12, King Street, Cheapside, E.C. Mr. B. Norris, the oldest member of the Chamber's staff of representatives, made a personal gift of a work on "The Life of Frederick the Great."

Mr. Charles E. Musgrave (Secretary of the Chamber), in making the presentation, paid a glowing tribute to the recipient's services during the past twenty-five years, and Mr. Town modestly acknowledged both the gifts and the encomiums


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Tone Quiet but Firm.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Monday night.

Markets have for the most part been inactive during the past week, investors continuing to maintain a reserved attitude. The tone has, however, been fairly firm, and it is evident that the development of buying will bring about a marked improvement in rates.

Following the announcement of a new Government Loan, gilt-edged stocks have been somewhat easier. War Loan Fives are 3-16 down on the week, while Victory Bonds have shed ¼, and Consols have reacted ¼ to 47¾. The Indian Seven per Cent. Loan is ⅛ lower.

A quiet tone has prevailed in the Industrial group owing to the absence of interest on the part of the public. Oils have been weak, while there is little change to report as regards Rubbers.

As regards Near Eastern securities, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. have shed a point at 68, but Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are unchanged at 66 and 70 respectively.

In Greek shares the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 1½ down at 42xd., and the 5 per cent. 1884 has shed a like amount at 42xd. The 5 per cent. 1890 at 40 has lost a point, while Fundings are also lower at 40. The 4 per cent. 1910 Loan is 29, while the 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is 32xd. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 38.

In Land shares Beheras have risen sharply ⅝ to 8⅜, but the preference shares are unchanged at 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments remain at 3, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands have regained their previous week's loss at 1s. Egyptian Delta Lands are 3d. up at 6s. 9d., at which there are buyers, while Gharbieh Lands are 1-16 up at 1 3-16. New Egyptians are 2s. down at 20s. 3d. xd, but Union Foncieres have gained 3-16 at 2⅛ xd. Sudan Plantations are ⅛ down at 2 15-16.

In Banks, Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Bonds are ⅛ up at 51⅞, while Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds have gained a like amount at 53⅞. Imperial Ottoman Banks are ¾ down at 7¾, while National Bank of Egypts are 1-16 up at 17½.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on June 24 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £3 31-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6⅛ ex.; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2⅛; Associated Cotton Ginners, 11-15; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 56; Behera Ord., £E7; Behera Priv., £3 3-32; Bonded Stores, £7¾; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 70; Building Lands of Egypt, £⅝; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr. 102 ex.; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £¾; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 780 ex.; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 588; Credit Foncier 1885 Oblig., Fr. 307; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 219; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 220; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 77; Eaux du Caire, Jouissance, Fr. 101; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 26s. 9d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4 11-16; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £9⅜; Gabbari Lands, £¼; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 1-64; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane de Wadi, £3¾; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £33 9-16; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 39; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 270 ex.; Nungovich Hotels, £6; Ramleh Railway, £2 3-32; Salt and Soda, 26s. 10½d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 42; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 60; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £1 11-16 ex; Egypt Hotels, £1 15-16; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 27-32.

## TENDERS INVITED.

[*Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.*]

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned:—**

### Yugoslavia.

Oil, etc.—The Ministry of War and Marine, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of:—400,000 kgs. of benzine, 40,000 kgs. of thick oil for motors, 4,000 kgs. of thick oil, and 5,000 kgs. of petrol. Tenders must be submitted to the "Direction de l'Artillerie," bearing a 10 din. stamp, accompanied by a sample, the chemical analysis of which is to be effected in a State laboratory, and the result is to be attached to the tender. The envelope must bear the inscription "Offres de Benzine." July 20.

Paper.—The Direction des Chemins de Fer de l'Etat, Subotica, invites tenders for the supply of ordinary paper for rough use as follows:—10,000 kgs. 42 by 68 cms.; 10,000 kgs. 50 by 90 cms.; 10,000 kgs. 47 by 60 cms.; 2,000 kgs. 63 by 95 cms.; 3,000 kgs. 60 by 90 cms.; 5,000 kgs. 63 by 35 cms. Tenders must be addressed to the "Direction des Chemins de Fer de l'Etat" at Subotica, together with samples and prices. They should be sealed, and the envelope should be marked "Offre pour l'adjudication de papier, KN 11228/21." July 20.

Turntables.—The Direction des Chemins de Fer de l'Etat, Subotica, invites tenders for the supply of turntables for locomotives, ordinary gauge. They should bear a 10 din. stamp, and be marked "Offres de disques tournants, K.D. 12560/21." All Serbian subjects should make a deposit of 10 per cent. of the value offered, and foreigners 20 per cent. of the value. July 21.

### Bulgaria.

Railway Wagons.—The Bulgarian State Railways are inviting tenders for the construction and supply of 200 covered goods wagons and 200 coal wagons (to be ready for delivery by January 15, 1922); 400 covered goods wagons and 200 mineral wagons (to be ready for delivery by March 31, 1922). Tenders should be addressed to the Department of Finance, Sofia. August 1 (D.O.T.).

Coke.—Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Railways for the supply of coke as follows: 500 tons of metallurgical coke, at an estimated price per ton of 3,000 leva, 1,500,000 leva. The coke must be metallurgical, compact, and obtained from cleaned, solid (hard) coal, and consist of large, sound pieces, which must not pass through a sieve with 104 mm. (square) holes. It must have a good silver lustre and a ringing sound on striking one piece against another. The separate pieces must be of uniform size, and without any very large pores. It must be free from stone or other foreign matter, and not contain more than 12 per cent. ash. Small pieces are allowed up to 5 per cent., and moisture up to 5 per cent.; but if moisture is shown to be in excess of this percentage, it will be deducted from the weight of the coke. Delivery time, three months for 200 tons, balance in five months c.i.f. Bulgarian port. Payment, one-half against documents; the supplier to give a bank guarantee for this sum; balance after arrival and acceptance. Offers should be addressed to La Direction Générale, des Chemins de Fer Bulgares, Sofia, Bulgaria. August 3. (D.O.T.)

Machine Tools.—The Bulgarian States Railways invite tenders for the supply of machine tools, including lathes, planes, thread cutters, milling machines, etc. August 6. (D.O.T.)

### Egypt.

Glue.—The Government Press, Bûlaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 700 kilos of glue, light, for bookbinding. August 4.

Safes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 100 money safes. August 22.

Timber.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of timber. August 23.

Envelopes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of envelopes. August 25.


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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## TRADE OF VOLO INCREASING.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Volo (Mr. W. L. C. Knight) states that, according to the Statistical Report of the Greek Ministry of National Economy, the value of the goods imported into Volo in the first nine months of 1920 amounted to 51,318,750 drachmæ, as compared with 26,275,395 drachmæ during the corresponding period of 1919, an increase of almost 100 per cent., that in the case of Piræus being about 60 per cent., Patras 60 per cent., Salonika 55 per cent., and Syra 12 per cent.

The Vice-Consul states further that Volo's great increase is to be attributed to the fact that during the greater part of the period in question the port had recovered something like its normal activity, its import trade, such as it was, during and for some time after the war, having been largely done through Salonika and Piræus. 1920 witnessed the resumption of direct and more or less regular communications by sea with the United Kingdom, Holland, Italy, Belgium, and, at the end of the year, Germany. Moreover, the comparatively rapid and generally advantageous unloading arrangements at a port where there exists no congestion problem such as at Piræus and Salonika, has resulted in a very successful transhipment service at Volo. Thanks to this, considerable and increasing quantities of foreign merchandise are unloaded at Volo for transhipment not merely to neighbouring ports such as Chalkis and Kavalla, but also to distant Crete, Rhodes, Preveza, etc. If ever the much-talked-of and urgently needed dredging of the harbour and other improvements are carried into effect, apart from the question, which has been mooted, of greatly enlarging the port by the construction of a new breakwater, this transhipment trade might be developed almost indefinitely with all the island and lesser mainland ports.

The exports from Volo for January-September, 1920, were valued at 65,102,683 drachmæ, as compared with 55,706,123 drachmæ for the same months of 1919, an increase of about 20 per cent. This total is only exceeded for the period in question by Salonika (78 millions), and is greater than the totals for Patras (62 millions) and Piræus (61 millions). Were the figures those for the whole year, however, Volo would certainly have to yield second place to Patras, owing to the latter's exportation of currants during the remaining months. On the other hand, the Salonika and Piræus export figures include all the imports re-exported after payment of duty, there being no such re-exports from Volo, so that, if local produce only be taken into account, the first and second exporting ports of Greece are presumably Patras and Volo respectively

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Maimyo, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 16); s.s. Maidan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 27); s.s. Makalla, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 6); s.s. Maihar, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 17).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 20); s.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 3).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Macbeth, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 21); s.s. Clan Kenneth, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, July 21); s.s. Clan Mackenzie, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 6).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Gerano, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, July 30).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Poona, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 16); s.s. City of Marseilles, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, July 27); s.s. City of Benares, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 29).

*Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, Juy 28); s.s. Carnarvonshire, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, August 11).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 2).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 27).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Elpenor, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, July 15); s.s. Pyrrhus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, July 29).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 20).

*Maindy Line.*—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of July).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 6).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Egyptian, for Malta and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersyne, Jaffa, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.] (Liverpool, July 20); s.s. Cressado, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Syra, Volo, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 13).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Sicilia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, July 15); s.s. Devanha, for Bombay [taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden (with transhipment at Bombay), for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports] (London, July 15); s.s. Nagoya, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, July 29); s.s. Dongola, for Bombay (London, July 29).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. *Chanda, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 29); s.s. †Trevorian, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 30); s.s. *Hatarana, for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 27); s.s. ‡Nirvana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 30). *Taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports; †taking cargo for Port Sudan, Port Said, Suez, and Aden; ‡taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended July 2 amounted to £9,556.

The Czechoslovak Bureau of Information write to point out that in a statement issued by the Bureau relating to Czechoslovak imports and exports, which appeared in our issue of June 23, the word "milliard" was incorrectly used for "million" in each case.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria | Piastres to £ | 97½ | 97⅛§ |
| Athens | Drachmæ to £ | 25·22½ | 66·25-67·50 |
| Belgrade | Dinars to £ | 25·22½ | 135 |
| Berlin | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 280·286 |
| Bombay | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·3½-1·3⅝ |
| Bucharest | Lei to £ | 25·22½ | 250-260 |
| Calcutta | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1·3½-1·3⅝ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ | 110 | 525-545 |
| New York | Dollars to £ | 4·86⅝ | 3·62½-3·66 |
| Paris | Francs to £ | 25·22½ | 46·75-46·95 |
| Prague | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 275-285 |
| Rome | Lire to £ | 25·22½ | 79·00-81·00 |
| Sofia | Levas to £ | 25·22½ | 450 |
| Teheran | Krans to £ | 50 | 50½ |
| Vienna | Kronen to £ | 24·02 | 2,400-2,600 |
| Warsaw | Marks to £ | 20·43 | 6,300-6,800 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.


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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 530—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Greek Offensive.*

The Greek advance has been duly launched, and the Greeks, having previously withdrawn, *pour mieux sauter*, have begun by carrying all before them. With the capture of Afiunkarahissar they have placed themselves astride the Baghdad-Railway; their next objective is Kutahia, which they are now approaching, some sixty-two miles to the north, or two-thirds of the distance from Afiunkarahissar to Eskishehir. These points, however, have been reached on a previous occasion, and it would be early to infer that the initial momentum will be maintained. Ammunition and finance still remain the sinews of war, and the relative positions of the two combatants in regard to these essentials is not known. The indications are that neither can be altogether free from anxiety on this score. If both should be equally handicapped, the home defence, as the struggle continues, will be favoured at the expense of the side which has to carry on the attack with lengthening lines of communication.

### *Allied Aloofness.*

In the meantime the Allied Powers show no disposition to intervene in the useless war. Italy, finding that her attempts at a separate understanding with the Turkish Nationalists have not been successful, is trying to discover whether she stands to gain more by offering support to what may ultimately prove to be British policy. Her contributions towards moulding the latter at this stage could hardly fail to be for the benefit of Albania, which sees its integrity threatened in spite of the emphatic pledges on this point contained in the Covenant of the League of Nations. The British Government would naturally prefer to have its Allies with it rather than against it in the Near East, but it has been too much occupied with home politics to give to Greco-Turkish affairs the expert consideration that they require. The British Cabinet's divided state of mind on this subject may be inferred from the emphatic words that the Secretary of State for the Colonies felt called upon to use last week in the House of Commons. "There is no greater interest," he said, "in the whole of the Middle East than that interest of Britain, and, I believe, of France as well, to secure a cessation of this protracted, vicious, mischievous strife between these two forces. I could not possibly speak upon this subject of the Middle East without emphasising the need that there is for us to arrive at a satisfactory peace with Turkey, and to procure a cessation of the hostilities which, after all these years, are still distracting and ruining the whole of these unfortunate areas of the East." But still no practical step to end the war has been taken.

### *Bulgaria and the Reparations Committee.*

The sudden rise of Bulgarian exchange, which returned to the rate of 350 leva to the pound sterling with even more startling rapidity than it had dropped from that point to the neighbourhood of 600, is to be the starting point, we may hope, of a healthier condition for Bulgarian finance. It seems to be no secret in Bulgaria itself that the quick recovery of the exchange is due to the action of the Inter-Allied Mission in bringing about the abolition of the Consortium. This step, taken at the instance of the British section of the Mission, will be welcomed throughout Bulgaria, and cannot be resented by M. Stambolisky's Government, which is thus delivered from one of its most serious mistakes. In this salutary intervention Bulgarian public opinion will, we trust, recognise the practical utility of the Reparations Commission, and turn to it regularly for help and advice in the arduous task of setting the country's economic position on a sounder basis.

### *Albania's Misfortune and—*

Little news reaches us from Albania, and what does come through is not as good as we could wish. According to an unconfirmed report, the Catholic Mirdites have revolted against the central Government, apparently over a question of the loss of privileges which they enjoyed under the old régime; and another report has it that there has been a change of Cabinet at Tirana. If true, the latter report is to be regretted, for Albania urgently requires stable conditions within her borders

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if she is successfully to defend herself against the dangers that threaten her from outside, and the same considerations would, of course, apply with added force in regard to any detached action by one or other of the elements that make up the population of Albania. Unfortunately for themselves, the Albanians are not well known in Europe, and compared with other Balkan peoples have comparatively few friends; and to be frank, it is to be feared that only a few of them realise the importance of making such friends. Thus it has come about that while they undoubtedly have a good case in the matter of their frontiers, it has not been presented so skilfully as it might have been; while their rivals' friends at court appear to have had considerable success in enlisting powerful support for their *proteges*.

### *Her Rival's Good Luck.*

Questions asked in Parliament lately by Mr. Aubrey Herbert—who is one of the few active and influential friends of Albania in this country—drew answers which served to show that the Shkypetar people owe very little to the statesmen of the Great Powers. In a letter to *The Times*, Mr. Herbert suggests that the refusal of the League of Nations to intervene in the matter of the Albanian frontiers was due chiefly to the hostility of "the Supreme Council and the Government of this country, in the person of Mr. Lloyd George . . . to the impartial tribunal of the League;" and that they "are doing what they can to prejudice it." The League however, Mr. Herbert rightly insists, exists for, amongst other things, the protection of small nations; and as Albania has lately been admitted a member of the League, it would seem to most people that the case in question was just one of the kind with which it would deal most successfully. To refer the question to the Ambassadors' Conference is a very unsatisfactory proceeding. Mr. Herbert concludes the letter referred to by remarking that if Albania is to lose her status. . . and her land is to be taken from her to pay the Greeks for the mistakes that Mr. Lloyd George and the Supreme Council have made in Asia Minor, the triumph of the enemies of the League will be complete." The most awkward thing about his suggestions is that they seem to be painfully near the truth.

### *The Egyptian Delegation.*

The Egyptian Delegation has begun its work in this country. On July 12 Adly Yeghen Pasha had an informal conversation with Lord Curzon at the Foreign Office, and the first official meeting took place the next day. By this time, preliminaries will have been settled, and both parties will have settled down to the discussion of vital questions. Happily, there is every prospect of the discussions being carried on with the minimum of friction; and we may rest assured that if it be possible to reach an agreement satisfactory to both parties, that agreement will be reached; but for the present no public announcement regarding the course of the negotiations is to be expected. Indeed, for obvious reasons, it would be well that no announcement of the kind should be made just yet, and it is to be hoped that the Press and public alike will refrain from demanding one. Meanwhile, in Egypt itself the Zaghloulists are comparatively quiet, but they evidently have no intention of suspending hostilities. They have been spreading reports that the Ministerialists in the provinces have been employing intimidation to ensure the election of Ministerial candidates. Coming from a party which for its own purposes has not hestitated to employ such methods on an unprecedented scale, the charge is not without an element of humour. Making every allowance for the manners and customs of the modern Egyptians, we still find it impossible to believe that intimidation has been countenanced by the present Government, or that its practice has been possible on any considerable scale under their administration. And our scepticism is strengthened by the receipt of several telegrams from Zaghloulists in various parts of Egypt, the terms of which do not indicate any terror on the part of the senders.

### *Mesopotamia.*

The House of Commons accorded another field day to Mesopotamia last Thursday. An attack on the Government policy, as outlined by Mr. Churchill, was led by Mr. Asquith, whose main thesis was that "neither on the grounds of obligation nor on grounds of interest have we any stake in Mesopotamia or in Palestine at all commensurate with the demands that are being made upon the sorely tried British taxpayer," and that the prospect held out of reducing expenditure on the Middle East "depends upon a number of the most shifting, shadowy, nebulous and unsubstantial hypotheses that have ever been presented to the House." It is true that Mr. Churchill had hedged around his picture of the future with a formidable number of "ifs." They represented the ordinary caution of the politician, and not one of them would be unattainable or even an improbable hypothesis, if common sense were allowed to determine our Middle Eastern policy. The country, without doubt, has had a "bad press," mainly because, until Mr. Churchill spoke on the subject, it connoted for the public merely irresolution, unregulated expenditure and departmental rivalries. A native rising and the costly liquidation of military rule afforded facile points of attack, and ignorance regarding a remote part of the world did the rest. One day it will be recognised that Mesopotamia is worth every penny that has been spent upon it, if only because it has been the means (when India and every other consideration had failed) of bringing back to lines of sanity and commonsense Great Britain's Near Eastern policy.

### *Anti-British Persia.*

The *Pioneer* reports that a number of deputies of the Persian Mejliss are demanding the arrest and imprisonment of the late Prime Minister, Seyyid Zia ed-Din, and that they have embodied this demand in the form of a proclamation, which is extremely anti-British in tone. Seyyid Zia ed-Din is accused of having been too friendly to Great Britain; and the proclamation urges that the development of Persia must take place without assistance from any European Power. If the forty and one deputies who sign this interesting statement really believe that Persia is capable of getting on her feet again without outside assistance, they are undoubtedly within their rights in endeavouring to inspire their fellow-countrymen with their own optimism; and they are not the first politicians to act upon the faith which is in them. How far that faith is justified the future alone can show; but we doubt whether many Persians will share it just now; and outside Persia it will certainly fail to arouse enthusiasm among the people who know the country. The desire to stand unaided is, of course, natural and commendable, but to attempt the feat too soon can lead only to disaster. Unfortunately, in spite of official assurances to the contrary, it looks as if a wave of strong anti-British feeling is sweeping over

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Persia just now, carrying with it some of those who only a short time ago were most friendly towards this country; for according to the *Pioneer*, one of the signatories of the proclamation referred to above is the Prince Firouz who was one of the authors of the Anglo-Persian Agreement. If this report be correct, we shall prefer to think that the Prince has been forced by circumstances to take a step of which he cannot really approve. At the same time we must bear in mind that the vigorous measures taken by Seyyid Zia ed-Din and his Cabinet created a great deal of bitterness which, in Persia, was bound to bear fruit sooner or later.

### *Bolshevist Successes.*

An illustration of the difficulties with which the Persians will have to contend in the near future is afforded by the announcement that Bolshevist troops have reoccupied Resht. If Teheran is surprised by this news it must indeed be unsophisticated, and its surprise will be shared by very few people outside Persia. If any explanation of the move has been vouchsafed to the Shah's Ministers, they have not apparently thought it worth passing on—and in this matter their judgment is likely to be sound. The Bolshevists are in fact making headway rapidly in that part of the world. They are reported to have overrun Zangezur, the stronghold of the Armenian National Party, which has been eliminated; and they have been enabled to open up communication with Persia by way of Batoum. The Persians, therefore, may very well think that it is good policy to turn a blind eye on events at Resht; and since they have no force of any kind capable of offering effective opposition to the 'Reds' it would be unkind to condemn them. It is impossible, however, to forget that they owe their defencelessness chiefly to their own choice and to that very desire to dispense with foreign assistance which turned them against the Anglo-Persian Agreement, and which has just prompted the issuance of the manifesto against Seyyid Zia ed-Din. For the moment the influence of Moscow appears to be strong at Teheran, but in all probability we shall very soon see another change.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

### The Irish Negotiations.

Mr. de Valera has been in close conference with Mr. Lloyd George in Downing Street, but extreme reticence has been shown in the published official statements, which indeed have contained little more than the fact and the hour of meeting. Considerably less reticence has been displayed in some of the newspapers, more particularly in the *Morning Post*, which frankly wants to wreck the negotiations. One at least of its "accounts" of the proceedings has been denied as being wholly inaccurate.

It happens that, unlike some of the political correspondents of other newspapers, I was not under the Cabinet table or hidden behind the Cabinet clock during the conversations, and therefore I cannot pretend to give a full account of the proceedings. But it appears intrinsically probable that at present the ground has only been explored, and that no decision has been taken—indeed, even if they had been, they would lack the necessary element of decisiveness. It is known that Mr. de Valera's standpoint is practically Dominion Home Rule. To that, both in principle and in fact, Britain has no objection; it gives Ireland the status of a nation within the Empire. But the implications are important. Nationality implies internal unity, and Ireland is at present divided. Moreover, the political division is not artificial; it is a recognition by the legislature of the United Kingdom of a real division which is both racial and religious and political. De Valera, forced to recognise the existence of that division denies its permanent validity, and apparently wishes Ulster to possess autonomy only for a limited time, and moreover, to accept its constitution from Dublin and not Westminster. Since Ulster already has autonomy, and has obtained it direct from Westminster, I do not see that she stands to gain anything, while she may lose something, by conceding the point.

In any event, that is the crux of the negotiations, and the leading members of the Ulster Cabinet have been summoned to London to confer with Mr. Lloyd George. Their language up to the present in Ulster itself has been uncompromising on this point, and there is here a real conflict of policy. De Valera's attitude in practical boils down to very much the same thing as the old Nationalist policy; it is not separation, but it insists on Ireland being a unity with Ulster as an integral part it was on this rock that Mr. Asquith's Home Rule Bill was wrecked, and this is still the danger point of the present discussions.

For the time being, however, Ireland is engaging the unaccustomed benefits of peace; for except in Belfast where rioting has led to several deaths, the destruction of property, and the calling out of the military, the truce has been loyally observed.

### The Pacific and Disarmament.

The forthcoming conference of the Powers at Washington has been rather overshadowed by the Irish negotiations at home. Opinion here is all in favour of the American invitation, although some of the advocates of the League of Nations show a little jealousy lest Washington should supersede Geneva. But it is already clear that the course will not be all plainsailing. Those who had already dated the Millenium provisionally

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for this autumn are perturbed at the qualified Japanese acceptance, and the prospect of a general international conference on disarmament, with representatives of European and South American Powers, has filled others with doubt as to the prospect of any possible agreement. The more inclusive the conference, the less is it probable, I fear, to arrive at any permanent conclusion, and it is more than possible that some unregenerate countries, while professing to bless peace, will regard any limitation of armaments as in effect a limitation of their sovereignty; in which event, the limitation would itself be so hedged about with limitations as to be practically worthless.

Public opinion here assumed from the first that Mr. Lloyd George would be the proper person to represent this country at Washington—it is known that he wants to see America as much as the Americans want to see him—and people were, therefore, indignant at a violent personal attack upon the Prime Minister, and on Lord Curzon—who as Foreign Secretary, would necessarily be present at Washington—in *The Times*. It was stated that the Prime Minister was universally distrusted, and that Lord Curzon and his Department were pompous and inefficient, with much else to the same effect. It was probably the last shot in the Northcliffe—Lloyd George vendetta, for Lord Northcliffe is just off for a tour of the world, to see for himself those incredible regions—*partibus infidelium*—on which the light of the *Daily Mail* never shines. But the reception of this attack was enough for *The Times*. It returned to the denunciation of Lord Curzon the next morning, but was significantly silent as regards the Prime Minister. In its own interests it would do well to drop this kind of thing; it does not in the least convince the public, but it does harm to the traditions of impartiality which Printing House Square in other respects, lives up to very fairly.

**Coal Again.**

The consumer pays. Although the miners have accepted a reduction of wages, and the mine-owners have forsworn their profits, the price of coal has risen by anything from one to three shillings a ton. The excuse is given that the extra money represents the cost of putting the mines in order again; as the public did not ask the miners to stop work or the owners to create a situation in which a strike was inevitable, there is a sort of poetic injustice about the rise which may appeal to the intelligent foreigner, but hardly appeals to the ordinary Englishman. It is said that the price of coal will "probably" fall as soon as stocks are "adequate." But we seem to have heard that assurance before, and the world is less credulous than it was.

**Dr. Addison's Resignation.**

Dr. Addison has resigned his post as Minister without portfolio as a protest against the Government's reversal of his housing policy. He has consulted his own dignity in doing so, for it is not pleasant to have one's schemes turned down when they have been partly carried out, even on the score of economy, and it is the fact that he has had rather hard measure. He built houses when they were very badly needed; they cost large sums, but at least they got built at a time when private enterprise in the building trade did not function. They were roomy and well-planned, and to that extent would raise the standard of cottage housing.

The weakness of Dr. Addison was that he had no idea of money—a deadly sin which only poets, who are proverbially mad, may commit with impunity; and he seems also to have believed that health can be secured by a bureaucracy, a matter in which the British public was, and is incurably agnostic I always wondered what Dr. Addison, an amiable man, was doing in politics; he merits that most deadly epitaph—he was popular even among his enemies.

**Mr. Fisher.**

Now that Dr. Addison has gone, the malcontents are likely to concentrate all their efforts in getting rid of Mr. Fisher, the Minister for Education. He also is an idealist, and the particular form of mental aberration which he affects is to believe in education. (This disease is incurable). Dean Inge has opened fire upon him, and Lord Rothermere drops pot-shots at the Minister in the *Sunday Pictorial* every week. But I doubt whether this campaign is so effectual as the other, and Mr. Fisher is made of sterner stuff than his fallen colleague. Moreover he has more real support from public opinion. The masses had no particular belief in Dr. Addison's schemes for making them healthy. But they have woken up to the need of education. The medical faculty, too, were against the Minister for Health—they always dislike and distrust the medical man turned politician. But the teachers, who are now a fairly strong and a very vocal body, are whole-hearted for Mr. Fisher, and the support of that army is an important factor for him personally. As a matter of fact the total amount spent on education in this country is insignificant when compared to other items in the national expenditure and the real wealth of the country.

**October in July.**

The prolonged drought and blazing sunshine are having a serious effect. Already the landscape has an autumnal aspect, and the yellowed leaves are falling from the trees in the more exposed woods. There have been bad heath fires everywhere, and in some parts of Essex the pasture has caught fire and burnt; while Hayes and Keston, and many other commons which are celebrated as beauty spots, have been destroyed. Almost every year, of course, we have gorse fires, but it is not often that trees are burnt; several plantations of larches have blazed away during the past few days, and on Keston Common the peat caught fire. It was a curious sensation to walk over the springy peat and heather a few days ago, and watch the little spirals of smoke pushing upwards from beneath; every now and then they burst into flame, and it was necessary to move rather quickly.

It will take several years before the beauty of these places is restored, and it gives an eerie sensation to walk over the blackened commons. At the very height of the summer they should be bursting with life, but the whole balance of nature has been upset. The hare, who should "sit snug in leaves of grass," has bolted, and with him butterflies and most of the birds, who are hard put to it to find food. Thrushes still seem to find snails, although the latter have begun to aestivate—a rare thing for *Helix*, in England; but it is said that rooks have become carnivorous. The worst sufferers perhaps are the moles, who find it impossible to burrow through the hard-bake, and are dying by the hundred. Altogether it is an abnormal season. OCELLUS.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

Cairo July 3.

**Departure of the Official Delegation.**

As the cables will have informed you, the Egyptian Official Delegation sailed on Friday last by the s.s. Vienna from Alexandria for Trieste, Paris and London, and by the time this reaches you Adly Pasha Yeghen and his colleagues will have established contact with Lord Curzon and those who on behalf of the British Government are to negotiate with the representatives of the Sultan the agreement which is to establish the future relations between Great Britain and Egypt.

The departure took place without incident and from the point of view of the Cabinet in a most successful manner. There had been a tremendous amount of talk of what the Zaghloulists would do to prevent the Delegation leaving, or at any rate to show that the Delegates did not have the confidence of their fellow-countrymen. However, the determination of the authorities to give short shrift to anyone attempting to demonstrate or to create disturbances in the Docks quarter on the one hand and the steady secession of supporters from the Zaghloulist camp on the other hand evidently damped the ardour of the more extreme adherents of the "Wafd.," and even their eleventh-hour attempts to get the shops to shut as a protest and to disorganise things by a strike of porters and cabmen proved absolutely abortive.

Had it not been for the few extra policemen one noticed at the corner of the each street or passage in the low quarters as one passed on one's way to the ship, and for the guard of honour which with bayonets fixed held us up at one point as it marched to the quay, we should really not have known that a political event of any importance was taking place, or that the district through which we were passing had but six weeks ago been the scene of serious disorders. No more significant indication of the change which had come over the city could indeed have been wished for than the fact that Adly Pasha was able to motor unmolested through this district on his way to his ship without any more protection than that afforded by two motor cyclists who rode ahead of him to clear the route.

Before the ship sailed a large reception was held on the quay, in a tent specially erected for the purpose. The assembly comprised prominent notables from every Mudiria except Aswan and Port Said—where owing to the distance, the inhabitants were asked by Adly Pasha not to trouble themselves—the leading Sheikhs of Al Azhar and the religious bodies, the dissentient members of the "Wafd," etc. As is usual on such occasions, addresses were delivered by leading Egyptians, and one and all were couched in terms which left no doubt as to the feelings towards the Delegation of the speakers and and those whom they represented. Particularly was this so in the case of Sheikh El Khodary, Inspector in the Ministry of Education, and an influential "Alem," whose words aroused his hearers to enthusiasm, and whose speech was regarded as a most important contribution to the vote of the confidence which the gathering represented, and to which it testified in a series of telegrams sent off to Mr. Lloyd George after the departure of the Vienna.

The centre of interest in the Egyptian political quest on has now been transferred to London and a lull may be expected in the local situation, lasting until the first report of the progress of the negotiations reaches here. It is not anticipated that much will be done until late in August, and it is considered highly probable that the Delegation will not be able to return until the end of the year; for it is recognised that, apart from discussions of questions of principle, the drafting of the agreement will require a considerable amount of time.

From what can be gathered from conversations with the delegates and their friends, Adly Pasha and his colleagues while recognising the difficulties of the task confronting them are confident that they will be able to come to an agreement which will satisfy the more reasonable of their supporters. Naturally the extremists and those who have a personal grudge against the Cabinet will disapprove of whatever they bring back with them. Likewise those who want no change will oppose the settlement obtained. But provided the Delegation are able to show that what they have obtained is the maximum that in the circumstances could reasonably be expected, and provided the members of the Cabinet left behind carry on firmly and wisely, it should be possible for them to get the country to accept the settlement.

**Bolshevist Activities in Egypt.**

For some time there has been much talk of activities of Bolshevist agents in Egypt, and considerable interest was taken some little time ago in the announcement which appeared in a Beyrout paper, and later in a Jerusalem weekly, to the effect that a prominent emissary of the Bolshevist Government was on his way to Egypt in order to come to an understanding with Zaghloul Pasha in regard to Bolshevist propaganda. The fact that it was known that the Pasha was a shareholder in and maintained close relations with the *Daily Herald* accentuated this interest, and the local press has been full of paragraphs on the subject.

For a time interest died down, but is has now been reawakened by the news of the arrest of the emissary mentioned above, and certain organs are displaying some anxiety as to the progress which has been made in the sowing of Bolshevist doctrines in the country. Enquiry in official quarters has elicited the information that the man in question is not the Bolshevist emissary he represents himself to be. It appears that he impersonated the latter for the purpose of collecting money and that the emissary in question has not yet arrived. The situation as regards Bolshevist activities is well in hand and every precaution is being taken. The danger of any successful propagation of Bolshevist ideas lies, of course, in the strained relations existing between tenants and their landlords, the latter of whom have for some time been extorting exorbitant rents, which under present conditions it is quite impossible for the tenants to pay. The recent creation of "Rent Courts" all over the country should go a long way to remove the danger through it must be admitted that the soil has been very fertile for the implanting of the social poison of Bolshevism.

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## SUDAN.

Khartoum, July 3.

### The Political Situation.

The remarks of "A Passer by in Egypt" in a recent issue of *The Near East* anent Omar Pasha Tousson would appear to have been written with a certain amount of inside information, in view of the Prince's articles on the Sudan question, which appeared in the *Mokattam*, and *Afkar* of June 17, and the *Ahali* of June 16 last. It is interesting to note that Omar Pasha Tousson follows the same line of reasoning as Lutfi Bey el Sayed, in his solution of the Sudan Question, as submitted to the Egyptian Delegation on February last. Both writers persist in their statement that the boundaries of the Sudan reached lake Victoria Nyanza, and also in the absurd statement that Uganda became an Egyptian Protectorate towards the end of 1874. The perfidious British Government is accused of putting unfair pressure on the Egyptian Government, in forcing the evacuation of Uganda, which the Prince states was subsequently seized in 1890. The articles are not sufficiently interesting to be quoted *in extenso*, but one or two statements have occasioned some little amusement amongst the inhabitants of the Sudan. The most amazing confession is: "We would rather be governed by the Sudanese than be separated from them." This is especially interesting in view of the attitude of the Egyptian residents towards the Province police, who are recruited exclusively in the Sudan. Practically 60 per cent. of the minor police-court cases deal with Effendia and Egyptian soldiers refusing to take orders from black policemen, endeavouring to preserve law and order in the town. In the *Afkar* of June 17, there appeared a poem signed "Súdanese" in which the author attempts to explain to the Egyptian nation that the Sudanese love and admire their Egyptian co-religionists, but that they dare not openly profess their inclinations, owing to the sword of Damocles which is ever held over their heads. He tells the usual lies about the theft of land and property from natives in the Ghezireh by the Sudan Government, and even goes so far as to cite the recent "grading" of all officials in the country as a deep laid scheme wherewith to blast the advancement of any Sudani Government employee. The absurdity of the whole effusion is only too apparent to anyone who has ever visited the Sudan and attempted to obtain a concession, or purchase property in the shape of land or buildings from a native. In fact, the plaint of the non-Sudani trader is that everything is done to protect the native at the expense of the foreigner. Without going so far as to agree with this extreme view, it may be said in all fairness that the attitude of the Government is distinctly paternal towards the native; so much so that in certain districts the natives have become decidedly swollen with a sense of their own superiority to the foreign trader, who is liable to haled before the nearest British Inspector for any fancied insult or crooked dealing.

There is very little doubt that the powerful Hadendowa clan would fiercely resent Egyptian administration. They are intensely loyal to their British inspectors, and pride themselves on the fact that they take no orders from the Effendia class. To take another instance, the Aliab-Dinkas and Garjak-Nuers are reported to have excused their risings, on the plea that their revolt was intended to attract the attention of the Government to that fact that there were no white magistrates permanently resident in their territories, and consequently the success of any civil action amongst themselves depended on the amount of backsheesh paid by either party to the suit, to the Egyptian Effendi before whom the case would be tried, who in most cases would be a sub-Mamour, corresponding in rank to a Mulazim Tani, or second lieutenant, the lowest commissioned rank in the Egyptian army.

The Sudani has not forgotten that in 1919 a force of Egyptian infantry were sent form Khartoum to restore law and order in the Luxor and Assuan districts, and that two or three companies of Black troops accompanied them to see that they performed their allotted duties; nor the story of how some few score ill armed Nubas chased a whole battalion back to their block house, and calmly emptied and took away with them some hundreds of sand bags under the very noses of the demoralised conquerors of Ugands, etc.

The lower class Egyptian is utterly inferior to the Sudani in morals and everything with regard to personal and mental cleanliness; and the possibility of the inhabitants of this country submitting to the rule of a despised and decadent race is too remote for consideration. Omar Pasha Tousson and his supporters would do well to visit the country and disabuse their minds of the delusions from which they appear to suffer.

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## YUGOSLAVIA.

### A Political Calm.

Zagreb, July 8

There is a calm in the political world after the passing of the Constitution. The Assembly has resolved itself into a regular legislative parliament, and adjourned for a holiday, well earned, leaving a couple of committees to prepare the rules of procedure, draft bills, and so on.

Behind the scenes the different parties are playing for position, and there is plenty going on. The Peasant Party is holding meetings all over the country, justifying its action in voting "against," and apparently doing plenty of recruiting. It is said that a number of Democrats are joining them, and that they are going to undertake a campaign in Croatia, to counteract the activities of Raditch and his merry men. It is interesting and satisfactory to note that Dr. Koroshets and his clericals are flirting with the Government.

M. Pashitch is confined to his room for a few days, which means a rest from politics; but there are clear signs of a split in the Cabinet. The Minister of War, General Hadjitch, disapproves of the clause in the Constitution by which the Court of Cessation has jurisdiction as a final court of appeal from courts martial, and will probably resign, but this has no political significance: his successor will probably be General Vasitch, who was well known among the English at Salonika. If the Bosnian Mohammedans split among themselves, the partial secession will endanger the Government's majority. On the 14th they are holding a general meeting of the party in Serajevo, which will have considerable influence on the destiny of the coalition. The resignation of Dr. Velizar Jankovitch is definite, so a new Minister of Communications will be required; and Dr. Kumanudi will not long remain Minister of Finance. Dr. Miletitch and M. Uzunovitch will probably also retire, as their Radical constituents in the Voivodina are not satisfied with their attitude in the matter of compensation to the Bosnian landowners. So it is a pretty complete recasting of of the Cabinet which awaits M. Pashitch. Parliament has been adjourned till October, so he has time enough

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**The Crown Prince.**

The Crown Prince Regent left Belgrade on July 4, for Paris, accompanied only by his uncle, Prince Arsen, Prince Paul, and Princess Helen. On passing through Zagreb, he left the train and motored through the town where he was greeted with enthusiastic ovations. If the Croats are not too delighted with the Constitution, which abolishes their ancient office of Ban, there can be no question about their affection for their Prince. His Royal Highness has a very attractive personality, and on his visits to the villages, mixes freely with the peasants and talks to them. The simple souls are amazed to see a sovereign who can talk to them in their own tongue. They are not accustomed to democratic methods and the Karageorgevitches are a thoroughly democratic house. There is a story that when the Prince was talking to one worthy in a village not far from Zagreb, the peasant said to him: "So thou art the Regent?, Well, let the Serbs keep their King Peter, but do thou come and be our king." And of course the dastardly attempt on his life has provoked a general chorus of relief and thankfulness that he escaped, and admiration at his courage and coolness. After all, he is a soldier as well as a prince, and has been under fire before.

**Communists in Disgrace.**

The Communist Party is of course thoroughly discredited by the attempt on the Regent. Three more members have been arrested for connivance and all the others are struggling hard to clear themselves from implication in the plot. It looks as though about half the party will move along towards the right and join up with the Socialists, if they will have them, and in any case they propose to exclude from the party such elements as Italian or Magyar agents and Frankovists who were using the party for their own purposes. They are also excluding the three arrested terrorists. In fact, they are doing all they can to show that the Communist Party here is a nice, tame, inoffensive party which shudders at the thought of terror. They will not be of much use to Trotzky.

The miscreant who so nearly converted a triumph into a tragedy has been giving the authorities plenty of information about his accomplices. He has incriminated the three members of the Skupshtina and persists in accusing them of having given him his instructions. They deny it, and affirm that they have never seen him before; and maintain they are quite gentle, inoffensive, purely theoretical Communists, and shrink from the very thought of blood. Stejitch, the would-be murderer, does not like the well-fed appearance of his dandified leader, whose silk socks seem out of place in the felon's cell. The Communist Party is shocked to find that its theories may be too literally interpreted, and many of its members are hurriedly disavowing both their policy and their principles. Meanwhile, the police have discovered large depots of bombs. It is interesting that the technical advisers of the Minister of the Interior have shown that the bomb used was a German one, and that Stejitch delayed a second before hurling it, with the result that it burst prematurely, and so a great tragedy was spared. Had he thrown it a second earlier, or had it been a French bomb there would inevitably have been great loss of life. It is reported that an immense number of arrests have been made, some papers saying as many as 700, but probably many of these are merely preventative or for purposes of enquiry. But it is certain that the police have secured a large number of terrorists. They are nearly all foreigners, but include a few misguided Serbs who learnt their pestilential theories in Russia.

**The Bolshevist Plot.**

The evidence of the accused men is throwing a flood of light on the Bolshevist plot to destroy the State. There was to have been a whole series of murders of public men. A store of explosives has been dug up at Novi Sad. This was destined to destroy the bridge over the Save at Brod, so that when the revolution broke out in Bosnia and the Voivodina at the same time, the movement of troops would be interfered with. An important witness is a Hungarian plasterer who was a member of the executive committee of terrorists at Novi Sad. He states that there is a central communist council at Belgrade, which issued orders to the terrorist committee. A conference had been held in April, which was postponed to enable the members to meet the Bulgarian communist, with whom action was to be concerted. The main motive appears to be orders from Moscow that it was quite time that the Communist in Yugoslavia did something to justify their existence, and partly revenge for the energetic measures taken by the Government at New Year, when a big plot was nipped in the bud.

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## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 5.

**Parliament.**

Despite the systematic obstruction of a certain section of the Opposition, agrarian reform has made good progress this week in the Lower Chamber. Important modifications have been made in amendments proposed with the consent of the Government. It has been decided to expropriate the entire arable area of the estates belonging to foreign landowners, of absentee landowners, and with certain exceptions, of estates which have been let consecutively during the last ten years. The principle of expropriating the landowners and not the estates has been admitted; thus, in future, no person will be allowed to possess more than one estate. The areas, which any one landowner will be permitted to hold have been fixed at: 200 hectares in the mountainous and hilly region; 250 hectares in the plains with average population and 500 hectares where the population is scarce.

Foreign landowners are permitted to retain the forests, vineyards, factories, mills, houses, parks, etc, except such as are needed for educational and sanitary purposes. These properties much, however, be sold within three years, they will be sold by law. The Opposition severely criticized the Government for this concession, but M. Take Jonescu pointed out that it would be an untimely and exorbitant burden on the Exchequer to buy up these properties at the present inflated value. The debate continues.

The Minister of Finance introduced his Bill for progressive taxation on fortunes made since the war. The general discussion was short, and the debating and voting of the various items of the project proceeded rapidly; and the Bill passed in three sittings, with few alterations.

In order to pass all pending Bills during this sessions it has been decided that two, or even three sittings should be held daily, Sundays and holidays not excepted,

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**Miscellaneous News.**

The Government has forbidden the entry into the country of all those Hungarian newspapers which are carrying on a defamatory propaganda against Roumania.

Energetic action is at last being taken against the profiteers in home products, whose demands have been truly extortionate. Maximum prices have been fixed, and offenders are made liable to severe penalties and fines. At first the profiteers showed fight, withdrawing such commodities as fruit and vegetables from the market; but finally they had to give in, and sell at the fixed prices— which are, however, still two high for the average public. Action along similar lines is expected against offenders in other trades, and it is to be hoped that a return to normal conditions will be brought about in due course.

## GREECE.

Athens, July 2.

**Greece's Reply.**

The reply to the Allied Note handed in to the Entente representatives last Saturday was exactly what everybody expected it to be. The approving articles of the entire Athens and provincial press do not leave the slightest doubt that for once the Government has acted in accordance with the wishes of the people.

To those living in Greece and who are in a position to understand the Greek point of view, the refusal of Allied mediation needs no explanation. The readiness with which the men, in spite of the more or less continuous fighting in which they have participated since 1912, responded to their country's call once again, the absolute confidence of the nation in the ultimate successful issue of the struggle and the compensations to be gained therefrom, and the implicit belief that only if Mustapha Kemal is completely crushed will the treaty of Sèvres remain intact, explain the decision of Greece to continue the war even though she be left entirely to her own resources.

In the meantime the two armies are still facing each other and with the exception of the Greek evacuation of Nicomedia (Ismid) of which Athenians did not know until forty-eight hours after the news was published in London, and which we are told was a very necessary thing, seeing that the Greek division operating in that sector was required elsewhere, nothing of any particular importance has happened on the long front. Last week's rumours of an immediate advance proved false. Meanwhile the Government is maintaining a fish-like silence, and the press censorship commonly known here as "Madame Anastasia," is playing havoc with the columns of the daily papers, preferably those with Venizelist tendencies. Many an article on the Near East situation published in leading London journals and telegraphed to Athenian papers by their correspondents has been mercilessly mutilated by the over-zealous Greek press censor. We quite expect to receive the first news of the advance from London, unless, of course "Madame Anastasia" puts her foot down and orders us to wait a day or two until the official *communiqué* has been prepared.

**The End of an Occupation.**

A telegram received by the Ministry of Marine announces the departure from the islands of Lemnos, Imbros and Tenedos of the British garrison detachments. The first two islands had been under British occupation since the early part of 1915, about a month or so before the famous landing at Gallipoli, by the 29th Division, took place. A very hearty send-off was given to the departing troops by the Greek islanders, who, after cheering for Great Britain, told the officer in command that they would never forget the kindness and the exemplary conduct of "Tommy" during the six years of occupation.

**Earthquake in Epirus.**

It is reported from Janina that an earthquake took place in the district of Philiata as a result of which nineteen houses as well as the church and the school of the village were completely demolished. With the exception of a young Mussulman girl who was buried under the debris, there were no other victims.

## TURKEY.

Constantinople, July 11.

**The National Pact.**

By the time this reaches England the result of the attempt to commence direct negotiations with the Nationalists will be known, and as the Missak-i-Millie, or National Pact, has been put forward as the very minimum conditions under which the Nationalists would agree to commence negotiations, a translation of the original text may be of interest. It runs as ollows :—

The Members of the Ottoman Parliament having approved and signed the National Pact, declare that the principles therein enunciated embody the maximum sacrifices to which the Ottoman Nation could possibly consent for the purpose of ensuring a just and durable peace.

1. The disposition of those territories of the Ottoman Empire inhabited exclusively by a population amongst which Arabs are in the majority, and which at the time of the Armistice of October 30, 1918, were under the occupation of enemy

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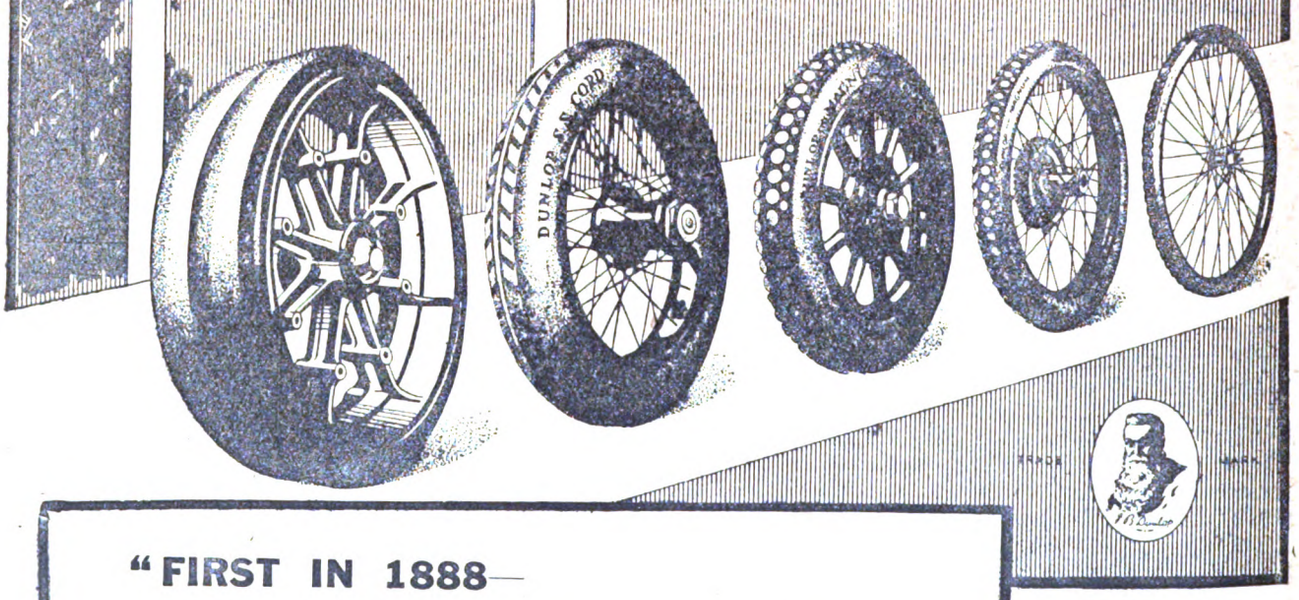


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armies, should be determined in accordance with the freely expressed will of the local population. Those parts of the Empire situated on either side of the Armistice line and containing an Ottoman Moslem majority of which the constituent elements, united by religious and cultural bonds, and imbued with the same ideals, are animated by a mutual respect for their national and social rights, form a whole which cannot under any pretence whatever be justly or practically divided.

2. With regard to the disposition of the three districts of Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum, the population of which affirmed immediately after its liberation its will by a solemn vote to be re-united to the mother country, the signatories of this Pact agree that if necessary a second plebiscite may be held.

3. The juridical status of Eastern Thrace, the settlement of which has been subordinated to the peace with Turkey, should be based upon the freely expressed will of its population

4. The security of Constantinople, which is the capital of the Empire, the seat of the Khalifate and of the Ottoman Government, as well as the security of the Marmora Sea should be unassailable. This principle once defined and recognised, the signatories are prepared to subscribe to any decision that may be taken by the common consent of the Imperial Government, on the one hand, and the Powers interested, on the other, for the purpose of ensuring the opening of the Straits to world commerce and international communications.

5. The rights of minorities will be confirmed by us on the same basis as those applied to minorities in other countries by existing conventions concluded by the Entente Powers, their adversaries, and certain of their associates. On the other hand, we are firmly convinced that Moslem minorities in neighbouring countries will enjoy the same guarantees in regard to their own rights.

6. For the purpose of ensuring our national and economic development, and of endowing the country with a regular and more modern administration, the signatories of this pact consider that the enjoyment of entire independence and full liberty of action are conditions *sine qua non* of national existence. We are therefore opposed to every kind of juridical and financial restrictions of such a nature as to hinder our national development. The conditions for the settlement of the obligations which will be imposed upon us should not be in contradiction with this principle.

The National Pact was signed in Constantinople on January 28, 1920, by the majority of the Chamber then in existence. The text is sadly reminiscent of the famous Constitution, for none can deny that on the surface it is in harmony with the cardinal axioms of democracy. But it will be remarked, without a minute analysis, that several points, notably the whole of paragraph 6, are open to various interpretations. In regard to paragraph 5, it is worthy of note that the Angora Assembly has recently voted against a Bill for the election of a certain number of non-Moslem deputies to the vacancies in the Chamber. This does not argue well for the rights of minorities.

From the British point of view, the most important point is contained in paragraph 4, and it is in regard to the precise interpretation of this paragraph that the Nationalists are most reticent. It is affirmed that the Treaty between the Soviet Government of Russia and the Angora Administration contains among other secret clauses certain arrangements regarding the Straits, and the Nationalist press has on more than one occasion afforded a clue to the nature of the arrangements in question by referring to the necessity for settling the Straits question with the joint consent of the States bordering on the Black Sea. The deduction is obvious.

### What is the Position Now?

This question is on everyone's lips at the present moment, but no one has been able to suggest a satisfactory answer. The Greeks have rejected the Allied offer of mediation, and the Kemalists have by their reply to the British attempt to commence negotiations practically rejected the hand outstretched to them. So far as the Greeks and Turks are concerned the position is precisely what it has been for months. There is no prospect whatever of a speedy solution to the stalemate position in Anatolia. Those who discounted the loudly trumpeted announcements of a lightning offensive on the part of the Greeks have been proved right; for despite the much advertised goings and comings of Constantine and his generals there are as yet no signs of a renewal of a large scale attack. The Kemalists also are still sitting quiet.

The way to Constantinople is now open, and it is becoming evident that Greek diplomatists are counting upon the Allies' becoming involved in complications with the Kemalists sooner or later, when there will be a better chance of the Greeks receiving that support which is absolutely necessary if they are to gain anything like a decisive victory in Anatolia. There is, however, very little to encourage this hope at the present moment.

The Kemalists, on the other hand, believe that if they can hold on long enough the Greek army will fall to pieces, and that they will then be able to drive them into the sea. This also is very much open to discussion.

The one circumstance that would speedily put an end to Kemalist intransigence would be the end of Bolshevism, and it looks as if the world will have to wait for that blessed moment before there will be peace in the East.

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## CYPRUS.

Nicosia, June 28.

### Proposed Agency in London.

Under the heading "official representation of Cyprus in London," the "Voice of Cyprus" (*Phonetes Kyprou*) of June 25, in its leading article proposes that some person of influence should undertake the advocacy of the cause of "union with Greece." Whatever line of action may be adopted henceforth in the island, whether the Greek members of Council are to absent themselves on missions, or are to continue the struggle in the Council, it is desirable that the campaign should be carried on *pari passu* both in Cyprus and in London. There are, it says, among the Councillors men of ample means and of a patriotism which might consent to the sacrifices which are needed for such a duty. But if this suggestion should not be found practicable, there is in London a man who is eminently fitted to undertake such an obligation, viz., M. I. Gennadius, a distinguished diplomatist, an ex-Minister to St. James, and a *persona grata* in England. It is suggested that he should be approached with the object. But perhaps it is hardly realised in Cyprus that M. Gennadius is one who very thoroughly understands the situation in the Near East in all its bearings, which is more than can be said of some Cypriots, and that it is more than unlikely that he would in present, or indeed any, circumstances fall in with such a project.

### The Holy Synod.

The *Phone* publishes a long *apologia* from the Bishop of Kition, Nicodemus, in reply to the attack on that body. It published also a prompt and vigorous rejoinder, and appears to have decidedly the best of the argument. The principal criticism related to the failure in results of the school for training clergy founded by the late Bishop of Kition, Metaxarches, afterwards Metropolitan of Athens, and now in New York. After 10 years only 9 of its students have joined the ranks of the clergy. Then, as regards the failure to appoint a mixed Council of clergy and laity for the administration of Church properties, the paper speaks out plainly in favour of urgently needed reforms. The ecclesiastical revenues in Cyprus should amount to about £200,000. How is this large amount spent? "It is spent," says the *Phone*, "at present, we will not say aimlessly, but certainly without system or method"; whereas, if wisely administered, it would suffice for all ecclesiastical and educational needs, and leave a large sum which could be devoted towards increasing the emoluments of the poor clergy. It may be hoped that the time is not distant when the properties of the Monasteries and bishoprics—especially the former—will be controlled by a competent body for the real benefit of the island church. For years past a timid and halting opposition has protested against the present wasteful and out-of-date modes of administration, which are quite out of harmony with public feeling. Possibly there will be a real move forward now that the matter has been boldly and seriously brought into public discussion in the Press. The *Phone* certainly deserves much praise for having taken the initiative.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

**Mesopotamia.**

In the *Daily Express* of July 12 is an article entitled "Looking for Trouble in 'Eden'" written by M. H. A. Morley. Mesopotamia, says the writer, was, when he was there, a land where work was anathema, and where "the race for wealth and power did not even seem worth while."

> But trouble will certainly come if an attempt is ever made to make the Arab an industrious man. They say they have all they require, and ask why they should work for more. They have lived their present life for centuries; they do not know what better conditions mean, and it would be only wasting time to attempt to explain. The Arab is becoming restive now. He hears of irrigation schemes, which have only one meaning for him; namely, forced labour. In such an event the present, army of 75,000 would require to be trebled, and the result even then might very well be chaos, Fortunately there is small probability of such a contingency arising, at least in the near future- The present unproductive expenditure in Mesopotamia is very high, and at a juncture when the country should not allow money to be expended on unproductive schemes, to add the couple of hundred million irrigation scheme, which may or may not become productive a couple of decades hence, would appear to be perilously near to lunacy. Arabdom in Mesopotamia gravely discusses its affairs over coffee in the bazaar; and what is said in the bazaar is repeated in the village. Discussions are invariably of local interest only. One scarce dare hope they will ever rise to the uncertain heights of the consideration of an Empire's finances.

**Great Britain and the East.**

A recent issue of the *Morning Post* has a very characteristic article upon "Realities and the Past." In remarking the presence of the Egyptian Delegation in London, it says:—

> No British statesman can seriously contemplate the granting of full independence to Egypt without asking himself frankly and honestly the question whether th Egyptians can govern themselves. To the answering of that question the recent riots in Alexandria ought to be of considerable help. For the plain fact emerges from the dust of these conflicts that the Egyptian Government had to call in British soldiers to restore order, and that if it had not been for their assistance the lives and property of Europeans would have been destroyed by a fanatical anti-European mob. The future of Egypt concerns other countries than Great Britain and Egypt, and certain influential Italian newspapers have not been the only quarters in which since the riots it has been thought advisable to change opinions about the presence of England in Egypt. If we withdraw from Egypt it does not follow that the Egyptians for long will be allowed to govern or misgovern their country. Other Powers, forced perhaps by events similar to those of Alexandria, may seek to occupy the positions evacuated by Great Britain, and thus obtain control of the strategic centre of the British Empire. If the Protectorate be unwelcome to the Egyptians by all means let it be changed, but why should the change be a loosening of the bonds between two countries which have mutually benefited from a close association?

And it proceeds in similar fashion to criticise Mr. Churchill's Eastern schemes:—

> Mr. Churchill has embarked upon an ambitious and daring scheme for giving to Mesopotamia a secure and national Government under the direction of the Emir Feisul. It is a solution of an acute problem which we have frequently advocated, but there can be no denying the fact that it is an adventure which may at any moment find itself on the brink of disaster. For, quite apart from the divisions and conflicting ambitions among the Arabs themselves, Mr. Churchill himself has admitted that the success of his enterprise depends upon a durable peace with Turkey. It is a pity that Mr. Lloyd George, then, did not think a little more of the Arabs and a little less of the Greeks when he fashioned the Treaty of Sevres. For by handing over Smyrna to the Greeks we have handed over Angora to the Bolsheviks, and a hostile Turkey and an intriguing Russia can make things very unpleasant in Irak. Again, an Arab is an Arab wherever he pitches his camp. He has the passions, the hopes, the love of his race whether he turns his eyes towards Jerusalem or Baghdad. A sense of racial injustice scoffs at natural boundaries; how much more, then, at the artificial frontiers created by man? Yet Mr. Churchill hopes to conciliate the Arabs of Mesopotamia, while he hands over their brethren of Palestine to the harsh yoke of the Zionists and their nominee, Sir Herbert Samuel. The Zionist rule is not only a tyranny, but a failure, and yet the Arab is to be asked to bow to the wisdom and submit to the decrees of the Power which fathered and imposed it. Britain owes everything to her prestige, but it is being frittered away in the East by such follies as the Balfour Declaration and the Treaty of Sevres. What the country demands is that all these problems should be considered as a whole, and that in contemplating measures for Alexandria we must think of their effects in Jerusalem, and that in settling the future of Smyrna we must not forget the possible repercussions in Baghdad.

**The Turkish Revolution.**

The *Manchester Guardian* is printing an important series of articles upon "Russian Policy in the East," written by Mr. Arthur Ransome, who, in writing them, reminds his readers that "he has had access almost exclusively to Russian and Turkish sources." In the issue of July 14th, he discusses the "Origin of the Turkish Nationalist Revolt: Its Motives and Methods," and he begins:—

> The first point that must strike any investigator into the Turkish Revolution is that whatever else the Turks whom we call Kemalists may be, they are not followers of Kemal Pasha or of any other individual leader. It was a grave mistake to assume that "the Kemalist movement" was a mere uprising of brigands and adventurers making use for their own purposes of the disordered state of Turkey consequent on an unsuccessful war. The movement is an actual revolution, with its own ideas, its own ideals, and, consequently, like the French or the Russian Revolutions, a thing of quite incalculable weaknesses and strengths, capable of unexpected collapses, of extraordinary resuscitations, and likely at any moment to produce one of those minor miracles which so terribly discomfit those prophets who leave out of count the unknown quantity of revolutionary vitality.

He proceeds to state that "there is plenty of evidence to show that the so-called Kemalist movement is part of the main course of Turkish history," and that its true nature is obscured to us because it is directed against ourselves. He then glances at the "rather disappointing history of Turkish liberalism," which has been characterised by the supremacy of the army. In an examination of Turkey's motives in the war, he finds that she entered it on the German side for two reasons:—(1) German diplomacy was a great deal cleverer in managing the young Turks then we were, and (2) a German victory offered greater hopes of recovering Mohammedan territory than an English one.

> Yet at the time of the signing of the Armistice, England, by simple revulsion of feeling, was probably the most popular foreign country in Turkey, although already the fact of the Russian Revolution made many look with new feelings towards Russia from another country where war had brought ruin, besides sharpening the edges of despotism and increasing the ower of the bureaucracy, who alone had grown rich on disaster and fat on other men's deaths. This last motive must not be omitted from any estimate of the revolt which followed, which was certainly in part a revolt against those who had stayed at home, a revolt of the fighting men against the profiteers. As for the Germans, they had long ago succeeded in making themselves thoroughly well hated in Turkey. Their intolerance of the time-honoured Turkish incompetence and laziness, their hectoring way with their allies, their slighting of their military pride, their steady pushing of Germans into responsible positions, had annoyed the men and alienated even those of the officers who had begun the war by being pro-German by calculation. On the other hand, the Turks really believed that the Allies meant what President Wilson said when he offered his Fourteen Points. They did not suspect for a moment that the peace they would be given would be anything like the peace of Sevres. They recognised their mistakes, and were prepared to give up a good deal, but they did expect a peace of reconciliation and not a peace of annihilation. They were undeceived with promptitude.

Consequent upon the very heavy conditions of the Armistice, almost all sections of the Turkish people were, in the first six months of 1919, united "in the common despair that makes revolution possible."

> The first signs of coming revolt from above were the activities of a secret society. This society (an unprinted account which I have seen in Moscow calls it "Karaul," but I am not sure whether that is a Russian translation of its name as "Sentinel" or a transliteration of Turkish, like the other proper names in the manuscript) had been formed towards the end of the war, when the moral disruption of the Young Turks and the complete failure of their policy became apparent. Those who sighed "to escape from the dirt of the decomposing corpse of the Young Turk party" decided to form an organisation which should unite the people to meet the impending catastrophe. This society admitted all shades of political opinion. Its motive was a resolve to save the Turkish people from "dismemberment and enslavement." It was characteristic of the movement that from the start admission to this society depended not on party but on political probity, and on having refrained from profiteering during the war, by which many of the Young Turks had badly compromised themselves. The younger officers played a great part in the organisation, a fact which, in Turkey, was of immense revolutionary significance.

**Articles to Note.**

"Lord Chelmsford's Viceroyalty" in the *Quarterly Review*, (July).

"Bolshevism in Central Asia," by Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah in the *Edinburgh Review* (July).

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# NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

July 11.—Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked the Prime Minister whether seeing that the Greek landing at Smyrna was in direct opposition to his pledge of January 5, 1918, he will say whether this landing has given rise to the present situation and who was responsible for suggesting this landing? The Prime Minister replied that the landing at Smyrna was in no sense a departure from the pledge of January, 1918. That pledge applied only to the parts of Asia Minor and Thrace which were Turkish homelands Sir Robert Borden, the British Commissioner, who investigated the case of Smyrna, reported that the population was Greek in majority and not Turk. The landing was effected at the request of the British, French and American representatives at the Peace Conference.

Replying to a series of questions regarding Albania, put by Mr. Aubrey Herbert, the Prime Minister said that reference had only to be made to the Treaty of London of April 26, 1915, to find that a partition of Albania was contemplated by that pact. President Wilson never accepted that pact. The Albanian Government had approached the League of Nations with an appeal for intervention in certain local differences which had arisen with their neighbours. The Council of the League decided not to intervene pending the discussion by the Ambassadors' Conference in Paris of the question of the frontiers but expressed the hope that in the meantime all parties would abstain from provocative action, and that the Ambassadors' Conference would arrive at a decision without delay. The matter is, at this moment, being discussed in Paris, and at this stage it is not possible to make any forecast as to the course which the discussions are likely to follow or the decision which will be arrived at.

July 12.—Sir L. Worthington Evans informed General Surtees that two British Military officers are at present attached to the Greek army in Asia Minor for the purpose of keeping the Government informed of the situation.

July 13.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Swan that the total cost from June 5, 1920, to July 2, 1921, of the Don Cadet School for Russian refugees at Tel-el-Kebir was £23,680, the equivalent of 2s. 9d. per head per day. H.M. Government had assumed certain responsibilities for those Russian refugees now under British control. He hoped, however, to repatriate all the members of this school together with all other refugees as soon as possible, or else to establish them in Serbia.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Lord Henry Bentinck that there are still 25 British prisoners in the hands of the Kemalist Turks. There is no immediate prospect of their release owing to the refusal of the Angora Government to carry out the agreement concluded in London with their representative Bekir Sami Bey. There is no objection to attempts being made to send them clothing and supplies from private sources.

July 14.—Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked whether Yugoslav forces had invaded Albania. Mr. Harmsworth replied that the Serbian Government had assured us that there had been no movement whatsoever of troops.

The Colonial Vote was under consideration in Committee of Supply. The debate was opened by Mr. Asquith, who dealt almost exclusively with expenditure in Palestine and Mesopotamia. He concluded his speech by stating that it was his "considered judgment that the primary duty of His Majesty's Government at this moment in the Middle East was to put an end to the liabilities, as neither on the grounds of obligation, nor on the grounds of interest have we any stake in Mesopotamia —and the same is true of Palestine—at all commensurate with the demands that are now being made upon the sorely tried British tax-payer." He described Mr. Churchill's policy in Mesopotamia as "a staircase of fragile, precarious and crumbling hypotheses."

Sir William Joynson Hicks criticised the terms of the mandate for Mesopotamia and Palestine on the ground that they were likely to involve us in onerous obligations; he urged the Government to reconsider the terms of the Balfour Declaration in regard to Palestine and stated that, in his opinion, if that declaration were not reconsidered it will not be 5,000 British troops who will have to be kept in Palestine, but at least another couple of divisions. He pleaded that in regard both to Mesopotamia and to Palestine we should regard our debts in the same light as we have regarded our own debts of honour in regard to Housing and Agriculture here.

Mr. Tom Shaw, speaking on behalf of the Labour Party, considered that the real pivot on which the fate of Mesopotamia and the Middle East generally will turn is the establishment of a lasting peace with the Turkish Nationalists.

Sir Charles Yate expressed the view that the Emir Faisal would be unacceptable to the Shiah majority in Mesopotamia on the ground that he and his family belong to the Sunni sect. He would prefer to see the present rule under Sir Percy Cox maintained rather than trust everything to Arabs. He remembered how those Arabs first of all, when the Turks were in the ascendant, murdered the British wounded and robbed the British troops, and then, when the British were in the ascendant, they murdered and robbed the Turks. He remembered the report coming of how the Turkish Commander-in-Chief at Baghdad had sent a message to the British Commander-in-Chief saying he would like to join him in driving out all the cursed Arabs, and he thought if this had been done it would have saved us a lot of trouble and expense.

Sir Charles Oman supported Mr. Churchill's policy in Mesopotamia and added that it was a great blessing to have a policy of any sort put forward. As a student of military history he was doubtful whether it was wise to leave so small a force as 12 battalions of British troops in Mesopotamia. He regretted the tone adopted by some of the French papers regarding the Emir Faisal, and said he would be sorry if he thought that the French Government held the views expressed in some of the French newspapers.

Captain Rankin also supported the policy of the Government in Mesopotamia and put in a special plea for the Jelus who had been driven out from the region near Baghdad by Tamerlane and now, after much wandering, were returning to Mesopotamia. He hoped that Mr. Churchill would, in a country where tradition counts for much, think it worth while to establish a Jelu colony near Bakuba.

Replying on the debate, Mr. Churchill said that he had been mainly occupied since he took over his new office by the Middle East and problems connected with the Imperial Conferenci. When he saw the enormous sums we had been forced to spend in the Middle East, and the tiny sums which we were able to obtain for development in Africa and parts of Asia, he felt able to address himself to the task of further reducing expenditure in Mesopotamia with a renewed zest. In Africa one had the docile, practical population who only require to be well and wisely treated to develop great economic capacity and utility; whereas the regions of the Middle East are unduly stocked with peppery, pugnacious, proud politicians and theologians, who happen to be at the same time extremely well armed and extremely hard up. Since he had last spoken he had been dealing in addition to Mesopotamia and Palestine with the post-war problems on the Red Sea Coast and at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula. A very large force had been maintained at Aden, involving a cost of more than half a million a year. He was glad to say that recently good reports had been brought about and two Arab forces had arrived at the outposts of Aden charged to make proposals for the settlement of all outstanding questions between us and the Imam. He hoped that in a very few days it would be possible to reach an agreement with the India Office whereby it would be possible to amalgamate the administration of Aden and Somaliland, the two territories which are really necessary to one another. If this amalgamation could be carried out in such a way as to effect the contemplated saving of between £200,000 and £300,000 a year it would well repay the trouble taken. The reduction of the number of troops in Mesopotamia is proceeding rapidly—the 45 battalions which were in Mesopotamia in the spring have now fallen to 22, or one less than the number he had mentioned in the House a month ago. So far from anything having happened in the interval since he last spoke, to make the authorities in Mesopotamia think they will not be able to reduce the force from next year to 12 battalions, they had now submitted a proposal to reduce it to 8 battalions in the course of the next twelve months. This is attributable to the improving condition of the country and the political situation in the country. The air route between Baghdad and Cairo is now in actual operation. On July 12, five aeroplanes traversed the entire distance in 11 hours as against the four weeks which it would have taken to get round by steamer. The Emir Faisal had been most warmly welcomed at Busreh, Baghdad, Kerbellah and at other important places. The Nakib of Baghdad, who has been President of the Council of State, and who might well have aspired to be regarded as a candidate for the Emirate, himself proposed that the Emir Faisal should be invited to assume the throne of Irak. The following motion has been passed by the Mesopotamian Council of State:— "The Ministers passed unanimously a resolution declaring the Emir Faisal King of Irak provided that his Highness's Government shall be constitutional, representative, and democratic Government limited by law." He adhered to everything he had previously said about the importance of a satisfactory settlement with Turkey as bearing upon the peace of Mesopotamia and Palestine. The war between the Greeks and Turks may end this way or it may end that way, but whoever wins, however long it is protracted, it produces continuous, uniform disadvantage to British interests. There is no greater interest in the whole of the Middle East than that of Great Britain to secure a cessation of this vicious strife between these two forces, which impoverishes and distracts the whole of the region and leads to every kind of dislocation of our affairs both in Palestine and Mesopotamia.

On the vote being taken the estimates were carried by 123 to 43.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## PERSIA PAST AND PRESENT.

" A History of Persia." By Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.M.G., two vols., with 14 Maps and 193 Illustrations (London, Macmillan and Co., 1921. Price £3 10 0 net.

Another golden age dawned on Persia with the ascension of the Abbaside Khalifs, who claimed descent from an uncle of the Prophet. In this great dynasty the outstanding figure is Harun-al-Rashid, who governed western Asia from Baghdad (786-809 A.D.) A scholar and poet of renown, he lavished rich rewards on men of letters; but there was room for unbridled ferocity in his complex nature. The glories of his reign, and the tragedy which darkened its close, are immortalized in the " Arabian Nights." Harun made the fatal mistake of dividing his empire between two sons; Mamun becoming Khalif of the East, while Avatra fell to the share of Amin. Friction between them kept Persia in a state of chronic war, and many short-lived dynasties arose to batten on the decrepid Khalifat, only to collapse through internal disorder. The time was ripe for foreign aggression, and Persia succumbed to an invasion of the fierce Seljuk Turks. Her prosperity revived under the Seljuk Sultan Sanjar (1130-53),famed in her annals for his conquests and miserable end. Despite civil war and perennial revolts, the arts, sciences and literature of Persia attained their apogee under the Abbaside Khalifs. Her enlightenment stood in marked contrast with the gloom that overspread Europe after Charlemagne's death. But the earlier Crusades, which were provoked by Seljuk interference, brought the barbarous communities of the West into contact with a higher civilisation than their own. It cannot be doubted that the thirteenth century Renaissance which endowed Europe with its cathedrals, was in a measure due to Eastern influence.

While Christendom slowly emerged from mediaeval darkness, the light of Asia suffered a sudden and terrible eclipse. The plains south of Lake Baikal were the habitat of Mongolian nomads who, under the leadership of Chengiz Khan spread over Persia like a flight of locusts (1221-7). After describing their ravages, Sir Percy Sykes writes:—

> To sum up, the testimony of all contemporary historians is that, wherever the Mongols passed, the population was almost exterminated, and the land reverted to desert. In the Jahan Gusha we read: " If from now to the Day of Judgment nothing hinders the growth of population, it cannot reach one-tenth of the figure at which it stood before the Mongol conquest." These words, even with all allowance for exaggeration, express human misery at its deepest, and our finite minds, the product of a civilised age, can barely grasp their full meaning.

On Chengiz's death in 1227 the immense empire which he had brought to heel was shared by his sons, Hulagu becoming " Kakhan " of Persia. He founded a heathen dynasty; but a descendant named Ghazan announced his conversion to Mohammedanism; and during a brief reign (1293-1304) carried out reforms which restored the ebbing life of Persia. After his untimely death she relapsed into anarchy, from which she was rescued by the advent of Tamerlane (1335-1404). The son of a petty Mongolian chief, he won the throne of Samarkand after a series of thrilling adventures. Fired by the lust of conquest he subdued all Persia, penetrated to the heart of Russia and invaded India, returning to his capital laden with the spoils of Delhi. His last campaign was the most brilliant of all; it led to the defeat and capture of a mighty Sultan of Turkey. Then his eyes turned China-wards, but a carreer of unexampled conquest was cut short by death in 1404. Tamerlane, writes Sir Percy Sykes—

> was not only the bravest of the brave, but also profoundly sagacious, generous, experienced and persevering.....
>
> As is the case with all conquerers, ancient and modern, his career was attended by terrible bloodshed..... He was a patron of learned men, a founder of Mosques and colleges, a writer of some merit and fond of the game of chess. He was also careful to allow no favourites, but decided everything himself. In an absolute monarch this constitutes a virtue of no mean order.

His descendants, known as the Timurids ruled Persia for nearly a century and a half. Several of them were men of profound culture, who patronised the arts and crafts. During this era the mystical movement known as " Sufism " took firm hold on Persia, and it is perhaps destined to rejuvenate Islam throughout the Eastern world. A native dynasty famed as the Safavis arose on the ruins of the Timurid regime. Its founder, Shah Ismail (1499-1524), who traced his descent from the seventh Imam, secured the independence of Persia, and established Shia doctrine as her national religion.

The sixteenth century was an age of transition like our own. Its destinies were guided by a group of great rulers who have no successors at the present day. Charles the Fifth, Queen Elizabeth, Sulayman the Magnificent, Akbar—where shall we find their parallels? The modern world has no pilots able to ride the whirlwind and direct the storm. Shah Abbas the Great (1587-1629)was a bright particular star in a galaxy of illustrious sovereigns. He reorganised the Persian army and governed wisely for 42 eventful years. In his reign the infiltration of European diplomats and traders set in, and Shah Abbas showed especial favour to our countrymen. No Shah of Persia died more regretted by his subjects. His domestic policy was as mischevious as that of the Sultans of Turkey. The imperial family was kept in gilded seclusion, aloof from affairs of state. Owing to their unfitness to rule the Safair dynasty was dethroned in 1722 by an Afghan adventurer named Mahmud, who conquered Persia with very slender forces. Fourteen years later the usurper was ousted by Nadir Kuli Khan, a Persian shepherd whose genius for war raised him to the pinnacle of fame. He annexed Khiva and Bokhara, drove the Russians from his Caspian provinces. and brought back incalculable wealth from a raid into Mughal, India. In later life he degenerated into a bloody and avaricious despot, whose assasination in 1747 was hailed with joy throughout Persia. A " triangular contest for power " ensued, from which Karim Khan Zand emerged victorious. From 1759 to 1779 he was the undisputed ruler of Persia, gave his subjects two decades of sorely-needed peace, and died sincerely lamented in the fulness of years. In 1796 however, his successor was hurled from the throne by Aga Mohammad Shah, a chieftain of the powerful Kajar tribe, who founded the reigning dynasty. To great military and administrative skill he added a thirst for power, wealth and revenge. After misgoverning Persia for a year he deservedly met the fate of many predecessors in the purple.

During the long reign of his nephew Fath Ali Shah (1797-1834) Persia was brought within the ever-widening sphere of European politics by the measureless ambition of Napoleon. who cherished a fantastic dream of casting the British from India with the help of Russia. He despatched an embassy to Teheran which was countered by rival missions from England. On the great Corsican's fall, Sir Gore Ousely negotiated a defensive treaty with Persia, by which Great Britain was bound to aid her in frontier disputes and pay her a handsome yearly subsidy.

A far more dangerous foe than imperial France was drawing nigh. For more than a century Russia had sought to reach the ice-free ports which were denied to her enormous empire by advancing towards Constantinople and the Persian Gulf. These aspirations were defined by a will of Peter the Great, which gained publicity from a tainted source in 1755. The Tsar's successors were enjoined—

> To approach as near as possible Constantinople and India: excite continual wars, not only in Turkey but in Persia. And in the decadence of Persia, penetrate as far as the Persian Gulf and advance as far as India, which is the depot of the world.

The haunting dread of Russia inspired by this document was justified by the policy of Tsar Alexander I and his successors. whose armies conquered Georgia and over-ran the Caspian provinces. The Persian forces, organised on European lines had lost the mobility which made them more than a match for Turkish hordes in the past. They were worsted in two campaigns, and under the treaty of Turkmanchai, Persia ceded important territories in Armenia to her hated foe. During the quarter of a century that followed the Shahs strove to recoup their losses in the north-west by regaining ground in the opposite direction. In British eyes Russia had superseded imperial France as a power to be withstood, tooth and nail. It was deemed imperative to safeguard Central Asia from Russian and Persian aggression. Hence the Government of India plunged into a disastrous war with Afghanistan and undertook a half-hearted campaign against its old ally Persia. But the Russian advance proceeded without a serious check. By the end of last century it had added Khiva, Bokhara and Turkmania to the empire, which marched with that of Persia eastwards of the Caspian Sea.

Shah Nasir-u-din, who mounted the throne in 1848, was well known in England owing to repeated visits to the Court. At home his extravagance and misgovernment made him thoroughly unpopular. The tillers of the soil were fleeced without mercy by a clique of greedy nobles, the administration of justice was farcical; no one's life and property were safe. Dissatisfaction became rife among the large class which had come into contact with Western civilisation, and Nasir-u-din was assasinated in 1896. Under his successor Muzaffar-u-din (1896-1907) things went from bad to worse. In 1906 the universal discontent found expression in a constitutional movement which with active encouragement from the British Minister, compelled the puppet Shah to grant a Constitution. It included an elective assembly termed Anjuman, and the promise of paper-reforms in all directions. But Persia was by no means ripe for a parliamentary regime. In Sir Percy Sykes' words—

> Internal discord, personal advantage, pecuniary or other, and personal animosities influenced the assembly and prevented its co-operation with any Cabinet. Moreover many of the leaders were unpractical extremists or mere visionaries filled with anarchical ideas which they had not digested.

Mohammed Ali, who succeeded in 1907, was an Asiatic despot of the worst type, unprincipled, avaricious and untrustworthyl He pursued a reactionary policy which plunged Persia in civi. war, and was deservrdly deprived of the throne in 1907. Meanwhile the defeat of Russia by Japan had lessened the apprehension felt in Great Britain for the safety of the Indian Empire. An Anglo-Russian agreement was arrived at in 1907, which defined the rivals' spheres of influence in Persia. Russia embraced the rich northern provinces, while Great Britain was contented with a relatively small area—mostly desert—in the South. This treaty represented a genuine desire on our part to end eighty years of disastrous friction, and safe-guard Persiann-dependence. Unhappily for all parties the Russina agents intrigued against their British colleagues, and strove to absorb

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the territory placed under their protection. The issue of the Russo-Japanese war brought a far more insidious foe into the field. German traders and spies poured into Persia, and with Turkish help a projected railway linking Berlin with Baghdad was pushed forward. Incredible to relate—

> At the actual outbreak of the Great War, the British Foreign Office was engaged in negotiations with Germany and Turkey which, as far as the former power was concerned would have resulted in her securing a strong, if not dominating position at Basra, the destined terminus of the Baghdad railway.

When that cyclone burst on the civilised world the Entente interests were protected in the Northern provinces by a Cossack brigade, and order was preserved elsewhere by a Gendarmerie under Swedish officers. These mostly went over to the foe, and Turco-German influence reigned supreme over three-quarters of Persia. At this crisis Sir Percy Sykes was despatched on a mission to the Shah, with the authority to raise a native force under British officers. Right well did he fulfill the arduous task of restoring British influence The South Persian Rifles under his command freed Kerman from German domination. Then, by a very daring advance eastwards, it ejected the enemy from Yezd, Shiraz and Isfahan; and re-opened the route to the Gulf *via* Ahwaz. The poet Abraham Cowley tells us that "It is a hard and nice subject for a man to write of himself, it grates his own heart to say anything of disparagement, and the reader's to hear anything of praise from him. Sir Percy does ample justice to the brother-officers who helped him to purge Persia of the enemy, and refers modestly to his own share in the exploit.

> It is difficult tor me to estimate the exact value of the services rendered by the officers and men of the force which I commanded. Nor must the good work of the Bushire force be overlooked. From one point of view my column guarded the way to India. Its action put an end to the German bands which were destroying the little civilisation that still existed in Southern Persia, and it was a contributory cause of the failure of the German mission to the Amir.

The Russian collapse left Great Britain free to deal directly with Persia. In the autumn of 1919 two agreements were concluded which promised British co-operation in the task of carrying out reforms and in organizing an army for the maintenance of internal order. But the present situation of the worlds oldest empire the reverse of satisfactory. A Cabinet hostile to Great Britain is dallying with Bolshevism; the administration in every branch is hopelessly corrupt, a selfish aristocracy thinks of nothing but wringing wealth from the down trodden peasants; and the Anglo-Persia agreements remain a dead letter. A recent cable message, indeed, announces the disbandment of the South Persia Rifles owing to lack of funds. Sir Percy Sykes who is anything but a pessimist, admits that the future of Persia fills him with apprehension. But a race which has shown such amazing vitality in the past may yet emerge from the chaos which threatens its country; and may even prove a barrier against the onrush of Bolshevism, which is a far more pressing danger to India than was Tsarist lust of conquest. One thing is certain. Persia cannot be allowed to drift into anarchy. A glance at the admirable maps which accompany this volume will show that her prosperity and friendship are essential to our interests in Asia.

It is a matter of deep regret that a soldier and administrator of Sir Percy Sykes's calibre should have been removed from the helm on the eve of the present crisis. But he has made excellent use of his leisure in producing a history of Persia which will not be superseded for a century to come. His task demanded immense industry and a very rare faculty of drawing sane deductions from a mass of complex data. The value of his letter press is enhanced by excellent maps, illustrations, a bibliography, and last but not least, an index which gives the student a clue to four thousand years of history and legend. F.H.S.

### The Ewe Dialect.

We have received from the Crown Agents for the Colonies an excellent "Grammatical Guide to the Ewe dialect," spoken by the natives of Togoland, a German colony on the West Coast of Africa which is now administered by Great Britain jointly with France. This little text-book has been translated from the German by Mr. C. D. Trotter, district Commissioner of the Gold Coast Colony, and may serve as a model for others of the same description which are still to seek in our Asiatic possessions.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Threads." By Frank Stayton. (London: Thornton, Butterworth, Ltd. 8s. net).

"A Hundred Voices and Other Poems." By Kestes Palamas Translated by Aristides E. Phoutrides. (New York: Howard University Press $2.50).

## EVENING IN THE JUNGLE.

*By "MAJNUN."*

The sun was already sloping towards the trees as with many a heave and push and much whispered advice from below I scrambled into my *machan*. Though an explanation of the term is probably gratuitous, a *machan* is a frame of wood,—often a native bedstead— cunningly fixed in the lower branches of a tree, so as to form a platform, where screened by the leaves and out of harm's way, the nocturnal seeker after big game spends the excruciating hours of his vigil, waiting for something to turn up.

Ten yards away stood a small black goat tethered by one hind leg to a stake. He was advertising his presence by loud and plaintive bleats and doing his best to call down Nemesis upon his innocent head. Nemesis in the shape of Cheetrah, the panther. Beyond was a rocky nullah, dry with the exception of two muddy pools, and beyond these again rose the jungle, rank upon rank, wall upon wall of trees.

It was still early evening, and for an hour no serious business could be expected; but in the meantime there was an opportunity of watching the lesser jungle-folk—on this occasion the birds—as they came down to the water-hole for their evening drink; a pair of good glasses and the cover of sheltering foliage afforded a chance to see them without being seen, to watch and to wonder.

First, with much fluttering among the broad leaves, the doves and pigeons come,—ring doves, blue rock and little spotted doves. They are the least shy of all the birds and least obsessed with that suspicion of all about them which is a characteristic of all the jungle-dwellers, man and bird and beast. They drink in a leisurely fashion, look about and walk round to the other pool to sample the water there, and evidently have little to fear and do not mean to be hurried.

Next comes a plover, full of suspicion, always apprehensive, always startled. He flies up and down the nullah uttering his sharp, persistent little cry, "Did-he-do-it, did-did-did-he-do-it?" over and over again. Finally he seems satisfied and settles on a stone by the farther of the two pools, and from this, after some further inspection, he hops on to the sand and runs with quick short steps to the water. This is a typical example of the ever-present suspicion of the jungle. He takes a few quick paces along the edge of the pool, stops and looks back, then on again and another step; at the water he makes little hasty dabs, looking round between each. Then, suddenly, his nerve seem, to give way and he flaps into the air and is gone, and I hear his plaintive cry far down the nullah, "Did-he-do-it--did-did-did.."

There seems to be an established order in which birds come; the doves and pigeons have finished, and uow the smaller birds arrive, to drink and bathe and squabble, a thoroughly social business. A king bird has just settled in an over-hanging branch a big black truculent fellow with a handsome forked tail, whose sudden swoops as he hawks the flies above the water scatter his smaller companions. In between his excursions he sits like a jet image on his bough.

Now overhead there is a chorus of shrill screams and a pack of parrots, like emeralds against the turquoise sky, swoop and glide over the tree tops. Here, out in the jungle, that unmelodious scream is forgotten or forgiven; like the pea- fowl's call, which for the last half- hour has been sounding from the shadows, it seems an essential part of untamed nature, of open skies and untrodden paths; a declaration of the wilderness.

At last the sun has dropped into the trees and long shadows fall across the nullah; the unreal light of sunset is changing the colours—almost, it seems, the very shapes—of the trees beyond.

Presently there comes the sound of a stealthy footfall upon the leaves and out into the golden light paces the most beautiful of all birds—a peacock in full plumage. From his little crested head—a head of breeding if ever there was one—to the tip of his glorious six-foot tail, he is a burning mass of colour. There is something most royal in his carriage as he stands there looking around him, the azure column of his neck proudly erect, the gold and bronze and blue of his tail flaunted like some gorgeous brocade; truly he is clothed in King's apparel. He goes forward slowly with a processional step as though conscious of and glorying in his beauty; as he stoops to drink at the pool the reflected sunset makes a ripple of fire along his lovely throat. Then with the same inimitable grace he passes on and is hidden once more in the jungle. The world seems to grow suddenly darker at his going.

Now it is the short hour between evening and night when the jungle is very still. Only the night-jar is awake—the last of the birds—calling from the trees behind me, "chuck-a-chuck, chuck-chuck-a-chuck", then silently as a shadow he flits past within hand's reach. The last of the birds; no, for far up in the pale sky above me, a dark speck against the blue, a late vulture is still wheeling and turning; he has seen me, and will watch a while. He knows what Man does among the jungle folk. I understand. and feel (I hope) ashamed.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

"Sir Edward Elgar." By J. F. PORTE. (London: Kegan, Paul, 7s. 6d. net).

This book is badly made. It consists of three sections: the first, a "critical introduction," is too brief and is uninforming; the second, a biographical sketch of Elgar, contains for the most part stale stories, and is done in the guide-book style; and the third and most important section is made up of separate reviews of Elgar's works, arranged in chronological order. This last section may be useful to the Elgar student, but seven shillings and sixpence is a high price for such a book.

Mr. Porte's power of historical judgment may best be shown by a few quotations. He seeks, for example, to perpetuate the old and absurd distinction between music of the heart and music of the head, averring that "music of the heart will outlive music of the brain alone." Again, he says that "no composer ever had a more faithful propagandarist than Elgar did in Richter," a sentence of which the truth is as doubtful as the English. But when he comes to particular opinions he is still more amazing for he thinks that the effeminate and unworthy "Salut d'amour" is "really meritorious" and that "it has a particularly entrancing melody," that the ineffable "Land of Hope and Glory" is an "inspiring tune" (indeed he gravely, very gravely, rebukes Mr. Ernest Newman for "poking fun" at it), and that the drearily unoriginal "Polonia" is "one of the noblest and most brilliantly beautiful pieces that issued from Elgar's pen." In such an undiscriminating flow of *cliches* does the author betray his uncritical enthusiasm; it is with the less attention, therefore, that one reads his merited superlatives upon such works as the two symphonies the Enigma Variations, the string quartet, and the pianoforte quintet. I am afraid this book will do neither the author nor his subject any good.

**Technique and Temperament.**

The problem of musical technique is as engrossing as it is unceasing. Each generation imagines that it has found an infallible guide to technique, until a new composer comes along to make necessary a new technique or rather to extend the old one. A little book called "Creative Technique" that I have received from Messrs. Kegan Paul sets out the problem and some of the latter-day pedagogic fallacies with very commendable lucidity. Its author is George Woodhouse, whom readers of this journal will, perhaps, remember mainly through the fact that Miss Eurydice Draconi, the Greek pianist, is one of his pupils; and its price is two shillings and sixpence.

Upon the different methods of teaching technique there always has been and always will be controversy, for all alike and some wrongly claim the cultivation of temperament as their first aim and the achievement of mechanical accuracy as incidental. Now Mr. Woodhouse's book, which is designed "for artists in general and pianists in particular," is concerned to show that in some of the pedagogic methods obtaining at the present time there is a tendency to leave undeveloped the essential factor of the temperament, a tendency, that is, for technique to be uncreative. And there is little doubt that his charge is just. The Matthay method, for instance, which is very widely in vogue in this country, does incline, in its concentration upon the principle of the weight—touch, to minimise the importance of finger technique, and how often this system, admirable and necessary though it be in many ways, fails to allow the self-expression of its exponent, may be seen almost any month at the concerts of our junior recitalists. Wholly to disregard the technical methods of our fathers is as foolish in music as it is in cricket, and I am glad to see Mr. Woodhouse standing on so firm and so sure a compromise as he does in this matter.

ANDANTE


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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-day.**
July 21 (New Style).
July 8 (Old Style).
Julkada 15, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 15, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The King and Queen of Roumania left Bucharest on July 15 for Bagnolles-de-l'Orne.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place between Captain Ivan Guthrie, M.C., 17th Cavalry, Indian Army eldest surviving son of Captain and Mrs. Guthrie of Guthrie, Guthrie Castle, Forfarshire, and Kathleen Mona, younger daughter of the late Colonel the Hon. G. H. Gough, C.B., and the Hon. Mrs. Gough, of 13, Grosvenor-place.

In recognition of his services in India, the degree of Doctor of Laws has been conferred by Aberdeen University upon Sir George Carmichael, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on August 30, between Major J.G. Cadell, D.S.O., 45th Rattray's Sikhs, elder son of the late Alan Cadell, C.S.I., I.C.S., and Margaret, youngest daughter of the late H. J. Hunt, of Yokohama, and of Mrs. Hunt of Crawley Wood House, Camberley.

H.M. Consul-General at Tangier states that the municipalities of Kenitra, Marrakesh, Fez, and Mazagan are contracting loans to the value of 21,000,000 francs for the purpose of carrying our works on drains, sewers, and roads in those towns.

The fund for the endowment of a Ceylon bed in the King George Sanatorium for Sailors at Bramshott is still short of £200. The organisers hope that this sum will be guaranteed by one or more residents of Ceylon or persons with interests there, who should communicate with Mr. Leefe, The Glebe, South Ascot.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes:—

The engagement is announced of Miss Kathleen Kemper, niece of the American Consul at Sofia, to Captain R. B. Peters. M.C., R.A., of the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control in Bulgaria.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes (July 3):—

It is reported that Monsieur Claessens, Director of Agriculture in the Belgian Congo, is visiting Egypt and the Sudan for the purpose of studying local conditions of cultivation.

Monsieur Krajewski, Consul General for France at Jeddah, is amongst the passengers leaving Port Sudan on July 8, by the s.s. "Garth Castle."

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Among visitors who have lately inspected the collection of antiquities in the Cyprus Museum are Professor J. Garstang, Director of Antiquities in Palestine, and Mr. Phythian-Adams, Curator of the Palestine Museum in Jerusalem.

The Emir of Katsina, who has been on a visit to this country, left London on July 15 for Jeddah. From there the Emir goes to Mecca for the Festival of August 15.

The following have been selected for the Sudan Political Service—Mr. G. R. F. Bredin, Mr. T. F. G. Darless, Mr. W. F. Crawford, Mr. L. W. Jardine, Mr. E. H. Macintosh, Mr. R. L. H. Nunn, Mr. G. C. Scott, and Mr. H. G. Wedderburn-Maxwell.

Major-General C. S. Maclean, C.B., C.I.E., Colonel 21st Cavalry and late his Majesty's Consul-General at Khorassan and Sistan, died last week at the age of eighty-four. He entered the army in 1853, and became Major-General after forty years' service. He served with distinction in the Indian Mutiny campaign, and received the medal and clasp. During the Afghan War, 78-80, he was several times mentioned in dispatches, and received the Brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel, the C.B., and the medal with clasps, and in 1881 took part in the Mahsood-Wuzeeree Expedition. He was made C.I.E. in 1888.

Major-General Charles Edward Dutton Budworth has died suddenly from heart failure, states a Reuter telegram from Simla.

The Indian Section of the Oriental Circle of the Lyceum Club held a reception on July 15, for distinguished Indians in London. The hostesses were the president, the Contessa Martinengo Cesaresco, Princess Mander, Mrs. Tata, Mme. Lo Cheng, and Mrs. Shrimpton Giles. Among the guests were:—The Maharao of Kutch, Princess Kambra Devi Gaekwar of Baroda, the Maharaja of Baroda, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, the Rani Shaiba and Princess of Kalsia, Lady Ratan Tata, Mr. V. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir Cowasjee and Lady Jehangir, the Earl and Countess of Lytton Sahibzada Aftab A. Khan, Mr. and Mrs. Das Gupta, Mr. Bupendranath Basee, Sir Dinshaw Petit, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, Sir B. and Lady Mullik, Sir W. Meyer, Lady De La Warr, Lady Lutyens, the Hon. Mrs. Montagu, Lady Clwyd, Lady Emmott, and Sir Burton and Lady Chadwick.

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A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Major Alick Cameron, O.B.E., I.M.S., and Jane, daughter of the late P. M. Westfeldt, of New Orleans and North Carolina, U.S.A., and of Mrs. P. M. Westfeldt, 22, Pakefield-road Lowestoft.

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The engagement is announced between John Yarrow, second son of Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Eccles, 128, Broadhurst-gardens, Hampstead, N.W., 6, and Mysie Isobel, youngest daughter of Rev. H. A. Williams, M.A., retired Chaplain, his Majesty's Indian Government, and Mrs. Williams, 18, Woodchurch-road, Hampstead, N.W. 6, late of Skelton Manor, York.

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Princess Beatrice visited on July 15, the Exhibition of Recent Discoveries of the British School of Archaeology at University College, Gower-street, and was conducted round by Professor Flinders Petrie. Mrs. Flinders Petrie and Mr. Guy Brunton were presented to the Princess.

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The engagement is announced between Edward Daymonde Stevenson, M.C., lieutenant, the Seaforth Highlanders, second son of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Stevenson, of Cairo, Egypt, and Ella Violet Ethel, only daughter of Major-General Sir William Peyton, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., D.S.O.

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The engagement is announced between Captain John Victor Warrener, Indian Army, younger son of Major J. H. Warrener, O.B.E., and Mrs. Warrener, of Shallford, Surrey, and Kathleen, younger daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dance, of Bramford, Suffolk.

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The Bulgarian Minister and Mme. Stancioff gave a dinner party on July 4, at 51, Queen's gate, at which the guests included Lady Lloyd-Graeme, Sir Herbert and Lady Dering, the Czecho-Slovak Minister and Mme. Mastny, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Nicholson, Prince Lobkowitz, and the personnel of the Bulgarian Legation,

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The engagement is announced between Monsieur M. B. Gavrilovitch, Attaché to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in London, the third son of Dr. Bogdan Gavrilovitch, the Vice-Chancellor of the University in Belgrade, and Mademoiselle Suzanne Chartier-Doliwa, the second daughter of Marquise W. de la Grange. The wedding will take place in Paris in October.

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Madame Gavrilovitch, the wife of the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London last week, for Serbia. She will be away from London for several weeks.

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The committees of the Northbrook Society and the National Indian Association gave a reception last week at 21, Cromwell-road to meet distinguished visitors from India. Among those accepting invitations were :—The Maharao of Kutch and Mr. Srinavasa Sastri the representatives af India. at the Imperial Conference (the Rani of Kalsia and Princess Rajindasa, Sir William Meyer, Sir Cowasjee and Lady Jehanghir, Sir George Roos-Keppel, Syed and Mrs. Ameer Ali, Sir Thomas Bennett, M.P., and Lady Bennett, Dewan Bahadur Ramchandra Rao, Sir John and Lady Stanley, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, Sir Henry and Lady Proctor, Mrs. and Miss Rustomji Faridonji, Sir Herbert Holmwood, Imad-ul-Mulk Syed Hosian Bilgrami and Mrs. Bilgrami, Sir H. L. and Lady Stephen, Mr. N. C. Sen. Sir Donald Robertson, Sir Manackjee Dadabhoy, Sir Thomas and Lady Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bhore, Sir D. P. Saibidikary, Dr. L. D. Barnett, Mr. G. J. Bajpai, Mr. S. Digby, and Mrs. S. K. Datta, Professor and Mrs. G. M. Das Gupta, Mr. Austin Low, Mr. L. J. Robertson, Khan Bahadur and Mrs. Byramji, Miss Beck, and Dr. S. A. Kapadia.

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The engagement is announced between Mr. Godfrey Pope, of Matale, Ceylon, seventh surviving son of Mr. Alfred Pope, J.P., F.S.A., of South Court, and Wrackleford House, Dorchester, and May Hollingworth Toolis, only daughter of Mr. Toolis, of Capponellan, Southbourne, Hants, and Lincoln's Inn, barrister-at-law, S.E. Circuit, and Mrs. Toolis.

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We understand that it is by direction of the Foreign Office that Colonel J. E. Lawrence, Adviser on Arab matters to the Colonial Office, is proceeding to the Hejaz. The purpose of the mission is, we learn, to institute negotiations with the King of the Hejaz on matters which concern the two Governments, notably the protection of the Pilgrimages.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is reported from Chicago, that the site of Armageddon (Megiddo, in Palestine) is to be excavated by the University of Chicago, Mr. John D. Rockfeller, junior, having given 60,000 dollars (nominally £12,000) for the purpose.

Full military equipment for 25,000 Azerbaijan soldiers has reached Baku from Moscow.

Another report of the death of the " Mad Mullah " of Somaliland has come from Adis Ababa. Men of the Hawiya tribe assert both in the Abyssinian capital and at Harrer that not only is the Mullah dead, but that his tomb ht Goanneh, in the Imi country, has been desecrated and his house looted.

Belgrade was gaily decorated on Thursday, July 14, in honour of King Peter's birthday.

The International Red Cross has sent a committee to Athens to settle the difficulties which have arisen over the detention of the medical staff on board the Japanese steamship Ainamaru by the Greek naval authorites.

Advices from Teheran state, that Russian troops have re-occupied Resht, and that communication between Teheran and Constantinople via Tabriz and Batoum has been restored.

Renters' Prague correspondent in a message dated July 15 tates that a delegation of the International Chamber of Commerce of America consisting of seven members are arriving in Prague on Monday from Berlin to study the financial and economic position of Cxecho-Slovakia.

It is reported from Bucharest that King Ferdinand's visit to France is postponed until the close of the Parliamentary Session.

Kemal Bey, a former Vali of Adana, has been appointed Prefect of Constantinople.

It is officially reported from India that conditions in Waziristan were quieter during the week ending on July 14.

The following cable from the European Association, Calcutta, has been received by the Indo-British Association, London, on July 15. " Repudiate Lord Lytton's reported statement in the House of Lords. This Association's reports from India are neither exaggerated nor wilfully misleading. India Office must either lack or suppress information."

According to information from Constantinople, Neriman Nerimanov is now President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

An official denial has been issued in Belgrade of the report that Yugoslar troops have invaded Albanian territory.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (July 2) :—Princess Elizabeth left for Smyrna on June 29. Queen Sophie has returned to Athens from Salonika. The Prime Minister accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Baltazzi, returned to Smyrna last Sunday, June 26.

The congress of the executive committee of international Zionist organisations has opened at Prague. In addition to its president, Dr. Weitzmann, who will arrive in a few days, this congress will be attended by M.M. Sokolov, Rupin, Lichsein, Cowen, Jabotinsky and a large number of other prominent personalities in the Zionist movement from France, England, Holland, America, Switzerland and Turkey. The conferences will last for a week, and will deal with the question of the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, as well as with economic problems.

The Fourth Palestinian Congress of Moslem and Christian Arabs has protested against Mr. Churchill's recent statement that Arab fears of Zionism are illusory, as the " Arabs see the reins of government in Zionist hands."

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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1921.


## RACIAL FEELING IN INDIA.

No student of Indian affairs can have failed to observe the rise in some not unimportant circles of a new feeling of racial exclusiveness, a feeling which, under the shelter of a claim to equality, in practice leads to a demand that Europeans shall not be employed in any responsible position in the country. The manifestations of this sentiment have of late been widespread. On one occasion we are told that the appointment of an Englishman as professor in an Indian University would be an outrage on national feeling, even though the Englishman may know more about the subject of study than any living Indian. On others we find Indian shareholders protesting noisily against the employment of European staffs, and by no means inclined to accept the statement of their Indian Directors, that, if profits are to be large, they must use the best available talent irrespective of any question of race. Englishmen in the mass can afford to ignore such manifestations, but Indians cannot; and it is in the interests of India that we propose to say something to-day on the development of this attitude, and on the task which its existence imposes on patriotic Indians. Viewed from the standpoint of history, the development is natural, indeed almost inevitable. The close of the seventeenth century saw the collapse of nearly every Indian institution, administrative, social and economic, for the time being, the country ceased to produce leaders in any spheres of activity other than those which were purely predatory; and the void was filled by the Europeans who were engaged primarily in commercial pursuits. The slow, progressive revival of the next two centuries was pioneered almost wholly by Englishmen, and while English administrators were reducing chaos to order, English merchants and manufacturers were reorganising economic life, English students were leading in the intellectual renascence, and English missionaries were stimulating a new growth of religious energy. At this period English predominance was a practical fact, and as such it was accepted without question by the mass of Indians; but from the nature of the case that position was temporary, for the inevitable result of English inspiration was the growth of national self-consciousness and of an aspiration for national self-respect. In essence that development has our entire sympathy, but some of its accidental features have been unfortunate, notably the one-sided views of history which have induced so many Indians to exaggerate national strength and ignore national weaknesses. No small proportion of the younger generation has been led to believe that their country, once powerful and prosperous, was ruined by the machinations of European intruders, and it is easy to understand that, where such mistaken views are accepted, the sight of an Englishman in any responible position may become in itself a cause of offence, aggravated out of all proportion by occasional ill-judged displays of imperiousness on the part of individual Englishmen.

In the actual environment, then, the growth of a certain amount of racial prejudice was an almost inevitable by-product of the new Indian national life, but the prejudice is sharpened and intensified by a legacy from the past. The Indian polity was based on the domination of small privileged classes over the great bulk of the population; the old idea has by no means yielded to the new doctrine of equality or national brotherhood, which is slowly and painfully gaining ground; and there is still a widespread anticipation among classes formerly dominant that they may regain their old ascendancy, and rule India as their forefathers once ruled. That anticipation cannot be realised while the British element in the Government remains; and to those who share it Englishmen are apt to appear as usurpers of the ascendancy which it is their final task to destroy. It follows necessarily that the strength of racial prejudice is greatest among those classes who at present support the non-cooperative movement, themselves dominated by class-prejudice, their antipathy is concentrated on the class which stands in their way, and their hopes rest in carrying with them a sufficient section of the population to wreck the new constitution, thereby vindicating the principle of ascendancy, and perhaps opening a path to the realisation of their ultimate desires. In this connection their recent tactics are of peculiar significance. At first they tried by the familiar method of the boycott to prevent the new legislatures from coming into existence. Having failed to do so, they have of late been attempting to discredit these institutions by putting forward as candidates men of humble position and menial occupation, believing that the class-prejudice of their fellow countrymen will revolt at the spectacle of legislators of this type. In this country such tactics would be condemned as hopeless; the House of Commons has for many years welcomed the presence of working miners and general labourers, and it might be thought that Indian legislators would in the same spirit regard the election of a worthy confectioner or leather-dresser as an honour to their House. Indian sentiment, however, is not yet prepared for such innovations; the old class-prejudice is weakening, but it still lies deep in the unconscious mentality of the people, and its significance for our present subject is to be found in the fact that its existence facilitates the spread, and intensifies the activity, of that racial feeling which, as we have said, is an almost inevitable feature of the recent development of Indian life. It is reasonably certain that some Indians would in any case be prejudiced against Englishmen as a race; this peculiar factor in their mentality makes it certain that the prejudice will be more widespread and more acute than would otherwise be the case.

The result may well be a definite set back to India as a whole. Great as has been the progress made in recent years, the country is not yet ready to stand alone; expert assistance is still required in nearly every branch of national activity; and should this racial feeling operate either to prevent the employment of experts, or to render their position intolerable to men of self-respect, necessary work will be left undone or be badly done, and India will

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be the sufferer. The best way of avoiding this danger is for responsible Indians to look it in the face. Lord Reading's recent declaration that Englishmen in India do not indulge in notions of racial superiority or predominence appears to us to present the standpoint from which the subject should be approached by the men of both nations. The early experience of the new legislatures has demonstrated the advantages to be gained by equal co-operation in the field of politics and administration, but that demonstration only reinforces the conclusions already drawn by those who have practiced co-operation in other spheres of activity. No one can deny that the existing prejudice constitutes a serious menace, but its effects can be counteracted by that large mass of sound practical sense which undoubtedly exists in India, though its operation has in the past been so inconspicuous that observers at a distance may have been led to minimise its importance. The hopes of those who believe in the success of the new *regime* are based, more than anything else, on the more open and more vigorous assertion of this element of Indian life. Those hopes have been encouraged by the first sessions of the legislatures, which have been characterised by the subordination of passion to practical sagacity, and it is to the maintenance of the balance that we must look for continued progress. Lord Reading has made plain his intention that any English manifestation of racial feeling will be sternly dealt with: it is for the responsible leaders of Indian public opinion to make it equally plain that similar manifestations on the part of Indians must be discountenanced in the best interests of the country.

## FROM AN ADRIATIC DIARY.

*By William Ransted Berrry.*

At Sea, Feb. 15.

The Irishman said he had never played a fiddle, but had no doubt he could if he tried. I have never owned a steam yacht, but I know now exactly what it feels like. The S.S. Dalmatia, once Kaiserklich and Koeniglich in the service of the Austrian Lloyd, but now under the red, white and green of Italy, is entirely at my disposal from stem to stern, and from keel to crow's-nest, with the single —and to me, trifling—exception of her direction. In short, I am at present that very small pea in a very large pod, her only passenger.

She is outward bound from Trieste to many storied ports (we have just left Venice), but we shall bear each other company no farther than Constantinople, where I land to traffic with the turbanned and blasphemous Turk, while she leaves friendly cards along the coast of Syria, takes wine at Cyprus, or gorges cotton at the door of Egypt, where once the 'Pharos' built by Ptolemy was one of the seven wonders of the world.

For her size (3,500 tons), I have never set foot in a more comfortable boat; for her sins, the fumes of garlic and spaghetti now steal boldly forth from her galley, whence once smote on the listener's ear the pleasant sound of frying 'schnitzel'. Yet the food is very good. Four stalwart stewards and their chief serve it to me; incidentally to the captain too, the doctor and the chief engineer. Among these last conversation is incessant, and bewilderingly polyglot. The same appears to be the case among the members of the crew, including an especially vociferous powder-monkey, or whatever an infant apprentice sailor-man may be called, who spends his waking hours on some commanding object, like a water-butt or a hatch cover, in what is I suppose, the waist of the ship, whence he exhorts or flays with salty sarcasm such of his nautical peers as linger within hearing. As he is invariably armed with either a vessel-full of kitchen refuse or a species of boarding-cutlass with which he sometimes slices cabbages in the manner of a pirate quartering victims, few break a lance with him, and none his head. The general polyglotism is due, apparently, to the Istrian origin of the entire ship's company. Those who do not hail from Trieste cheer for Fiume, very much after the fashion of that immortal cricketer who, had he not been an all-Muggletonian, would have been a Dingly Deller. The result is a small babel of Austro-German and Italian liberally interlarded with such Greek, English or Slav phrases as may point an illustration or best reflect, in the case of the crew, upon an individual's probable ancestry.

We ride high on the water, for so stagnant is trade in the Adriatic that we carry practically no cargo. I can see that this is a source of great chagrin to the captain, a tall spare man with soft brown eyes and a face alive with tiny wrinkles when he smiles, who knows China and the Straits, New York and Timbuctoo, as well as he does the inside of his pocket. He is much given to recounting with melancholy enthusiasm, as one reviewing the deeds of dead heroes who played their part when the world was young, the gigantic cargoes masters found awaiting them hereabouts in the days before the war. So many thousand (or was it million?) barrels of olive oil at Bari; countless tons of almonds at Brindisi, other things in myriads, or shoals, or hecatombs, whatever you like, from Trieste, Fiume, Spalato, Durazzo, everywhere,—"but now,—finished—drown-ded" (an expressive word, used for any cataclysmic finale). He waves his hands and smiles ruefully, "I carry now six packages—only six small packages,—Sacred Madonna!"

Later on I was privileged to see some of these packages when we discharged them: one at Bari, one at Corfu and two at Patras. To my no small astonishment, for in my innocence I had conceived a "package" as being little more than a paper parcel, three of them proved to be packing cases large as houses. But the fourth, one of the two delivered at Patras—then must the captain's great heart have broken he had been present—actually proved to be a parcel no larger than I could have tucked quite conveniently under one arm; and it was a moving sight to observe it hoisted from the hold at the end of a wire cable as thick as my arm, where it looked like a sardine caught on shark tackle, and to see it deposited in the lighter alongside by the united efforts of a steam crane and four men. But such indeed is the habit of those who go down to the sea in ships, for their method of doing all things is single, and as changeless as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

The ship is as clean as the proverbial whistle, and as comfortable as a Viennese would like to have her—which, in pre-war days, was very comfortable indeed.

It was midnight when I joined her—she was due to sail at dawn next morning—where she lay at the quay in the Fusina Canal at Venice, outward bound from Trieste. Very glad I had been, too, to feel her planks beneath my feet; for my journey from the Grand Canal in a gondola had not been without a spice of adventure. Half way out, that is to say, in the darkest portion of the Giudecca Canal, where the fairy lights of the Piazzetta and the Riva Schiavoni are pin-points, behind one and all around is a waste of black waters with here and there the funeral bulk of vast silent hulks asleep upon their anchor chains, my gondoliers—for I had two, due to the distance, and to the fact that I had been as wax in the hands of a Venetian concierge—suddenly brought their craft alongside a blunt and sinister Po river boat, from the bowels of which issued a muffled sound of savage voices, while fitful gleams of light came and went among the cracks of her ill-fitting companion slide. At once there flashed through my mind all that I had ever read of shanghied landsmen, of thin stilettos in quick Latin sleeves, and bodies floating with the tides in grim canals—unrecognisable. Nor did it bring me comfort when my bow oarsman, with a word to me which had, I thought, a rude and threatening ring

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crept aboard as stealthily as a shadow and like a kind of crouching goblin knocked three times upon the deck. Abruptly the voices ceased. The goblin hissed an "open sesame," whereupon the companion slide was thrust open and a villainous dark face under a red night-cap, like a stocking, appeared in a glow of ruddy light and rolled its eyes in mute interrogation. My gondolier whispered an answer. Followed mutterings below; then two more heads appeared, not capped, but villainous enough, and then, with what appeared to me a pre-determined rush, all four, my gondolier included, sprang at my gondola and, methought, at me.

I prayed then to St. Mark, or perhaps it was St. Theodore, the first patron of Venice. At any rate, he heard me, and in the nick of time. The four descended on the gondola—but me they spared, confining their attentions to a large and heavy sack in the stern behind my seat, which they dragged aboard the lugger and stowed away below. My fears had been but phantoms then! Or had I been the object of miraculous intervention? It mattered little, now that I had seen what I had seen, and I lit a cigarette with commendable steadiness of hand. But, though I was done with apprehension, I soon discovered I was not done with that sack, for my gondolier, returning, spake never a word nor looked he once at me, but resumed his oar with deep sigh as one delivered of a heavy load—yet first he wiped his hands upon his muffler! So then I knew!—Not my blood, by the grace of God, St. Mark and St. Theodore, but another's had stained those hands and weighed upon his conscience.—There was a body in that sack!

When, in the morning, I dragged a comfortable chair from the ship's smoke-room and sat me down on deck to contemplate the Adriatic, deep blue and sparkling under a sun as warm as summer, I had my doubts about that body. I thought of lesser crimes like smuggling, or drew a homely picture of a devoted son in Venice sending presents to an aged mother who had remained in the distant village of his birth.

But when, at evening, a blood-red sun sank out of sight behind huge sable clouds that brooded over Italy, my mind conceived the sack in monstrous shapes, and watched it sinking through deep water, stared at by fishes and spinning slowly in the wake of weights which dragged it down.

[*To be continued.*]

## CARAVANSERAI.

There have been a good many wails about the cost of living and I suppose we all feel a kind of melancholy satisfaction in knowing that there are others in the same boat as ourselves. As a matter of fact there are a good many lands where the unhappy housekeeper has more difficult problems to face than those presented by our own shops and markets. The Balkan Correspondents of *The Near East* have borne witness to that, and India, I take it, has learned one or two things in the matter of the Profiteer's little ways. A friend tells me that an old Indian townsman when bewailing the present high prices of food said that it was a pity we could not get back to the good old days of Queen Victoria, whose solicitude for her Indian subjects was such that every morning she called for the Prices Current, and with her own hand reduced any item which she considered to be too high. No wonder the poor old man sighed! For my own part, I admit, I have often felt that it would be a good thing to reduce a profiteer as it would have been done by the Queen of Hearts in "Alice."

An interesting episode occurred when the Italians evacuated Shebenik (Sebenico) the other day. When the Serbs marched in, a great bell in the monastery of St. Lavra pealed forth the glad tidings. This bell has an interesting history. It was cast at Venice in 1809, ordered for the main church in the then newly-liberated capital of Belgrade, but before it could be delivered, Serbia was once more overrun by the Turks. Not knowing what to do with it, the founder sent it to Shebenik for the monastery of St. Lavra, where it has hung till now. The local National Council has decided to buy the bell and send it to its original destination as a gift from liberated Shebenik to the city of Belgrade.

* * *

It always strikes me as a scandalous thing that a man, who has been wounded, or contracted an illness that cripples or incapacites him, in fighting for his country should ever have to look to private charity for assistance in time of need. I recognise, of course, that not every man who wore khaki deserved well of his country. A man who volunteered did, and does, in my opinion deserve whatever we can do for him; but of a man who had no choice in the matter, I, for one, take quite a different view. The conscript may or may not have "done his bit," and the foolish nonsense talked and written about "nothing being too good" for a man, merely because he was in khaki for a time makes me very impatient. But to the wounded man, whether he was a volunteer or a "compulsory," his country surely owes a debt of gratitude. Too often, however, that debt remains unpaid. And what is true of this country is equally true of others; for human nature is much the same in other lands as it is in this. A Belgrade correspondent sends me two storyettes illustrating this, as follows:—At a recent collection for poor children, a millionaire who was present remarked that, unfortunately, he had no change with him, and gave 3 dinars. A disabled soldier who was standing near, a mechanic, who had been very badly knocked about in Macedonia, and was condemned to a life on crutches, promptly gave a hundred dinars. . . . Another day a wounded veteran was sitting in a Zagreb café when a disabled man in tattered Austrian uniform came by, begging. The Yugoslav looked at him, and exclaimed: "How dare you beg of me! A little while ago we should have shot one another at sight; and it was men like you who ravaged our country and raped our women. It is sheer cheek on your part to beg from me!" Then, with a quick change of tone: "Yet after all, you poor devil, you only went like the rest of us, because you just had to." And a dinar changed hands.

CORSAIR.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**British Subjects in Turkey.**

That there should be growing dissatisfaction at the delay in the payment of the indemnities due from the Turkish Government to numerous members of the large British mercantile community at Constantinople is not in the least surprising. Eleswhere in these column will be found extracts from two memorandums on the subject, the one drawn up by British subjects at the British Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople, the other recently issued by a committee representative of interested British subjects. They give a very plain statement of the case, and one which on the face of it calls for an official statement without delay as to the steps that will be taken to meet legitimate claims for compensation. It is not as if the war ended yesterday. It is now going on for three years since the Armistice, ample time to carry out the necessary investigations, and to provide for redress.

**Their Case.**

As the documents from which we quote show British traders in Turkey suffered in every way during the war. Their stocks were taken, and their property occupied and pillaged. These firms who remained in the country were subjected to every kind of handicap. "Every possible endeavour" to quote the words of the second memorandum "was made to destroy the trade of British firms." The position after the Armistice can well be imagined. While British firms were handicapped for lack of organisation, and insufficient financial resources the traders of other countries were in a position to take advantage of the numerous openings for enterprise that existed. Developments in the Constantinople market since the first trade "boom" have, it is true, counteracted to some extent the advantage obtained by our competitors, and provided British firms are placed in a position to resume their pre-war activities it should be possible to some extent at any rate to regain the best ground.

**The Abyssinian Corporation.**

Extensive extracts from the reports of the Shareholders' Committee of Inquiry appointed at the annual meeting of the Abyssinian Corporation held on December 2, which was issued last week, are given on another page in the issue. The formation of the Corporation, it will be remembered, was carried out early in 1919, by Messrs. Erlanger, with the approval of the Foreign Office, and great hopes were entertained that it would prove a valuable spearhead for British trade endeavour. With the appearance of the first report covering the period ended June 30, 1920, in November it became evident that these expectations would have to be modified for a loss was shown of £140,000 after providing for further losses of stocks. The principal parties responsible for this unfortunate outcome were stated in the report to be the unprecented fluctuations in exchange and the abnormal conditions in the world's markets. The Committee, who have evidently made a most thorough and painstaking investigation into the position of the Corporation, while not disagreeing with this new point the lack of a definite trading policy and of adequate administration as among the factors responsible for the present situation. They further point out that the loss shown in the report no longer represents the total deficit, and that the financial position as at April 30 last indicates a loss of capital estimated at £459,292.

**The Future.**

The most important part of the report is that in which the future of the Corporation is dealt with. The Committee point out that the reare considerable possibilities for British trade in Abyssinia if conducted on sound lines, and that despite the unfortunate history of the Corporation "a good will of a very definite value has been created, and it would appear to be lamentable to sacrifice this asset." If, however, advantage is to be taken of this capital is essential. The Committee, therefore, puts forward a scheme of reconstruction which provides for the formation of a new company with a capital consisting of 10 per cent. Non Cumulative Participating Deferred Ordinary 10s. shares, and 1s. Deferred Ordinary shares. Existing shareholders will be alloted one deferred ordinary share for each share now held, and will have the right to apply for an allotment of three Preferred Ordinary shares, 5s. paid up, for every five shares now held. As the issued capital is £576,000 it follows that shareholders will be required to provide about £90,000 in cash to carry out the scheme.

Messrs. Erlanger, who have given the Corporation unceasing support since its foundation, are prepared to support the scheme, and provided the shareholders apply for 65 per cent. of the preferred ordinary shares will take up the balance besides subscribing for 40,000 shares at par. I have little doubt that the shareholders will give hearty support to the scheme, for it offers fair prospects of their regaining something of their lost capital for a comparatively small additional risk.

COMMENTATOR.


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(FOUNDED 1866)

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, July 4.

### M. Daskaloff on the Outlook.

On June 30, M. Daskaloff, Minister of Commerce, made an important statement concerning the economic and financial situation of the country. He refused to be pessimistic regarding the future, and said that he pinned his hopes on an early recovery in the value of the leva during the following seasons. The budget which had been recently revised would stabilise the situation as the deficit would not in any case exceed 100 million levas and the extraordinary budget would be balanced by the 6 per cent internal loan. M. Daskaloff added that if this loan was not the success that was anticipated it would be necessary to put into force the tax on capital.

The Minister attributed the present decline in the value of the leva to the raising of the Moratorium, and hoped that a definite decision would soon be reached by the interested parties as to the means to be adopted for the settlement of pre-war debts. M. Daskaloff favoured the scheme outlined in "The Near East," of May 26, which provides for the deposit by debtors of an amount two, three, or four times the leva equivalent of their sterling debt at pre-war exchange rates. It is proposed that this should lie in the bank for three years, during which, or by the end of which, the debtor will cover himself by the purchase of sterling; the interest on the bank deposit to remain the property of the creditor.

Dealing with the question of export trade, the Minister said that the export duties were being greatly reduced and that it was highly probable that at the end of this year, they would be completely abandoned. He announced that the situation of the coal industry was very satisfactory; the mines were working well, and the production was good. If the railways were in a better state, he declared it would be possible to produce more coal, as it was only the means of transport that were lacking. A contract had been made with Roumania by which 80,000 tons of coal were to be sold to that country; this was the first time Bulgaria had ever exported coal.

M. Daskaloff also touched on the loan of 100 million francs which a Franco-Belgian bank syndicate are offering to lend. He remarked that although the conditions were heavy, the nominal interest being 7½ per cent, the loan would prove useful as it was made for productive purposes, viz. the construction of new railway routes, and not for the purchase of war material. The Minister defended the wheat consortium, and after having paid a tribute to the great benefit that was being realised by the law of compulsory labour, he declared that the foreign policy of the Government remained the same, and that the country could feel confident as to the present situation.

Other factors besides the Moratorium are causing the leva to fall and among them may be mentioned the payment of the indemnity, the comparatively small export of cereals, and a certain amount of political unrest. The external loan is not yet in operation as it is necessary for the Reparations Commission to give their consent, and it is understood that this has not yet been accorded for certain reasons. Business and financial circles do not share the opinion of the Minister of Commerce, although it is hoped that with the 1921 harvest practically ripe, a change for the better may take place, particularly if no delay is incurred in the selling of the cereals.

## TURKEY.

Constantinople, July 3.

### The Commercial Situation.

There is no amelioration of the crisis from which the Constantinople market has been suffering for the last twelve months or so. Most of the smaller business concerns have either closed down or have taken to gambling in the exchange as a less hazardous form of activity than legitimate commerce. Even firms possessing considerable resources are more than merely feeling the pinch. The easing of the strained political relations between the Sublime Porte and the Nationalists has permitted the despatch to Anatolia of a certain amount of merchandise, but the quantity has been negligible and practically confined to goods required for military purposes. The attempt to reopen commercial relations with Russia has proved absolutely abortive, for the simple reason that the Bolshevists have nothing to export but paper money which is only of value as waste paper.

There is not a single branch of business in Constantinople at the present moment that is not practically moribund. The general fall in prices is making matters worse, for the value of stocks which cannot be sold at present is depreciating daily, and even in foodstuffs, the only commodities in which there can be genuine commercial dealings, business is accompanied by losses. It is estimated for instance, that in respect of the importation of flour alone during the last six months there has been a dead loss of nearly £500,000.

One can only repeat what has been stated frequently on previous occasions: Constantinople is the head of Anatolia, and isolated from its body the head must perish. The authors of the Treaty of Sèvres apparently did not take the slightest trouble to consider the commercial consequences of that ridiculous document. As the capital cannot prosper until normal and unrestricted intercourse with the provinces is restored there is only the faintest prospect of any improvement in the near future.

The gravity of the situation will easily be realised when it is understood that although Turkey is essentially an agricultural country, the importation of flour even in normal times reached the not inconsiderable figure of nearly £500,000 monthly for Constantinople alone. As there is practically nothing in the way of manufactures in or near the capital, and no raw materials, the greater part of the everyday requirements of the immense population of the capital has to be paid for by credits.

So far as the export of cereals from Anatolia is con-

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cerned, under present circumstances the cost of transport is such as to render it impossible to move the produce at a profit from the provinces to the capital. It is not surprising that the director of an important commercial house recently expressed the opinion that the safest business at the present moment is to deal in foreign exchange!

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, July 12.

**Yield of Taxation.**

The Ministry of Finance has issued some statistics on the payment of direct taxation since the union, which are not without interest. The following figures (representing millions of dinars) are approximate :—

| | 1919 | 1920 | 1921 (to July 1) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Croatia and Slavonia .. | 19 | 36 | 38 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina .. | 16 | 32 | 14 |
| Slovenia .. .. .. | 17 | 19 | 32 |
| Voivodina .. .. .. | 10 | 30 | 30 |
| Dalmatia .. .. .. | 1 | 2 | 1 |

For the period, from January 1, 1919, to May 31, 1920, Serbia and Montenegro gave 21 millions; from January 1 to July 1, 1921, Serbia and Mongenegro gave 89 millions.

From the liberation till June 1, 1921, Croatia and Slavonia therefore gave 94 millions, Bosnia and Herzegovina 63, Voivodina 70, Dalmatia 5, Serbia and Montenegro 110 millions, while the gross amount for the whole country over the period is 144 million dinars. The high figure for Serbia, in spite of her sufferings and losses, is remarkable. The collection for the richer provinces, especially the Voivodina, was very defective in the beginning, but has improved greatly, as it has also in Croatia, Slovonia, and Slovenia.

It is interesting to compare the figures of one of the first budgets of Serbia. The first was drawn up by Karageorge, and presented to the National Assembly in 1804. At that time, Belgrade was undergoing one of its numerous sieges, and both Semerevo and Pozharevatz were in the same state and the rulers could not collect the taxes, so Karageorge tried a loan, but with no success. He then turned to the merchants of Zumun for help. A moving appeal was addressed to them, signed George Petrovich (the real name of Karageorge), dated on May 15, 1804, at Topchider. He asked for 50,000 grosh, a grosh being the fifth part of a dinar, or 20 centimes, not an extravagant sum for a country at war, which Karageorge promised to pay back as and when the country could; it was signed by him "in the name of all Serbia." It was by such means as this that the country existed till 1811, when he reorganised the finances, and introduced the first regular budget, which amounted to a million and a half grosh. This held till the catastrophe of 1813. On the liberation again in 1815, Prince Milosh introduced a budget of 464,772 grosh, of which the civil list to the prince amounted to 25,000 grosh, that is to say 5,000 dinars for francs, which nobody could call extravagant.

**Miscellaneous.**

The first instalment of the furniture for the new palace has arrived. This fills thirty trucks: the remaining ten truckloads are on the way. The contract was secured by a Paris firm, and the value of it is two million seven hundred francs.

After an interruption of over a month, negotiations have been resumed with Italy for a commerical treaty. The chief problems to be settled are the questions of fishing rights in the Adriatic and of navigation, as well as of transport. It is hoped that the draft will be completed by the end of next week, for thorny questions such as the problem of the Gulf of Barosh and the evacuation of the third zone of Dalmatia are not touched.

Householders in Belgrade, who have been suffering patiently under the enormous prices prevailing for every day commodities, will be grateful to the Consumers Syndicate, which has obtained large supplies, and has thrown them on the market. During the first week in July, the peasants were selling tomatoes in the market at 12 dinars a kilo. Suddenly the syndicate appeared on the scene, and down came the prices with a run. By seven o'clock they had fallen to eight dinars, and by half past eleven they could be bought for four. The other prices are worth recording. For instance, the market price of potatoes was 2.50, but the syndicate sells at 1.9: beans, are sold at 80 paras, whereas the market price was two dinars only a few days previously cabbages have been knocked down from 4-5 dinars to 3-3.50: while onions have fallen from 3-4 dinars to 1-2.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 5.

**General News.**

The National Bank is withdrawing from circulation all Banca Generala banknotes of one, two, five, 20 and 100 lei which after July 31 will have no legal value. On the other hand the National Bank has been authorized to increase its issue by 130 millions of two lei and 100 millions of five lei notes.

A fire broke out at one derrick of the Steaua Romana, at Campina, spreading rapidly to four others in the vicinity, all being totally destroyed by the flames. The fire was put out with great difficulty, and the damage is very heavy. There were unfortunately a few casualties.

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**Branch: CONSTANTINOPLE, STAMBOUL.**
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## BRITISH CLAIMS AGAINST TURKEY.

### A Settlement Urged.

Growing resentment is felt by the members of the British commercial community at Constantinople at the fact that indemnities due from the Turkish Government are as yet unpaid. A meeting was held at the offices of the British Chamber of Commerce on May 11, when a resolution was passed heartily supporting the action of the Council of the Chamber in addressing a letter to the Controller, Reparation Claims Department Board of Trade. The views of the meeting were set forth in a memorandum which was forwarded to the British High Commissioner for transmission to the British Government.

The memorandum pointed out that both before and after the outbreak of hostilities with Turkey the stocks in trade of British subjects were seized and requisitioned by the Turkish authorities, their properties forcibly occupied and damaged, and their homes pillaged. After the Armistice was signed many returned to Turkey to find their businesses ruined, their homes uninhabitable, and their furniture and personal effects non-existent, necessitating further calls on their depleted capital for repairs and replacements. These long continued drains on their resources have in very many cases seriously curtailed their operations to the detriment of the trade of Great Britain and to the advantage of its competitors.

Two-and-a-half years have passed since hostilities were suspended and the hope of any immediate relief in the shape of the payment of indemnities seems to be as far off as ever. It was further pointed out by some speakers that it cost the British Exchequer over £3,000,000 for expenses in connection with the Belgian refugees in the United Kingdom; further, that the British Government had recently made an advance of £10,000,000 to the Serbian Government, to enable the latter to make payments to their nationals on account of damage and losses they had suffered at the hands of the enemy. Also that the French Government had voted a considerable sum to be advanced on account of claims of their own subjects. The meeting recognised that difficulties might arise in connection with the validity of claims under certain headings which would have to be submitted to the decision of the Reparations Committee, but they submi)- that a very large percentage of the claims are indisputable, representing as they do the value of goods requisitioned (in numerous cases some considerable time before war with Turkey broke out and of properties and houses seized and occupied by the military authorities or other State departments. The meeting expressed the hope that H.M.'s Government would take into consideration the letter of the British Chamber of Commerce and accede to the request therein contained for the immediate payment of an advance of fifty per cent. on account of the claims put in by the sufferers in Turkey.

A further memorandum has recently been issued by a committee representing British subjects in Constantinople having claims against the Turkish Government arising out of the war.

The Memorandum lays emphasis on the position with which British commercial houses have been confronted since the Armistice. Those firms of Turkish nationality who could not hold their own against British competition, found themselves, at the commencement of the war masters of the situation with an open and undisputed field before them. There have been cases where goods requisitioned from British firms, ostensibly for military purposes, were handed over to Turkish firms for sale at fabulous prices. The "Commission contre l'accaparement' established a few years previous to the Armistice, forced such British firms as were compelled to continue the liquidation of their business to sell goods at prices fixed by the Commission, which, in many cases, meant a dead loss. Goods were sometimes taken over by the Commission itself without payment. Every possible endeavour was made to destroy the trade of British firms. Some firms were forced to adopt the Turkish nationality. Those firms who refused to do so were summarily closed. All were heavily requisitioned. Large sums were forcibly taken from them for subscriptions to the Turkish Internal Loan and for other purposes. They were preyed upon by Government officials, by the police and the members of the National Defence League. The British firms and individuals who remained in Turkey bore all these losses without a murmur, feeling that victory, in which they had full confidence, would release them from their bondage, procure them reparations, and entitle them to Government aid and assistance to enable them to make up for lost time. The war came to a victorious conclusion. Except for the first few months of the Armistice, no, or very few difficulties were placed in the way of trade done by Turkish subjects and firms. The Turks, who made fortunes during the war who had done their best to destroy every vestige of British trade and activity in their country, and who became efficiently organised, were allowed to carry on "business as usual" and take full advantage of the Trade Boom after the Armistice, in competition with British firms who were not organised, whose staffs were scattered and received no financial support or encouragement from their Government. Czechoslovak, Yugoslav, Italian and even French nationality was extended to many Ottoman, and particularly German and Austrian subjects. The British commercial community in Constantinople finds itself in this way doubly handicapped. It lacks in many cases the necessary capital to re-establish its pre-war business and it has to meet the competition of powerful Ottoman and ex-German and Austrian concerns

The committee wish to emphasise the statement made in the Memorandum, viz: that some British subjects who returned to this country after the Armistice found their homes completely ruined and their furniture, household goods and private effecte stolen. Cases have been brought to the notice of the committee where prominent local British firms have ceased to exist because of lack of capital, whereas others have suppressed some of their sections for the same reason. A large proportion of the claims for goods requisitioned by the Turkish Government apply to requisitions effected as and from August 4, 1914, or three months previous to the war between Great Britain and Turkey. The committee wish to point out all that these requisitions were made in flagrant opposition to the capitulations which the Turks had not abolished at the time, and to the written agreement arrived at on the subject with the foreign Powers subsequent to the Balkan war.

A good deal has been said in the local press of a payment which the British Government is said to be prepared to make to the Turkish Government on account of the money deposited against the two Turkish Dreadnoughts which were taken over by Great Britain on the advent of the war. These reports, which have not been denied, have caused a most painful impression amongst the British community. It is felt that this money should be devoted to the claims of British subjects arising out of the war and not handed to the Turkish Government. The committee wish to emphasize their opinion that moneys due to the Turkish Government, be it for the value of the Dreadnoughts, the Egyptian tribute and its participation of the receipts of the Eastern Telegraph Company, etc., should be held to meet the claims of British subjects in Turkey, whose stock in trade, properties and household effects were requisitioned, ruined and stolen by the Turkish Government and people who, it is alleged the British Government is anxious, for political motives, to assist.

Lastly, the reading of Article 302 of the Treaty of Sevres seems to imply that Britishers residing in Turkey on the outbreak of war, are debarred from the right granted to all other British subjects outside Turkey to recover debts owing in Turkish currency to them by debtors in Turkey, at the pre-war rate of exchange. It follows that, if this reading is correct, British firms and individuals residing in Turkey, who are owed money in Turkish gold currency, can only collect the same in Turkish paper money and must thus incur a loss of about eighty per cent. of the capital sum due to them, while the Turkish debtor benefits by the difference, his capital, in terms of paper money, having increased proportionally.

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The National Bank of Greece has agreed to the request of the Minister of National Economy to re-open its branches in Seres, Drama, and Xanthi which were temporarily closed owing to the shortage of employees as a result of the Greek mobilisation.

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## THE ABYSSINIAN CORPORATION.

### Report of Shareholders Committee.

The Shareholders' Committee of Enquiry appointed at the annual general meeting of shareholders held on December 2 last has now issued its report from which we give the following extract :—

We feel we must express our regret that it has proved impossible to issue the report earlier, in spite of the amount of time spent by us on the affairs of the corporation. An enormous mass of detail has been investigated, much conflicting evidence has been heard, and the results have had to be carefully weighed and considered before definite conclusions could be arrived at. In addition we have relaxed no effort to bring about a realisation of the commodities unfortunately held by the corporation, with some measure of success, and to effect a reduction of administrative expenses wherever possible.

We are of opinion that the unsatisfactory position of the corporation is due mainly to the following circumstances :— The corporation was formed at a period when, although inflation had not reached its zenith, the only justification for heavy purchases of commodities would have been simultaneous sales for forward delivery at a profit. It is true that when the purchases were made high prices were obtainable, but no forward sales were effected, nor does any attempt appear to have been made in that direction. It is also true that the Board and the new officials of the corporation had neither experience of trading in Abyssinia, nor knowledge of local conditions. In our opinion the board appear to have had no definite trading policy, but seem to have trusted entirely to Mr. Rey's judgment. The corporation, although it might by prompt action have realised some of its stocks without serious loss, eventually found itself in possession of large stocks of commodities which, when the slump occurred, were either unsaleable or only realisable at a very grave sacrifice.

The general manager (Mr. C. F. Rey) on arriving in Abyssinia in August, 1919, almost immediately drew large sums from London, which, in all, exceeded the then paid-up capital of the company, and exchanged them into Abyssinian dollars at the high rate of approximately five dollars to the £, and with these dollars he purchased very large quantities of hides, coffee and beeswax, as well as the general stocks of certain local traders. In spite of an organisation costing about £45,000 per annum, no regular returns of necessary information were sent to the London office, although repeatedly called for, and no proper arrangements were made to handle the goods when purchased. The fall in all commodities purchased by the corporation was general, and the result was that the corporation suffered heavy losses, which were further increased by a severe depreciation of the Abyssinian dollar, thus affecting articles purchased for sale in Abyssinia, such as cotton goods, as well as the large balance of dollars held. Although the board claim that they were obliged to give full powers to the general manager, owing to the abnormal difficulties and delays in communication generally, and though they suffered from a lack of the information essential to control the situation, yet our considered opinion is that they have shown such an absence of policy and business ability as to be a direct factor in the failure of the corporation's undertaking. Their principal care should have been to move slowly and surely, as they were operating in a country where the trading conditions were not fully understood. The history of their trading, however does not indicate that such caution was exercised.

A considerable loss was sustained by the corporation owing to the fact that, on enquiry being made by the general manager as to prices of cotton goods in England, and despite his request that no cotton goods should be ordered until he had had an opportunity of considering such prices, the London board, through their commercial agents, the Levant Company, made heavy purchases of cotton goods from Messrs. Hendersons (Manchester) Ltd., which company is closely connected with the Levant Company. Mr. Alexander Henderson was at this time managing director both of the Levant Company and Hendersons (Manchester), and also a director of the Abyssinian Corporation. The Levant Company voluntarily forwent the commission of 2½ per cent. to which they were entitled under their agreement with the Corporation, and Mr. Henderson states that the profit made by Hendersons (Manchester), Limited, did not exceed 2½ per cent.

In our opinion, the directors' report, balance sheet and chairman's speech at the first annual general meeting did not indicate correctly the position of the company. For instance, when in his speech the chairman claimed that the directors were showing the worst of the position to the shareholders, it was unfortunate that the board had not realised that the amount of £62,000 which had, in anticipation of loss, been written off stocks held at June 30, 1920, was quite insufficient in view of the fact that sales could not have been effected at the depreciated prices, those prices being purely nominal, indeed since the date of the meeting there has been further depreciation both of the stocks and of the dollar. Again, in the balance sheet no mention was made of the purchase of the Harrar Concession for £20,000 (this being a mineral concession in the Province of Harrar), despite the fact that the liability for this purchase existed in April, 1920. the draft being actually paid in London on August 12, 1920. The Auditors state that this transaction did not come to their knowledge. The directors inform us that this matter was not referred to in the report or in the chairman's speech as they were hopeful of obtaining the rescission of the concession (which has since been done) and desired to avoid a discussion at the general meeting, possibly detrimental to the negotiations which were then proceeding. They state further that in their view the transaction was incomplete at the date of the balance sheet.

It was stated in the prospectus that T. R. Armanza would subscribe separately for 40,000 Shares, whereas he only agreed to subscribe for shares with any monies in excess of £30,000 received by him from the liquidation of the business of Gerolimato and Armanza, which excess had been estimated at £40,000. Upon liquidation such excess amounted to £2,275 only, and shares for this amount were subscribed for by Mr. Armanza. We obtained the opinion of Mr. Clauson, K.C., who advised us that among the statements in the prospectus there was an important inaccuracy in regard to Mr. Armanza's liability to subscribe for a " further 40,000 Shares,"

Upon our representations the board have agreeed to forego all fees owing from September 30, 1920, and to waive any claim thereto. Since the meeting further heavy losses have been made as stocks have been sold at their reduced values on pressure from the banks, and the onerous interest and general charges have continued. We desire to point out that had it nor been for the ready assistance afforded by Messrs. Erlanger, particularly in financing certain cotton consignments, the corporation would have been placed in a position of considerable jeopardy

As a result of our investigations we are of opinion that the financial position at April 30, 1921, indicates a loss of capital estimated at £459,292. The balance of capital, estimated at £116,733, is accounted for as follows :—Land, buildings (say) £30,000, stocks, debtors and cash £211,541, goodwill £21,192—£262,733—less creditors and loans £146,000—£116,733. The Abyssinian stock values have been taken at market prices, converted into sterling at the rate of exchange of 11.70 dollars to the £. We have ascertained from persons acquainted with the conditions in Abyssinia that the possibilities of British trade in that country are considerable if conducted on sound business-like lines. The Regent, Ras Tafari, is a cultured and intelligent ruler who clearly desires the development of his country, both as regards agriculture, and European trade, and is prepared to give every facility for that purpose. Despite the unfortunate history of this corporation, a goodwill of a very definite value has been created and it would appear to be lamentable to sacrifice this asset. Notwithstanding these possibilities there is very little future for the company unless there is a considerable accession of working capital, yet if sufficient finance can be found a prosperous future may be reasonably assured to the corporation.

We have, therefore, prepared the following scheme of reconstruction for your consideration, and submit it in the confident belief that the adoption of this scheme will be in the best interests of the shareholders. We feel compelled to add that, considering that the drafting of the contract clauses in the prospectus had been entrusted by the board to two well known firms of solicitors and to counsel, the inaccuracy in the prospectus was not, in our opinion, caused by any want of good faith by the board.

The scheme of reconstruction provides that the new company be formed with the capital divided into preferred ordinary and deferred ordinary shares, the preferred ordinary shares to be entitled to a fixed non-cumulative dividend of 10 per cent. of surplus profits, and the deferred ordimary shares to be entitled to 80 per cent. of the surplus profits. The new company to purchase the net assets of the Abyssinian Corporation, Limited, for £115,205, payable as to £86,403 15s, in 345,615 preferred ordinary shares of 10s. each, 5s. paid up, and as to £28,801 5s. in 576,025 deferred ordinary shares of 1s. each, fully paid up. The present shareholders (holders of both ordinary and deferred) to be alloted ordinary share of 1s. fully paid, in exchange for each old share of £1, and to have the right to apply for an allotment of three preferred ordinary shares of 10s. each, 5s. paid up, against each five old shares of £1 held by them, the balance of 5s. being called up by easy instalments. The shareholders to have the right to apply for shares in excess of the number to which they are entitled

So as to ensure the success of the scheme Messrs. Erlanger have offered (free of remuneration), in the event of the shareholders applying for at least 65 per cent. of the preferred ordinary shares, to apply for the balance not taken up by the shareholders, and to subscribe also for a further 40,000 shares at par. Messrs. Erlangers have stipulated that their loan of approximately £80,000 shall be reduced to the extent of £35'000 out of the proceeds of the issue, but at the same time they have agreed to leave the balance of approximately £45,000 on loan for three years, subject to reduction by any amount realised on the sale of the present securities held by them.

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# ENGINEERING TOPICS.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

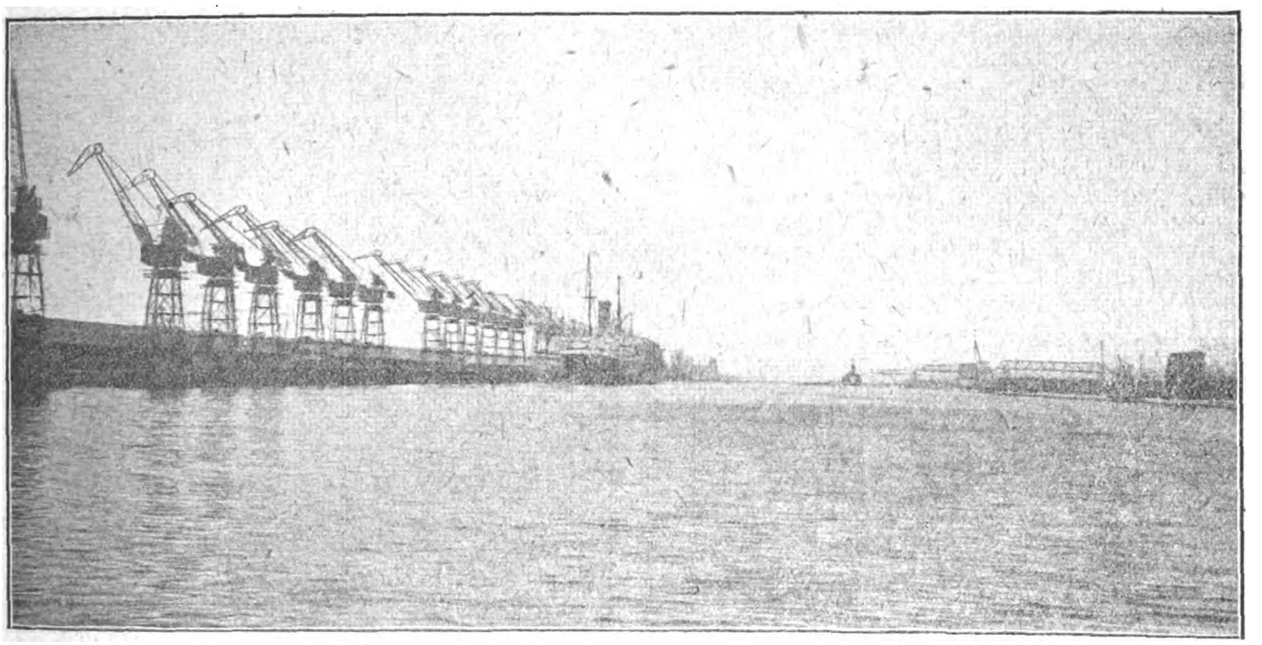
**London's Latest Dock.**

The new dock extension, south of the Royal Albert Dock, is part of the scheme of improvement of the Port of London, the completion of which is estimated to cost about £14,000,000, and which comprises new quays, warehouses and storage sheds in the existing docks in addition to providing new loading and unloading stations, and the deepening of several of the more important channels and waterways.

The new dock has been planned by the most expert engineers in England, and has been constructed on the large vacant area lying between the existing river bank and the Royal Albert Dock. The complete character of the design may be visualised when it is mentioned that it has, at its western extremity, a dry dock which is 750 feet in length, and which can be still further extended should need arise. It is connected with the main Royal Albert Docks by a passage 100 feet in width and the new water area covers no less a space than 68 acres. It will thus rank amongst the largest docks of its kind in existence. Over two and half miles of quays are provided, and the entrance lock is a particularly fine piece of engineering work, being 800 feet in length and 100 feet in with. Facilities are thus afforded for the accommodation of vessels of over 40,000 tons gross tonnage, and vessels of the size and type of the Olympic can be admitted and dealt with.

So far as equipment is concerned the new extension will be second to none, and will afford a striking illustration of the way in which British dock and harbour engineers are leading the world. In the lock, the depth of water on the site at Trinity high water is 45 feet, and should for any reason this be considered insufficient, powerful pumps of the latest type and design, fixed at the lock entrance, can increase the dock water in depth by a further 2ft. 6ins., facilities for a still deeper water being ready for use if called upon The lock entrance is bell-mouthed and no pains have been spared to secure the expeditious admission of vessels. The lock gates are mechanically operated although the electrical equipment of the dock throughout is of the most complete nature. Everything from the huge double bascule bridge at the dock entrance to the buildings provided is such as to enhance the already high reputation of the Port of London. It is noticeable that reinforced concrete construction has been adopted on a remarkable scale, the luffing cranes are of mammoth size and design, and rails and haulage ways are laid down wherever necessary to add to the efficiency of the dock operation. The storage and transit sheds are also of immense size, and it can be safely said that nothing has been omitted from the equipment which could in any way add to the expeditious berthing of vessels and the handling of their cargoes.

No fewer than seven jetties are provided on the south side of the new dock, and at each is accommodation for vessels of 600 feet in length. A luffing crane is provided on each jetty by means of which the vessel's cargo can be discharged into lighters berthed between the jetties and the quay walls. In this way the dock is available for both river and craft delivery, and discharge direct on the quay. This in itself will be found a great convenience, and a means of saving a large amount of time when rail or road transport of goods is required.



**King George V. Dock, from Bascule Bridge looking W.** *Near East Special*]

The transit sheds are ranged along the actual quay which is, of course, provided with railway lines of standard gauge. There are 42 of these transit sheds altogether, measuring 528 feet by 120 feet in width, and in addition to a single berth of 600 feet there is a continuous concrete quay of 4,000 feet on the north side of the new extension. In addition to this accommodation there are three two-stored sheds of reinforced concrete, each 1000 feet long by 20 feet in height. The design of these would seem to the casual beholder to be rather on the massive side, but judging from an engineering standpoint the authorities are to be congratulated on their foresight, and the able way in which they have provided for all eventualities. These sheds are filled with under-slung gantry cranes for handling

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goods and the design of the building is such that a maximum of light and air are obtainable. Everything necessary for rapid handling of merchandise, from concrete cart areas to a complete network of railway lines has been provided.

The work, which was commenced in 1912 was naturally interrupted by the war, and was not resumed until after the Armistice. Since that date however, it has been pushed on with all possible speed, and its speedy completion speaks volumes as to the energy of all concerned, and to the vast organising ability of Lord Devonport, head of the Port of London Authority.

**Aircraft and Wireless.**

At one time it was believed that wireless telephony would never become possible, but this idea has long been proved incorrect. The rapid strides being made in the advancement of Marconi telephony between the land and aeroplanes have just been strikingly illustrated in the case of experiments carried out by a machine flying over Abbeville and a land station in London. A Handley Page official asked the wireless operator to try for touch with a machine coming from Paris. A minute later the official was asked to speak on his ordinary office telephone, and picking up the receiver heard to his astonishment the voice of the mechanic on board the aeroplane, announcing that the machine was then flying over Abbeville, and proceeding to make the required report. The explanation is simple, although the experience sounded a little uncanny. The ground operator in London in the ordinary way would listen for the sound of the Marconi telephone from the air through ear pieces fitted on a head piece clipped over his ears. Getting a message he would ring up the office telephone and repeat it. In this case he simply obtained the connection to the office, and placing one Marconi earpiece to the receiver of the ground telephone, allowed the air mechanic's voice to carry straight through to the office.

**Oil and Metals.**

A particularly interesting paper was read a few days ago at the conference of the Institution of Civil Engineers on the effect of the war on mineral supplies. A large portion of the paper dealt with the output of iron ore as well as that of other metals, and it was pointed out th at although the output of iron and consequently that of manganese ore had dropped very substantially, there was a remarkable increase in the production of such metals as nickel, chromium, vanadium, and tungsten, due largely to the use of these in the production of special steels. The paper pointed out that these might almost be called "economy" metals for their extensive use enabled economies to be effected in a number of other metals as well as in the processes by which they were worked and in the weight of parts. The increased output of tungsten had had the very important result of economising labour and consequently of reducing production costs.

The marked development in oil production taken in conjunction with the comparative shortage and consequent high price of coal, said the lecturer, raised the question whether oil was not likely in the near future to prove a most serious competitor to coal, especially in the direction of the production of power. Oil reserves are regarded as being very small in comparison with those of coal, but in connection with this it is not easy to speak positively. Our knowledge regarding oil reserves is limited and largely speculative, and it may well be that there are in existence many extensive and at present unknown or unworked oilfields. Further, the world has vast shale oil resources, and there is little doubt but that these will be drawn upon largely in the near future. As one of the subsequent speakers pointed out, it is probable that one of the most largely used fuels of the future will be a mixture of oil and pulverised coal as by the use of this combination we can obtain the same thermal value as oil, bulk for bulk but not weight for weight.

**A New Char-a-Banc.**

A char-a-banc, to accommodate 30 passengers, has just been put on the market, and is of more than usual interest in view of the fact that its makers, Commercial Cars, Ltd., were the first British makers to place a really heavy commercial vehicle on the roads.

The car presents a very handsome appearance, and no pains have been spared to make it as comfortable as possible for the passengers. The seating accommodation is ample, and the springing little short of luxurious, very few passengers vehicles on the road at present could compete with the new production in this respect. The body is of the flush seated torpedo type, and is fitted with a folding round screen, cape cart hood, and a green or grey finish is provided according to the taste of the purchasers.

The chassis frame is of high grade pressed steel specially tested in order to ensure that a high margin of safety exists. The engine is of the four cylinder type, the cylinders being cast in pairs. The bore and stroke are 115 by 140 millimetres respectively, so it will be seen that ample power can be developed when the vehicle is on low gear to carry an exceptionally heavy load up extremely steep gradients. The patent gear box allows four forward speeds and one reverse, operated by a side lever through a gate change quadrant, the gear change being effected by dog clutch engagements. The shafts are particularly short and rigid, mounted on ball bearings and are automatically lubricated. All gear wheels, dogs, and shafts are hardened and accurately ground to size.

The final drive is by hardened steel worm above the axle working in phosphor-bronze wheel. This is mounted in a removable section of the main axle, casting for quick inspection and replacement. The propeller shaft is enclosed in a steel tube bolted at one end to the worm casing of back axle. This tube is provided at its forward end with a spherical enlargement, and acts as a combined radius and torque stay.

With all passenger vehicles, the clutch is an important item as on its smoothness of action much of the comfort of the passengers depends. In this vehicle it is of a rather larger diameter than usual, and is leather lined with a self-contained spring. The body is of light pressed steel, and the drive from the clutch to the gear box is through the usual shaft and disc universal joint.

The wheels are of the hollow spoke type, of cast steel and designed to take solid tyres of 930 by 120 m.m. section single for the front and of 1010 by 120 m.m. for the back wheels. The steering is of the irreversible type through a worm and segment in an oil-tight case. The steering of this model, like that of all Commercial Car products, is extremely easy, a feature which is not always to be found in connection with heavy cars and lorries.

I was very pleased to see that particular attention is paid by the makers to the design and construction of the brakes. On these, more even than on the skill of the driver depends the safety of the passengers, and there should be no fear of any failure of the brakes in this particular car. The footbrake acts by external contracting arms, filled with easily renewable metal shoes, on a large drum, with ample surface, mounted on the rear end of the gear box main shaft. The hand brake operates shoes which expand internally in cast steel drums mounted on the rear wheels. The control is by the usual foot accelerator and hand lever on the steering wheel, and the magneto, which is of the water tight pattern, is also advanced or retarded by a similarly placed lever.

According to news from Athens, the Italian steamship Onoria, 2,580 tons, has sunk off Cape Matapan, after catching fire. The crew has been landed at Patras.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## ROUMANO—POLISH UNDERSTANDING.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 5.

The negotiations for a commercial treaty between Roumania and Poland have been concluded, and the convention has been duly signed by the respective delegates at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The treaty is based on the most favoured nation clause, offering to both countries facilities for the exchange of goods, transport and transit.

Poland has obtained facilities to establish a commercial base by erecting wharfs, warehouses, etc. in one or two principal Roumanian ports on the Danube, probably in both Galatz and Braila, one being used for exports, and the other for imports. The duration of the convention is one year, to continue automatically if not denounced three months previously.

The Polish delegation has visited the important industrial centres in the country, and also the large ports, and everywhere received a warm welcome.

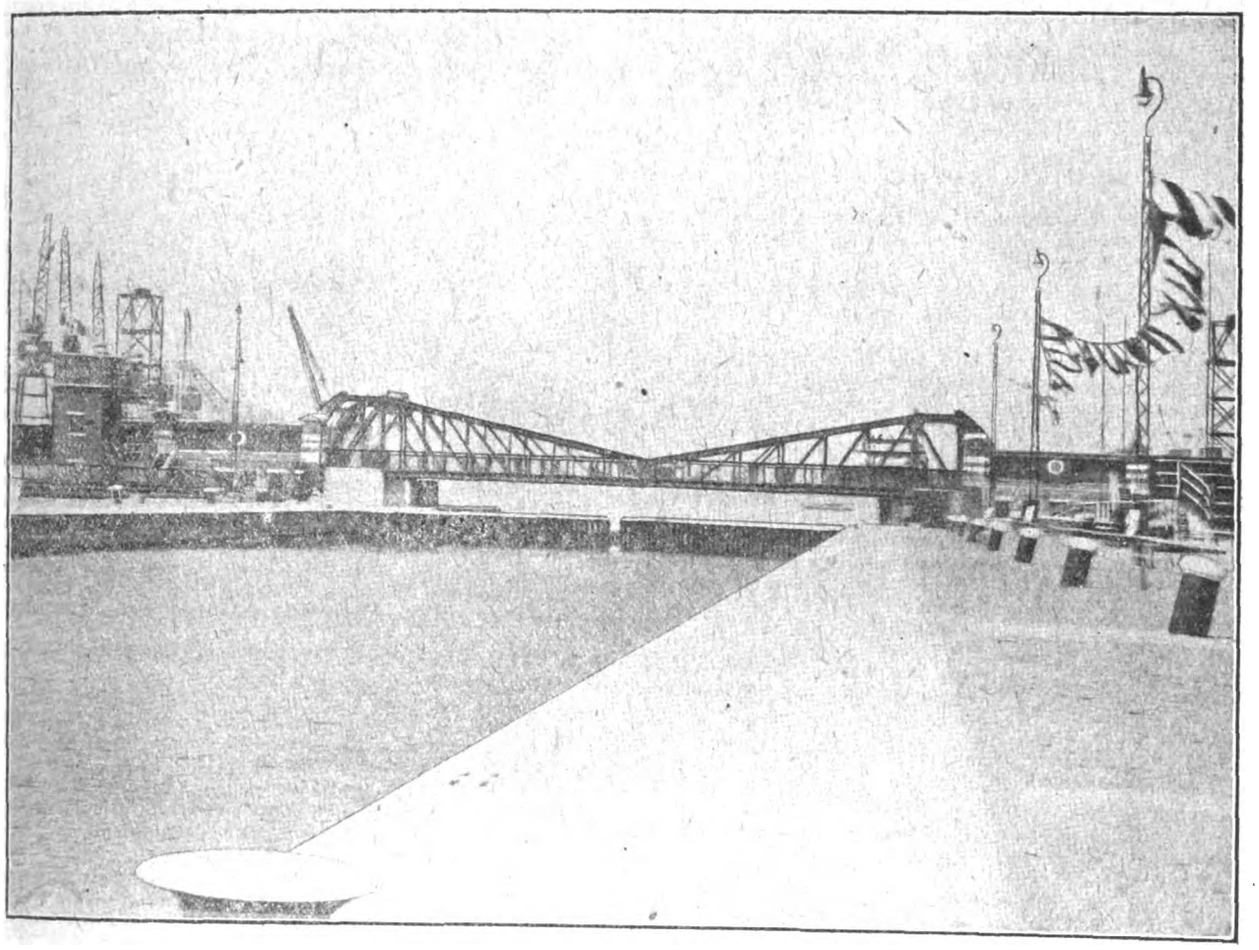
## Packing of Goods for Bulgaria.

A report has been received from H.M. Legation at Sofia that complaints have been made of the somewhat excessive amount of damage to bales from handling at both Varna and Bourgas. It is understood that this is in great part due to the large size of the bales packed in the United Kingdom, and that goods would be much less likely to suffer were the packages smaller.

## EXPORT FROM THE DANUBE.

Practically the first real export season from the Danube since the war will be inaugurated this year, says the Constantinople correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial*. Before the war Roumania, with a yearly average export of maize of more than one million tons, came second as maize exporting country in the world. Barley was exported by Roumania at a yearly average rate of 1 to 2 million tons, and oats about 0.150 million tons. The export of wheat is still prohibited, but by special arrangement 20,000 wagon-loads of wheat will be shipped to France, in French bottoms, of course. Besides cereals there ought to be taken into account the growing export of timber from the rich woodlands formerly belonging to Austria-Hungary.

The tonnage required for the transport of the main staples of the Danube, the harvest being to all appearances good, is estimated by Roumanian shipping agents visiting Constantinople at about five times that of last year, or at about 1,200-1,500 steamers of medium size. Suitable bottoms for the North Sea route are scarce in local and Greek waters; and freights, though still very low, have already improved. A substantial rise may be expected in a month or two. Freights rise, as a rule, at the time when the great agricultural staples are changing hands, not only under the influence of increased demand of tonnage, but also of certain manipulations by dealers in grain who are using high freights as a means for pressing down prices in the producing countries during the buying season. If by that time, which is more than likely, the coal export from Great Britain, who is the biggest importer of maize from Roumania, has set in again, remunerative inward cargo may be expected for British ships.



**View of Bascule Bridge and Portion of Lock of King George V. Dock.** *(Near East Special).*

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—s.s. Maidan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 27); s.s. Makalla, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London August 6); s.s. Maihar, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 17).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 3).

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*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Mackenzie for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 6).

*Cunard Line.*—A steamer will sail on August 20 for Algiers, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Varna, Bourgas, Constantza, Sulina, Novorossisk, Batoum, Nicolaief, Odessa, and Poti.

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Gerano, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, July 30).

*Ellerman's City Line.*—S.s. City of Marseilles, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, July 27); s.s. City of Benares, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 29); s.s. City of Baghdad for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 15).

*Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (also calling at Genoa) (London, July 28); s.s. Carnarvonshire, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, August 11).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 2).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 27).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Pyrrhus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham Singapore, etc. (Swansea, July 29).

*Maindy Line.*—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of July).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Lugne for Gibraltar, Casablanca, Cyprus Malta, and Beyrout (Liverpool, July 25); s.s. Amarna for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 30); s.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, August 6).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Cressado, for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Smyrna, Syra, Volo, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 13).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Nagóya, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden) (London, July 29); s.s. Dongola, for Bombay (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said and Aden (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports) (London, July 29).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. *Chanda, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 29); s.s. †Trevorian, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 30); s.s. *Hatarana, for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 27); s.s. ‡Nirvana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 30). *Taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports; †taking cargo for Port Sudan, Port Said, Suez, and Aden; ‡taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden.

*Prince Line.*—S.s. Algerian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa and Beyrout (taking cargo for Tripoli (Syria), Lattakia, Alexandretta, Mersyne and Cyprus ports, (Manchester, July 27).

## NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY.

The gross profit of the New Egyptian Company for 1920 was £182,025, less service of Debentures, amounts written off properties and sundry reserves £66,904, leaving £115,121, plus £61,207 brought in, making £176,328. The directors recommend a dividend of 20 per cent., free of tax, carrying forward £101,328 subject to directors' and managing director's extra remuneration corporation tax and excess profits duty (if any). The net income derived from estates was £18,361, compared with £36,456 in the previous year.


# ANCHOR LINE

**First-Class Passengers only.**

**LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.**

**KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt**

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RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

SCINDIA, AUGUST 12;
CARGO STEAMER, AUGUST 26;
CASTALIA, SEPTEMBER, 15;
CARGO STEAMER, SEPTEMBER 27.

**Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,**
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.


## OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

### Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

Sir Reginald Macleod K.C.B., presiding at the meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields on July 14, made an encouraging statement regarding the outlook for the current year. In 1920 the quantity of crude oil produced was only 155,975 tons as compared with 231,380 tons in 1919, and 277,300 tons in 1918. Of the 1920 total 91,887 tons were produced in the last six months, while for the first half of the current year the production has amounted to over 85,000 tons. Then the past year was marked by the increased cost of material and freight. Since the close of last year freights have fallen, and transport charges will be lower. Sir Reginald stated that one of the exploratory wells drilled to the north of the main Hurghada field had struck oil, thus indicating the possible existence of new reserves within their existing territories.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)*

**Egypt.**

Rope.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of rope. Tenders should be addressed to the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W. 1. August 3.

Brass, Copper, Iron Bars and Plates, etc.—The Director-General of Ports and Lighthouses Administration at Alexandria invites tenders for the supply of brass, iron bars and plates, lead sheets, tool steel, mild steel, zinc sheets, iron and brass wire, nails, screws, etc., of brass, copper iron or zinc. August 20. (D.O.T.).

Cement.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 100 tons of cement required for the second half financial year 1921-1922. August 29.

Metals.—The Director-General of Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of brass and copper, iron bars and plates, lead sheets, tool steel mild steel, zinc sheets, iron and brass wire, nails, screws etc. of brass, copper, iron and zinc. Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential. August 20. (D.O.T.)

Blank Cards.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of blank cards for railway tickets. August 29.

**Morocco.**

Rails, etc.—Tenders are invited for the supply of 3,000 tons of rails (French standard, 36 kgs. grammes per metre), and 8,000 pairs of steel fishplates for the Tangier-Fez Railway. August 20. (D.O.T.).

## CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

The following cabled report of conditions has been received by the London Office of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York from its office at Constantinople:—Stocks of essentials are very low. This has necessitated the renewal of orders and has given some slight impetus to markets here. A strong general demand is evident for foreign exchange. The large turnover of sterling has not been sufficient to affect the upward tendency which has been recently been consistent although the movement has been confined within narrow limits. Sterling now quoted 54½. Following sharp break and closing of bourse in Sofia, Bulgarian Levas fell heavily here and touched low level of 90 to £1 (Turkish); now recovered to about 77 with strong demand. Enquiries are made for drachmas by buyers at 12.50 to £1 (Turkish). There is a reported deficit in the Municipal Budget of over £T500,000.

The announcement that commencing July 1 duties of 95 and 27 piastres per 100 kilos will be imposed on imported flour and grain respectively, has resulted in propositions to resume milling operations at Constantinople. Flour stocks are sufficient for about one month. Bulgarian flour now on the market here is coarser than finer American flours but is very suitable for bread requirements. The imposition of duties has, therefore, been favourably received and large consignments are anticipated. Recent investigation of Anatolian conditions shows that the country is well stocked and cost of living there is cheap, although the absence of outlets for produce results in financial depression.

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## [LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.]

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good demand at official rates. West Indian crystallized is 1s. up at 45s. to 51s. 6d., and American granulated is up 3s. 3d. at 88s. 3d. Czecho Slovakian is eighteenpence up at 28s. 6d. Quotations are :—July, 16s. ; August, 16s. ; September, 16s. ; October, 15s. 3d. ; November, 15s. ; and December, 55s.

Oils.—Prices are firmer. Linseed oil has risen 3s. to 38s. 6d. Crude rape oil is 2s. up at 54s. ; refined rape oil is 12s. down at 48s. ; Egyptian crude is 1s. up at 38s. 6d., and deodorized is 2s. up at 55s. Turpentine has risen 35s. to 115s.

Dried Fruit. A quiet tone has prevailed in the market. There has been little doing in currants. Supplies of sultanas are very short, and prices are very firm. Persian dates are in strong demand, but prices are unchanged.

### EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The *Bulletin* of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of the crop conditions in June :—

Cotton.—Weather has been somewhat unsettled generally and the high winds prevailed at the end of the month, causing flower shedding in places. Heavy rains caused considerable damage in a few isolated small areas in Gharbiya and Daqahliya Provinces. Shortage of water has been felt specially at the tail ends of canals. Hoeing and watering are in progress. Cotton worm and wilt have been reported from several localities in Lower and Middle Egypt, but the damage done is negligible. Generally speaking the crop is backward.

Millet (Séfi).—Hoeing, thinning and watering are in progress. The growth of the crop is satisfactory.

Rice (Séfi).—Although the weather was somewhat changeable and water supply insufficient in some localities, germination has been satisfactory and the crop is in a healthy condition.

Sugar-cane.—Weather was on the whole favourable and water supply adequate. Hoeing, manuring and watering are in progress. The crop is growing satisfactorily.

Wheat.—Rains that fell during the month caused no serious damage to the crop. The bulk of the crop is harvested. The yield is slightly above the average.

Barley.—The yield is a good average one.

Bersim.—Grazing of the last cutting has come to an end. Harvesting of the crop for *taqawi* is in progress. The yield is a little below the average.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ..... | Piastres to £..... | 97 | 97 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22 | 65.00-65.85 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22 | 137-142 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3¼-1.3 |
| Bucharest ..... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22 | 253-256 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3½-1.3 |
| Constantinople . | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 3.62½-3.74 |
| New York ..... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 | 526-546 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22 | 46.45-46.53 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 270-276 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22 | 79 -80 |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22 | 335-345 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 50 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 2,500-2,650 |
| Warsaw ..... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 6,400-6,500 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**Will the French Franc Further Improve?**

Every Investor interested in Foreign Exchange transactions or French Investments should read our Articles and Letters entitled the "The Actual and Future Position of the French Franc." "Will the French Franc Recover?" "France's Wealth," etc. These Articles will be sent free of charge by—

**Foreign Exchange Department,**
**THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,**
**Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London, S.W. 1.**

# CURRENT PRICES.

The prices below are less fractions.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 194s. cwt.; butter, 215s. cwt.; cheese, 111s. cwt.; chillies, 135s. cwt.; eggs, 23s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 10d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 77s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 137s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East India bold), 117s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Mocha, longberry), 99s. cwt. ; coffee (Santos, superior), 58s. cwt. ; coffee (Nairobi), 100s. cwt. ; lard, 82s. 6d. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 38s., 9d. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb. ; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb. ; pepper (Muntok white), 9d. lb. ; raisins (Valencia), 92s. 6d. cwt. ; raisins (Sultana Smyrna), 146s. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 86s. cwt. ; sugar (granulated), 57s. 1d. cwt. ; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 61s. 3d. cwt. ; sugar (white Mauritius), 53s. 3d. cwt. ; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 47s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour 17s. cwt. ; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 18s. 10d. cwt. ; rice (bran Rangoon), £7 2s. 6d. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 1d. lb. ; tea (Indian common to good common), 6d. lb. ; tea (Ceylon common to good common), 8d. lb. ; tea (Java common to good common), 3d. lb. ; wheat (Australian, 81s. 2d. qr. ; wheat (English white), 95s. qr. ; wheat (la Plata), 84s. 6d. qr. ; barley (malting), 50s. qr. ; oats (English), 49s. Oats (La Plata) 28s. 9d qr. ; maize (La Plata), 41s. 3d. qr. ; flour, 64s. 6d. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £150 ton ; antimony (English regulus) £39 10s. ton ; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £72 8s. 9d. ton ; copper (electro), £76 10s. ton ; gold bars, 110s. 6d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 137s. 6d. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 161s. 3d. ton ; galvanised sheets (24g), £23 15s. ton ; lead (soft foreign), £23 11s. 3d. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s. 2d. unit; molybenite, 46s. 3d. unit ; nickel £190 ton ; platinum, 365s. oz. ; plumbago, £25 ton; quicksilver, £10 17s. 6d. bottle ; silver bars, 36d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 2s. 6d. ton ; tin (standard), £168 8s. 9d. ton ; wolfram, 11s. 7d. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton ; tin plates (20 by 14), 26s. 3d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 71s. cwt. ; oxalic, 9d. lb. ; citric, 2s. 5d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 7d. lb. ; ammonia sulphate, £14 10s. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £45 10s. ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 7d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £19 10s. ton ; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 139s. cwt. Potassium : Bi-chromate, 9d. lb. ; chlorate, 5d. lb. ; caustic, £37 10s. ton ; nitrate, £52 15s. ton ; permanganate, 1s. 7d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.), £21 ton; Sodium : crystals, £145s. ton ; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton ; bi-chromate, 6d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 2s. 6d. ton ; chlorate, 4d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton ; hyposulphite £22 10s. ton ; prussiate, 7d. lb. ; nitrate, £18 10s. ton ; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £120 ; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £106 ; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron, £145 ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 1d. lb. ; quinine, 4s. oz. ; red lead, £37 10s. ton ; white dry lead, £41 15s. ton ; white ground lead, £50 10s. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 9½d lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 9¼d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 9¼d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 8½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb. ; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 7½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 7¾d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 7¾d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 5½d. ; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6¼d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 5¼d. lb. ; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 4⅜d. lb. ; Bulls (first) 4d. lb. ; bulls (second), 3⅛d. lb. Kips (first), 5¾d. lb. ; (second), 4¼ lb. ; (third), 3¼d. lb.

Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic Hides (cows) ; Agras, 8 to 12 ; Durbhangas, 6.8 to 9 ; Patnas, 5.8 to 6.8. Salted cows : 4 to 7. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 8. Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 ; goat, 225 to 265 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 8.32d. lb. ; cotton (Egyptian), 14.55d. lb. ; linseed (La Plata), £19 2s. 6d. ton ; rape (Toria), £21 5s. ton ; soya beans, £13 5s. ton; palm kernels, £21 ton; Oils: Linseed, £35 5s. ; Olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton ; palm, £35 ton ; rape (crude), £52 10s. ton ; soya, £36 10s. ton ; petroleum, 1s. 9d. gallon ; ground nut, £42 10s. ton ; cotton (crude), £38 5s. ton ; shellac (T.N. second orange), 317s. 6d. cwt shellac (A.C. garnet), 302s. 6d. cwt. ; rosin (American). 20s cwt. ; turpentine (American), 75s. 6d. cwt. ; Rubber : Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 7d. lb. ; fine hard Para, 10d. lb.

### OIL OUTPUT.

British Burmah—Total production of crude oil by this company and Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 69,020 barrels for month of June.

It is reported that Messrs Guest Keen and Nettlefolds has secured a contract to supply 13,500 tons of steel rails for Indian railways at about £10 2s. 6d. per ton. The contract price is 15 per cent. below Belgian quotations and 3½ per cent. above German offers, and but for special considerations it is feared the contract would have been lost to this country.

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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

### A Strong Position.

The Twenty-Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, was held on July 14, at the Cannon-street Hotel, the Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that shareholders would notice from the accounts that 50 per cent. had been added to the paid-up capital, which now stood at £1,200,000 and that, by reason of the addition of premium received on the new shares issued, they had increased the reserve by rather over 50 per cent. to £625,000. There was a considerable decrease in the current deposit and other accounts which a year ago had reached a total of £11,800,000. Some large deposits at different offices had been withdrawn, presumably because the depositors had use for their money in their own businesses. On the assets side of the balance-sheet the position disclosed was extremely liquid, the percentage of cash to the bank liabilities to the public being 31.50, and, if the Treasury Bills were regarded as cash, the percentage was increased to 40. The falling off in business was also reflected in other bills of exchange, which had decreased by £2,000,000, and by the reduction in the loans and advances by £1,250,000. Premises and furniture account showed an increase of nearly £100,000. The directors believed that the premises were worth to-day more than the amount at which they stood in the books.

**Profit and Loss Account.**

With regard to the profit and loss account, while the net profit was higher than it was a year ago, it was less in proportion to the increased capital, but it was only fair to say that they had not had the increased capital available for their purposes for the whole year. They proposed to charge to the profits the whole of the stamp duty of £20,000 paid in respect of the new capital, and to apply £15,000 as they did a year ago, to the depreciation of premises and furniture, and £5,000 to the insurance fund. In view of the trade conditions universally prevalent the shareholders would not be surprised to find that the directors had decided to recommend a dividend of only 8 per cent. for the year, as against 10 per cent. last year. Out of 26 dividends declared during the history of the bank, no less than 16 had been at the rate of 8 per cent., so that they were not asking the shareholders on this occasion to accept a dividend which was unusually small. Nevertheless it was a disappointment that there should be any reduction; and were it not that immediate prospects were so uncertain they might have paid something more. The comparatively large sum of £19,000 had been added to the carry forward, bringing that item up to £50,180.

**Difficult Trade Conditions.**

The trade conditions experienced during the greater part of the year under review had more than justified the note of warning he ventured to sound a year ago. Prices of commodities fell with extraordinary rapidity and to an unexpected extent. Under such circumstances no bank could, by the exercise of any forethought, have avoided the granting of some accommodation to its customers which, as matters had turned out, it would have been better not to have granted. The problem facing the West African Governments in regard to their revenues was not one which he was called upon to attempt to solve, but he ventured to hope that the programme of public works would be pressed forward with just so much or so little postponement as was actually dictated by insistent circumstances. So far as revenue was concerned, no one liked the principle of export duties on the products of West Africa, more especially if these exceeded the similar duties imposed by their neighbours in West Africa, but it would not be possible, without more knowledge than he possesseds to offer any practical suggestions as to new alternative source of revenue. In this connection it was announced that a representative committee was about to be appointed by the Colonial Office to consider various questions connected with the economic situation of the West African Colonies, and, under the chairmanship of Sir Hugh Clifford, that committee might be depended upon to examine very carefully the effect upon trade of existing duties. What they all desired was that the West African native should be encouraged to produce and send to market an ever-increasing quantity of raw material.

**Effect of Depression.**

West Africa had experienced all the severity of the slump both in produce and in goods imported—the African could not obtain the cost price of the former, and could not pay the cost price of the goods he wished to purchase. The result was that little business was being done, and heavy losses must be faced by those who decided, and, in his judgment, wisely decided, to cut their loss and take what they could get for their commodities Some of their smaller customers were unfortunately placed, but where loss to the bank was anticipated, or realised, provision had been made, and they believed that the worst had been passed. In Egypt the story was very much the same, a suspension of purchasing power affecting exports and imports alike. In Morocco the position had not been so bad, although business there was very much reduced for the time being.

**The Outlook.**

He was not going to attempt to prophesy as to the future Many factors had to be reckoned with, including not only the inevitable depression following the artificial prosperity which succeeded any war, but the slow restarting of the international machinery of credit and transport, which the late war so thoroughly broke up. We had yet to see real peace established throughout Europe, and at home a better understanding between classes, whose real permanent interests were identical and not separate. When these objects were attained, we should see international trade once more established upon sound lines. But while the clouds were still dark, he would counsel hope. Our country had weathered previous storms, which must have appeared as bad to our forefathers as the present times appeared to us; but we should only bring our country through these very critical times by national unity, by very hard work, by drastic retrenchment, and by restoring pease and commerce among all nations.

## BANQUE MARMOROSCH BLANK & CIE.

### Notable Expansion.

The report of Banque Marmorosch Blank et Cie. read at the ordinary general meeting held at Bucharest on April 21, states:—

The year 1920 plays a similar role in the history of humanity to that of 1915, but in the reverse sense. In 1915 it was necessary to create everything to continue a war that had not been foreseen during the past year it was necessary to envisage everything anew for the resumption of the activities of peace. For six years the organising of military victory was at stake; now economic victory is the first consideration. To achieve that one had, and still has, to make very great sacrifices. On that account the year that has just passed has been one of the most difficult that the world and especially Europe, weakened by so many wounds, has experienced.

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After the sufferings of a colossal war the energy of nations was a little reduced in 1919, but was renewed with vigour, in 1920 in face of the new efforts called for. In 1920 the period of progressive recuperation began in certain countries, such as England, Belgium, France, and Germany, in the form of a fall in the prices of raw materials and manufactures, as well as by the resumption of production, the reorganisation of transport, and the reduction of freights. In the East of Europe these improvements are still to come; but in this region also valuable indications have appeared which will not escape the watchful observer. The work of reconstruction is going on slowly everywhere; in our country more than anywhere else.

Roumania, so greatly enlarged in territory, so much increased in population and richer in glory, has had to adapt itself since the war to administrative, judicial, and economic necessities altogether unsuspected, and has had to face that state of things with an inadequate material human and technical. It is in these conditions that she has been forced to seek without hesitation and without delay the remedies for the unfortunate issue of a formidable military effort. To the great astonishment of its enemies our country has begun to be victorious in this field also. The arable soil of the new Roumania is almost entirely cultivated to-day, thanks to the distribution of lands to the peasants—a powerful dam against disorders of all kinds; the spirit of work in the industries existing or in course of being created is equally strong and enterprising, as well among the workers as among the masters; the means of communication improve daily and the hopes of a definite restoration are passing more and more from the realm of the prospective to that of reality. All this vast economic renaissance is completed by the financial projects destined to reorganise our taxes and to secure the ordinary and extraordinary expenditure of our Budget, indispensable to our economic reconstruction.

**Foreign Capital Welcomed.**

It is under these auspices that greater Roumania, a Roumania new and powerful, enters upon the period of the consolidation of the peace. It is prepared to accept helpful assistance from any quarter provided that it is offered to us with good intentions —that it will procure for our country the means of realising its natural riches, that it will help us in this national work in exchange for pecuniary remuneration (but exclusively pecuniary), is what our bank has demanded and will demand of foreign capital. These conditions satisfied we shall accept with eagerness economic and financial assistance from abroad, for we believe that it is in that way alone that we shall be able most quickly and most usefully to serve our country, and that we shall facilitate its role as a factor of civilisation—independent and decisive —in this part of Europe.

During the year which has ended—the seventy-third of this institution—your bank has regarded it as its duty to devote very special attention to the new territories, an attention which is evidenced either by the establishment of branches or by the nationalisation of several economic enterprises. It is on the one hand for the carrying out of this task and on the other to re-establish the proportion between our own resources and the deposits which are constantly increasing that we increased our capital from 75,000,000 to 126,000,000 lei. Although we have contributed in a substantial measure to satisfying the numerous requirements arising out of the reconstruction of the country we have nevertheless maintained the fundamental principle of the mobility of our assets, as the balance sheet closed at December 31, 1920, shows very clearly. Our old branches have operated during the past year to our complete satisfaction. The Paris branch closed its balance sheet with a satisfactory result. We have besides established branches at Arad, Brashov, Cluj, Oradea Mare, and Tirgul Muresh. These branches have already commenced their operations. We have also deemed it necessary to establish a branch at New York on account of the large number of our compatriots who are in the United States. In addition to the branch which exists already at Constantinople we have established an agency in the Stamboul district. Thus the number of branches is 24, of which three are in Bucharest. In the principal centres of Ardeal and the Banat where we have not established branches the Bank has applied the principle of collaboration, associating itself with the chief local institutions. Thus at Timishoara we have participated in the increase of the capital of the most important financial institution of the Banat, the "Banque de Timishoara et Société Commerciale par actions." Your bank is represented on the board of directors of that institution, the capital of which is 12,5000,000 lei, and the reserves 23,000,000 lei. For the past year the Banque de Timishoara paid a dividend of 12 per cent. At Satu-Mare we have taken part in the increase of the capital of the local bank "Casa Noastra," established at the commencement of the past year with a capital of 1,000000 lei. Thanks to our participation this institution soon after its foundation increased its capital to 5,000,000 lei, and at the end of one year it has a reserve of 1,300,000 lei, after having paid a dividend of 10 per cent. Your bank has its representatives on the board of directors of this bank. At Baia Mare we have in the same way contributed to the increase of the capital of the local bank "Casa Romana," the balance sheet of which has not yet been published. At Salonika the "Banque de Commerce et de Dépots S.A. Bucarest-Salonique," established with our participation in 1906, and having a branch at Kavalla, has obtained a satisfactory result also in the course of the past year. In union with several Roumanian and foreign banks we have contributed to the increase of the capital of the Banque de Credit Roumain.

The financial institutions in which we have permanent interests have achieved satisfactory results. Most of them have increased their capital during the past year, your bank having participated in these increases. The Banque du Commerce of Craiova increased its capital in 1920 from 30,000,000 to 60,000,000 lei. Its reserves stand to-day at 64,970,000 lei, and it paid a dividend of 14 per cent. for the past year. The Banque Moldova of Iassy, in which we are substantially interested, during last year increased its capital by 10,000,000 lei, bringing it up to 15,000,000 lei. Its reserve funds total 14,300,000 lei. The bank has paid a dividend of 15 per cent. The Banque Centrale de Ploesti, in which your bank has also a controlling interest, has increased its capital to 5,000,000 lei. Its reserves are 2,500,000 lei, and the dividend for 1920 is 10 per cent.

The industrial undertakings in which your bank participates have been successful for the most part in maintaining their production and in giving likewise satisfactory results despite the difficulties that confront them in obtaining raw materials, and in disposing of their products as a result of the transport situation.

**The Balance Sheet.**

In conformity with our custom we have proceeded in the balance sheet which we submit to you on as conservative a valuation as possible of your company. We have deducted for the amortization of doubtful credits for 1920 a sum of nearly 8,000,000 lei; of the credits classed as doubtful in the past we have received in the course of the past year more than 1,000,000 lei.

During the past year the cash turnover reached the total of 18,335,814,580 lei. We think it worth while mentioning that that amount represents the carrying out of the payments and the collections which have numbered 158,800 in 1920, but the total does not include all the cash transactions necessitated by the subscriptions to the various public and private issues made to our branches.

**Current Account Transactions.**

To bring into better relief the remarkable development of these transactions during the past year we mention that the total number of current accounts stands at December 31, 1920, at the considerable total of 10,955, a total in which the deposit accounts are not included.

It is natural that in the presence of such a development of the activities of your bank, the staff has been unable, despite its willingness, despite its devotion to our institution, completely to satisfy the demands created by such rapid progress. We have then had to provide for this insufficiency by increasing the number of the staff. Another striking proof of the intense activity of our offices is the number of letters which go out daily from our head office in Bucharest. The total of our operations is reflected in the figures of the gross turnover, which in the course of the past year has increased by 65 milliards, passing by 27 milliards the corresponding figures for 1919 at 92 milliards

After having given to you the preceding explanations we have the honour to submit to you the general balance sheet closed on December 31, 1920, which balances with a net profit of 51,567,572.98 lei. In conformity with the statutes we are proposing the following division of the profit:—5 per cent to the legal reserve 2,578,378.64 lei, a first dividend on the capital —5 per cent on 75,000,000 lei, 3, 750,000 lei, 2½ per cent on 50,000,000 lei, 1, 250,000 lei—5,000,000 lei, 43,989.194.34, 10 per cent of same to the board of directors, 4,398,919.44 lei, a second dividend on the capital—15 per cent. on 75,000,000 lei, 11,250,000 lei, 7½ per cent. on 50,000,000 lei, 3,750,000 lei—15,000,000 lei, remuneration of the auditors 250,000 lei, "fonds de retraites 'Maurice Blank,'" 3,000,000 lei, extraordinary reserve 9,421,621,3 , leaving 11,918,653.54lei, brought forward from the previous year 2,687,388,388.236 lei, total 14,606,041,77 lei to carry forward to the account of 1921.

The general meeting approved the balance sheet and the profit and loss account closed at December 31, 1920, decided on the payment of a dividend of 20 per cent. for 1920, ratified the appointment as directors of M.M. André Homberg, Al. Vaida Voivod, and Richard Soepkez, re-elected as directors M.M. C. Banu, Aristide Blank, I Boamba, Gr. Junian, Théodore Laurent, and M. Seulesco, and re-elected as auditors for 1920 M.M. Petre Athanasovici, Gr. P. Carp, Gh, G. Duca, G. Kapri, and I Pillat

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## LAKE COPAIS COMPANY.

The net profit for 1920 in Greece was £23,535. After adding London revenue and providing for London expenses, interest to January 31, 1920, on balance of prior lien bonds redeemed at that date, loss on sale of investments, income and interest on "A" debenture stock, which is now cumulative, and transferring £1,500 to reserve, there remains £9,942 to be carried to "B" debenture interest account. Out of the balance standing to credit of "A" and "B" debentures, it is proposed to distribute interest at 4 per cent. less tax, on both stocks in respect of 1920, leaving balances of £162 and £565 respectively. In view of the requirements for flood prevention and other development works and the heavy depreciation of the drachma, it is considered imperative to conserve cash resources, and separate meetings of holders of "A" and "B" stocks have been convened to consider a resolution to approve the transfer to capital reserve to the balance of £18,317 standing to credit of profit suspense account together with any surplus profits earned in 1921 and 1922, after payment of interest due on the "A" and "B" debenture stocks in respect of those years, and to waive any claim they may have that part of such profits be applied in redemption of "A" stock.

## INDIAN COTTON MILLS.

In the House of Commons on July 12, Mr. Waddington asked the Secretary for India whether he was aware of the dividends paid by Indian cotton mills, as exampled by Sholapore Company, 1,000 per cent. per annum; Lakshmi Company and Maneckji Company, each 500 per cent.; Kohinoor Company, 375 per cent.; Morarjee Goculdas Company and Swadeshi Company, each 350 per cent.; Madras United, 300 per cent., and many others from 100 per cent. to 300 per cent.; whether, as these dividends were declared shortly before the Indian Budget was introduced, the Indian Government considered these large profits when framing schemes to raise revenue and, if so, what additional taxes, had been imposed upon and what additional revenue was expected from cotton mills companies; and, if such revenue was not in fair proportion to the increases in import duties, would he represent to the Indian Government the need of reconsidering the import duties on cotton goods in view of such large sources of internal revenue being available.

Mr. Montagu: I am aware that Indian cotton mills have recently paid large dividends, but the figures given by my hon. friend appear to be greatly in excess of those published in the Press. The only additional tax specifically imposed on cotton mill companies in connection with the recent Indian Budget lay in the withdrawal of the concession under which machinery and stores imported for use in a cotton-spinning or weaving mill were admitted free of duty.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**FOUNDED 1863.**

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**
**Reserve - £1,250,000**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.
Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Sub-Directors.
J. UNGAR }

DJEVAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

**GENERAL COMMITTEE.**

**LONDON.**

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALY.
GEORGES HEINE.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
FELIX VERNES.

## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

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**Jerusalem.**
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**CYPRUS.**
**Nicosia. Larnaca.**
**Limassol. Famagusta.**
**Paphos.**

**SYRIA.**

**Aleppo. Alexandretta.** | **Beyrout. Damascus.** | **Hamah. Homs.** | **Saida. Tripoli.**

**MESOPOTAMIA.**
**Ashar. Bassorah. Bagdad. Mossoul.**

**SALONICA. SMYRNA. TUNIS,**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)**

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

**Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.**


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## ON 'CHANGE.

*(From our own Correspondent).*

London, Monday.

While except in a few directions there has not been any great activity during the past weeks, signs have not been wanting that something approaching a general revival of interest on the part of investors may be approaching. For the first time for very many months conditions as a whole are not adverse, and if nothing happens to postpone the approaching trade boom it should not be long before a considerably better level of values is seen in many directions.

There has been a good deal of selling of gilt-edged descriptions during the week, and quotations have in consequence ruled somewhat irregularly. War Loan Fives are 87 11-16. Fundings close at 70 3-8, while Consols are 47 3-4, the same as last week.

The Industrial group has generally been firm, and while investors are not interesting themselves as yet to any great extent prices here in general show an upward tendency. There has been some small inquiry for shipping shares. There has been no pronounced movement in the oil market. Scottish Americans have been a very dull spot, but Anglo-Egyptian following the hopeful review of the position at the meeting have improved somewhat. Rubbers have had a better week than for some time past, and rises are to be recorded in some of the floriners in particular.

In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 68 as are Greek Guaranteed 2 1-2 per cent., 1898 at 66. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are 5-8 up at 70 5-8.

In Greek shares the 5 per cent. 1881 loan is unchanged at 42xd., while the 5 per cent. 1884 loan is also 42xd. The 5 per cent. 1890 is the same at 40, while Fundings are also unchanged at 40. The 4 per cent. 1910 loan is 29, while the 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is 32xd. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 38.

In Land shares Beheras have risen 1-8 to 8 1-2, but the Preference shares at 3 are unchanged. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are the same at 3, as also the Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s. Egyptian Delta Lands at 8s. 3d. have gained 1s. 3d., while Gharbieh Lands at 1 3-16 are unchanged. New Egyptians are 1s. 3d. up at 21s. 6d.xd. but Union Foncieres at 2 1-16 have lost 1-16. Sudan Plantations are unaltered at 2 15-16.

In Banks, Agricultural 3 1-2 per cent. Bonds are 1-8 up at 52, while Agricultural 3 1-2 per cent. Guaranteed Bonds have gained a like amount at 54. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 7 3-4 while National Bank of Egypts are 1-16 up at 17 9-16.

In Oils Anglo-Egyptian are 1 17-32, Phoenix are 11s., and Roumanian Consolidated 11s. 9d. Steana Romana are 14s. 6d., and Burmahs are 6 9-16.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 2s., Alexandria Waters are 6 1-2, while Morums are 10s., Egyptian Markets 19s., and Egyptian Salt and Soda 29s. 6d.

### Economic Board for Palestine.

The Economic Board for Palestine has been registered as a company limited by guarantee, without share capital. The objects are to assist in the development of Palestine (in accordance with the provisions of the Palestine Mandate, or otherwise), the establishment of a Jewish National Home, and the development of the interests of the Jewish population in Palestine, in co-operation with the Zionist Organisation, or any other appropriate, Jewish agency recognised, or to be recognised, under the said Mandate.

The signatories to the memorandum of association are:—Sir Alfred Mond (Minister of Health). Sir R. Waley Cohen (director Shell Transport and Trading Co., Ltd.). A. I. Belisha, 63, Old Broad-street, E.C., stockbroker. W. H. Samuel (chairman Shell Transport and Trading Co.). J. A. de Rothschild, 34, Park-street, W. W. S. Cohen, Berkhamsted, Herts, barrister. H. Hirst (chairman General Electric Co.).

No persons had consented to act on the executive committee to July 5. The presidents of the Zionist Organisation and Jewish Colonisation Association respectively shall each have the right to nominate two persons on the said committee. Solicitors, Herbert Oppenheimer, Nathan and Vandyk, Parr's Bank-buildings, 1, Finsbury-square, E.C.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on July 1 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £3 31-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 3-16 ex.; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, 23-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 56; Behera Ord., £E9½; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 70; Building Lands of Egypt, £⅛; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr. 102 ex.; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £¾; Consolidated Land, Pt. 4; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 780 ex.; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 591; Credit Foncier 1885 Oblig., Fr. 591; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 222, Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 222½, Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 45; Eaux du Caire, Jouissance, Fr. 100, Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 26s. 9d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4 11-16; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £9 1-16; Gabbari Lands, £5-16; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2 9-16; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane de Wadi, £4 3-32; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £33 9-16½; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 42; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 270 ex.; Nungovich Hotels, £6; Ramleh Railway, £1 15-16 Salt and Soda, 27 Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 42; Tram. d'Alexandrié Div. Fr. 60; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £1 29-32 ex; Egypt Hotels, £1 63-64; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 27-32.


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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## COTTON SPINNERS DIVIDENDS.

Many Lancashire cotton spinning companies take stock at the end of June, and Mr' Frederick W. Tattersall of Manchester has prepared a summary of the announcements of 100 leading firms.

Out of 76 mills which have a total paid-up ordinary share capital of £7,696,450, the results of which cover the period of three months ended June 30, 48 have not been able to make a distribution to shareholders, one has declared a dividend of 5 per cent, one 11 per cent, two 12½ per cent, two 13 per cent, one 15 per cent, six 20 per cent, and one 24 per cent per annum, which works out at an average per company of 4.82 per cent per annum. For the previous quarter the same concerns paid an average dividend of 7.13 per cent. per annum, and for the three months ended December 31 last, 19.49 per cent. per annum.

The figures for the remaining 24 mills are for the first six months of this year. Nine firms have been able to make a return to shareholders, three have paid 5 per cent., eight 10 per cent., one 13-1-3 per cent, two 20 per cent., and one 25 per cent. per annum. The average per company is 7.2 per cent. per annum, which compares with 22.46 per cent. per annum for the last six months of 1920. The ordinary share capital of these 24 companies is £2,454,000.

An analysis of the trading of the 100 companies for the first half of the year 1921 shows that the average dividend per company is 6.28. per cent. per annum as against 22.52 per cent. per annum for the same concerns for the six months ended December 31, 1920.

## LIVERPOOL COTTON.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 14:—The improvement which was noticed in our last report has been steadily maintained. The enquiry continues to broaden, in a quiet way, and during the past week has become rather more general in character, although Sakellaridis, as usual, still claims the most attention. Business in Manchester continues "steady to good," but there is a tendency at the moment to cry "halt," owing to a recent stiffening. The same effect of rates is noticed here on the spot, and when holders, in sympathy with an advancing future market, raise their limits, the only result is that the buyer looks elsewhere for his cotton. The spinner who learned his lesson last year, refuses to be "rushed," and this is a point which ought to be thoroughly appreciated. Although official quotations here have again been raised, there is no lack of sellers at anything from 1d. to 1½d. below them. In fact, it it no exaggeration to say that, generally speaking, Egyptian cotton is pressed for sale all round the market at the moment. A fair c.i.f. business continues to be transacted, and the Continent has again received its quota. At the commencement of the week a feature was the sale of 350 bales of (Extra) Sudan Sakellaridis, in one lot, at a price in the neighbourhood of 19.50d. Total sales, 1,600 bales, which includes 100 bales Sudan. Quotations are raised ½d. per lb. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 16.50d.

## CZECHOSLOVAK COAL INDUSTRY.

The Czechoslovak coal industry for the first quarter of 1921 shows satisfactory progress as regards the regularity of output and the results of the miners' work, there having been no serious interruptions through strikes or accidents. The certainty of finding a market for the coal made it possible to employ the shifts to their fullest capacity. As compared with the fourth quarter of 1920, the number of mining concerns increased by eight, two of them producing pit-coal, and six lignite, so that coal mining was carried on in 403 concerns. There were 77,392 workmen engaged upon the production of pit-coal, this being 1240 more than in the fourth quarter of 1920, and 54,235 workmen were engaged upon the production of lignite, this number being more than 749 in the fourth quarter of 1920.

The amount of pit-coal produced was 30,636,056 quintals; the amount of lignite was 54,348,851 quintals, these quantities representing increases of 8.89 per cent. and 8.38 per cent. respectively as compared with the fourth quarter of 1920. The amount of coke produced from pit-coal was 3,974,324 quintals, representing an increase of 5.86 per cent., while the amount of briquettes produced fron pit-coal was 192,862 quintals, representing an increase of 21.46 per cent. The amount of coke and briquettes produced from lignite was 6,173 quintals and 442,630 quintals respectively. The amount of pit-coal and lignite used for working the mines and for distribution among the employees was 10 per cent of the total output, this being 2.65 per cent less than in the fourth quarter of 1920. The average weekly work of a miner oeeupied 5.6 days, this representing an increase of .73 days for pit-coal and .18 days for lignite, as compared with the the fourth quarter of 1920. The capacity of output per workman per shift increased per shift as compared with the same period by .17 quintals to 5.73 quintals for pit-coal, and by 1.1 quintals to 5.73 quintals for lignite. The above figures are a clear indication that the conditions of coal production in Czechoslovakia are becoming more and more stable.

During the first quarter of 1921, 315,139 quintals of pit-coal and 309,780 quintals of coke were imported from Germany to Czechoslovakia. the exports from Czechoslovakia comprised 2,228,420 quintals of pit-coal, 1,114,150 quintals of coke 10,017,450 quintals oflignite and 186,390 quintals lignite briquettes, the greater part being exportef to Germany and Austria.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 11, :—On July 8 monsoon vigorous in Peninsula and Central parts of country. On July 10 Monsoon weak in Peninsula but active in Central Provinces, and North-East India. Bombay cotton market dull, as nervousness regarding rain lessened. Fine M.G. Oomra, July Rs. 315, September Rs. 329. Bombay imported piece-goods market dull. Preliminary jute forecast for 1921-22 shows considerable decrease in acreage, of which total for Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam is 1,456,615 acres as against 2,501,636 acres last year. Jute prices which had been Rs. 78 on July 6 were Rs. 72 on July 8 morning and rose to Rs. 80 towards the close of the day, after announcement of the forecast. Hessians steady to firm. Forward positions being brought by Bazaar at higher rates. Mills have again definitely agreed to four days short time working. Heavy goods quiet but steady.

Government of India have suspended issue of further licenses for exports of rice from Burma to countries other than India with no intention of cancelling licenses already issued. Government of India understand that there still remain in Burma 300,000 tons of rice licensed for export but not yet shipped. At tea sale on July 5 few Assams offered were good. Dooars and Terais not so good at this sale. Very few Darjeelings offered. Prices for fannings and broken orange Pekoes steady, but lower for plain liquoring kinds. Well-made black leaf Pekoes and orange Pekoes from Cachar and Sylhet sold well. Commonest kinds slightly dearer. Dusts weak. 28,074 packages sold to date at an average price of 8 annas 6 pies per lb.

No change in bank rates.

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The reports of the Egyptian bonded warehouses for June, says Reuter, shows the following movement of Manchester cotton gooss during the month (in bales and or cases): Entries 985: deliveries, 1,233; stocke on June 30, 8,956, against 9,531 a year ago.

The directors of the Calcutta Electric Supply Company have decided to offer to existing shareholders the right to subscribe at par for five new ordinary shares in respect of eaoh 11 held. This will mean the issue of 250,000 fresh shares. They will not rank for the interim dividend, but will participate fully in the final distribution.

The Imperial Bank of India announces profit for period Jan. 27 to June 30 of Rs. 58,14,792; dividend at rate of 16 per cent. per annum, free of tax; to reserve fund Rs. 10,000,000; pension funds Rs. 5,00,000; carried forward Rs. 10,14,136.


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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 533—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Greek Success.*

With the capture of Eskishehir the Greeks have achieved a notable success, and have entirely vindicated their military reputation. This time the offensive has progressed according to plan; not only have the General Staff made their dispositions well, but their Intelligence has also been proved correct. The defeat of the Turks up to the point reached has been complete; large captures both of men and guns have been made, and the retreat east of Eskishehir is reported to have been effected in considerable disorder. There will be a natural desire on the part of the Greeks to continue the pursuit as far as Angora; the more so, if the statements regarding the demoralised condition of the Nationalist army and the confusion prevailing at Angora are confirmed. The military situation, however, is not the only concern of the Greek Government, and it is to be hoped that it will not in this matter allow popular enthusiasm to override its better judgment.

### *The Goal in View.*

The defeat of the Nationalists is not a goal in itself; at best it can but be a step towards the end that all have in view, the settlement of the Near Eastern question. In Greece it is held that the elimination of the Nationalist movement following a *débâcle* in the field will leave the ground clear for the ratification and enforcement of the Treaty of Sèvres, and no doubt the Greek Government will shortly claim to have saved the Allies from themselves in connection with their handling of the Turks. In many quarters, however, it will be feared that this is altogether too rosy a view. The Turkish Nationalists may accept defeat—it is too early to tell whether they will do this or, withdrawing into the Anatolian highlands, will continue the campaign in a way that would seriously embarrass the Greeks—but even so they can be relied upon, with or without Bolshevist intrigue, to render the administration of Asia Minor impossible and to prove a source of chronic unrest in the neighbouring countries. The Allies have no interest in merely staving off trouble for a season, although the temptation to regard as sufficient for the day the evil thereof seems to be strong. It will be remembered, moreover, that the the French Government has formally declared its intention not to ratify the Treaty of Sèvres as it stands. We are thus brought back to a situation on all fours with that which has existed ever since the last meeting of the Allied Conference in London, with the added complication that, after their military successes, the Greeks will find it still harder to forgo the advantages offered them by the Treaty of Sèvres.

### *Greece and the Allies.*

The best that could happen would be that the Greeks having established their military superiority, should abandon the campaign and seek, at the hands of the Allies, compensation in other directions than the subordination of Turks under Greek jurisdiction. The worst that could happen would be that the Allies should maintain their cynical attitude and trust to the Greeks overreaching themselves in Asia Minor, in order that both combatants may be exhausted when the Allies decide to impose their views upon them. There are many ways in which Greece can recoup herself for her military efforts, most of them more advantageous in the long run to the Hellenic people than territorial gains at the expense of those who must always prove restless neighbours, if they are smarting under a grievance for which they can hold Greece responsible. Unfortunately the long view is not popular in the Near East; the different peoples are too prone to live in the present only, believing quite sincerely that what has been must always be and reluctant to admit the possibility of their traditional enemies achieving either political or moral pagress.

### *A 'Communist' Crime.*

Following close upon the dastardly attempt upon the life of the Prince Regent of Yugoslavia, comes news of another outrage of the same kind, and again the work of Communists in Yugoslavia. But unfortunately this time the attempt has been successful, and M. Drashkokovitch, the Minister of the Interior, has fallen a victim to an assassin's bullet. The Triune Kingdom appears to have been suffering from a perfect plague of Communists; and though the authorities have been, and

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are, grappling resolutely with the evil, and though they have made great hauls of undesirables, it is evident that heavy work still lies before them. The letter which we publish this week from our Zagreb Correspondent gives further particulars of the Communists' activities; and it will be remembered that only last April M. Drashkovitch himself, in a lengthy speech in the Belgrade Parliament, shed a flood of light upon the activities of these apostles of Bolshevism at its worst. In all probability it was that speech which cost him his life and lost Yugoslavia the services of a courageous and capable statesman.

### *Its Futility.*

The Communists were alarmed to find that so much concerning themselves and their hopes was known to the authorities, and being alarmed, determined, coward like, to stab in the back the man who had openly declared war upon them. In May one of their agents attempted to shoot M. Drashkovitch, who showed great coolness and courage, and, unarmed as he was, gave chase to his assailant. The attempt failed, but it has been renewed, this time by a Bosnian, and with success. It would seem that the motive for the crime can only have been revenge, and not the wish to prevent M. Drashkovitch from taking further action against the Communists; for, owing to ill-health, he had been anxious for some time past to resign from office and his resignation had actually been accepted, although it had not yet taken effect. The crime will have aroused both horror and indignation throughout the civilized world.

### *Italy and Great Britain.*

It is understood that negotiations are now in progress between Italy and Great Britain with a view to co-operation in the Near East. Such co-operation had good results in the past, and it is not to be doubted that it will have even better results in the future if it can be secured. Nor should it be very difficult to secure it. Whatever might have been said about it not very long ago, Italian foreign policy is now intensely practical; and in the main Italy's interests and Great Britain's certainly seem to lie in the same direction. The thing to be desired is that they should think of these interests rather than listen to intriguing third parties who, for reasons of their own, prefer to see the existing state of confusion continue rather than an attempt to get back to more settled conditions along lines on which alone it becomes clearer day by day, any real settlement can be reached. If only Mr. Lloyd George could be persuaded to leave the conditions of foreign affairs in the hands of the Foreign Secretary, and the Foreign Office, we might expect to see not only a really cordial understanding between ourselves and our Allies, but also a rapid improvement in the situation in the Near East. As it is, our policy, in that region at least, is neither satisfactory nor British—let alone 'Great British.'

### *Strikes in India—*

The report of the Committee on industrial unrest in Bengal has an interest for the whole country, for though the investigation was confined to a single province, the manifestations of unrest have been so uniform in their nature that we may fairly accept Bengal as a sample of the whole of India in this particular matter. The committee examined the facts of 137 disputes occurring in a period of nine months, and they reached the conclusion that, while economic causes probably predominated, the actual strikes were due as much to a spirit of general unrest as to the specific causes alleged in individual causes. To put the matter more plainly, wages lagged, as they are apt to do, behind rising prices, at a time when people were spoiling for a fight; poverty joined forces with ignorance and passion, and the result was an enormous amount of unnecessary waste. India is far too poor to be able to afford waste on such a scale, and the chief interest of the committee's report lies in the suggestions offered for the prevention of similar losses in the future.

### *and their Remedy.*

The line taken by the committee is substantially that which has been urged in these columns, the organisation of machinery for conciliation between employers and their workmen in advance of the formation of trades unions, and not three or four generations behind them, as happened so unfortunately in this country. The members of the committee see no room at present for any measures of compulsion, and they urge the gradual establishment of "Works Committees" on the now well-known Whitley lines, to enable masters and men to understand and appreciate each other's point of view. It is sometimes said that Indian workmen are too ignorant to take part in such discussions with advantage, but here we have a competent body declaring that no such practical difficulties exist, and, even though we may regard that view as somewhat sanguine, we hold strongly that a such *a priori* objections should not be allowed to block the way. The question can be settled only by experiment, and what is wanted now is the formation of a sufficient number of Works Committee not merely in Bengal but in every industrial centre in India, to give the system a fair and thorough trial.

### *The Oudh Agrarian Question.*

The latest news from India shows that substantial progress has been made towards framing the new tenancy measure required for Oudh, where, as our readers will remember, the long-standing dissatisfaction of the peasantry recently developed into serious outbreaks of disorder. It is now reported that the main lines of the proposed measure have been accepted by representatives of the great landholders, without whose support no system, however perfect in theory, could be expected to succeed in practice; opposition is already hinted by some self-chosen advocates of the peasant's case, but the peasants themselves have not yet spoken, and until the text of the Bill is published, it is impossible to form an opinion regarding the adequacy of its provisions. Apart from the importance of securing the foundations of a lasting peace, the proceedings in the Council will have exceptional interest as furnishing a crucial list of statesmanship. There may be a bitter fight between the land and the law, the two largest elements in the Council, leading perhaps to the formation of definite parties for the future, but it will be much more satisfactory if a compromise fair to all interests can be reached. A party-system is probably inevitable, but we should like to see the Oudh question settled before it develops.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**Towards Peace in Ireland.**

After a week of secret negotiations, Mr. de Valera has returned to Ireland with the terms of peace which the British Government has offered in his pocket. He will discuss them with the Sein Fein leaders in Dublin, and they will probably be debated by the Sein Fein Assembly; unless they are definitely rejected—which seems unlikely—he will return to London to negotiate further with the Prime Minister.

The truce has been well kept in Ireland during the week, and the general feeling of relief at the prospect of peace is bound to exercise its influence on the deliberations of Sinn Fein, since a resumption of guerilla warfare would be intensely unpopular. In England the scanty details of the negotiations which have been published are being followed with great interest, and generally in a very hopeful mood ; only the *Morning Post* still continues its incendiary campaign, and accuses Mr. Lloyd George of "shaking hands with murder"—a revival of the *Daily Mail* catchword at the time of the negotiations with Bolshevist Russia. But the *Morning Post* has no plan to propose except coercion and force, and it speaks definitely for a minority. A certain number of extreme Unionists agree with it, but only two members of Parliament have revolted from the Coalition in consequence of the discussion.

**The Plan in Outline.**

Mr. Lloyd George's plan of pacification, so far as it has been divulged, is not startlingly novel. It is practically what is known as Dominion Home Rule, largely after the South African fashion. That is to say, it gives Ireland control of her own finance, education, police and all internal matters. It reserves the army and navy and foreign relations. This is in effect an extension of the existing Home Rule Act.

On the other hand, the plan necessarily differs from Dominion Home Rule on one essential point. Canada in 1867, Australia in 1900, and South Africa in 1913, became political entities at the moment of federation or union ; Ireland will not become a political entity, owing to the opposition of North and South. Ulster and the South will, therefore, according to the Government's scheme, each be a political entity ; there will be two Dominions in Ireland. It is known that this runs counter to the Sein Fein programme, which is opposed to partition. Partition, however, is a fact which no political theory can overcome. Sinn Fein may object that the Government scheme stereotypes partition and makes it permanent, but it does not follow that this is so. In the course of years the two Dominions may find a common bond and draw together and eventually unite. But it is premature to speculate on this matter until we know what Sinn Fein will say to the proposals. It is clear from various indications, and notably from a very carefully expressed manifesto of Sir James Craig, that Ulster will not consent to incorporation with the rest of Ireland ; indeed, there has been a re-emergence of the old Ulster note, "All we ask is to be left alone." The political capacity of Sinn Fein will be tested by its attitude to Ulster. If it accepts the inevitable, the negotiations will probably succeed ; if not, they must fail.

**Home Politics.**

It was made clear to the faithful this last week that an autumn session is not to be avoided. Year after year members are promised a respite from the October sitting but year after year perfidious necessity compels the Government against its will. This year, of course, Ireland is the reason.

Dr. Addison made his exit a few days ago with an attack on the Prime Minister ; those who had upheld the retiring Minister of Health for idealism can have found little idealism in his speech. Mr. Lloyd George, apparently feeling that Dr. Addison has bitten the hand that fed him, returned the compliments in kind. It was not a particularly edifying scene. The Opposition professed unbounded delight, but they were probably conscious that it was rather small beer after all.

However, they succeeded in defeating the Government on another occasion—and on the Budget. It was over the question of co-operative societies paying corporation tax that the Government came out with a minority of two. There is no reason whatever why co-operative societies should not pay the same taxes as anybody else ; but the fact is that there are a large number of co-operators in many constituencies, and many members of Parliament found it convenient to abstain from voting; while the Labour Party, which has been making a desperate attempt to enrol the co-operators under their banner, mustered in (for them) rather unusual force.

There were the usual shouts of "Resign" when the result of the Division was announced, but nobody would have been more seriously inconvenienced than the Labour Party, had the Government taken them at their word. They do not want a General Election for at least another year ; when "the day" comes they hope to run five hundred candidates for the six hundred odd seats available. It is generally believed that some two hundred out of the five hundred will win, which means that the Government would still have an ample majority, particularly as some of the Labour victories would probably be won at the expense of the Independent Liberals.

**The Prince.**

The Prince of Wales is not taking his holiday any too soon. He looked far from well at the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace last week, and the intense heat following on his strenuous life has made rest essential before his visit to India this coming Autumn, which will be anything but a holiday. The Prince suffers in some ways from an excess of popularity ; where he goes it is difficult to persuade people to let him alone. It is gratifying, but embarrassing.

**Chu Chin Chow.**

*Chu Chin Chow* is dead at last, after a five years' run It looked as though the coal stoppage would have killed it, but it seemed almost to lengthen its days. Never was such a play or such a run ; even *Kismet* perished

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prematurely in comparison. But it will revive in the provinces under the touring companies; and if there breathes a man with soul so dead that he has not yet seen *Chu Chin Chow*, which I rather doubt, there will still be ample opportunity during the next year or two outside London.

**Trade Revival and the Revenue.**

There is no longer any doubt that the revival of trade is general. Factories are starting again, and business men are beginning to look ahead with something approaching hope. Reduced prices of raw materials, followed by reductions of wages as the cost of living falls—it was noteworthy, however, that the index figure showed no further drop in June— is enabling manufacturers to turn out their goods at a more reasonable figure, and the further reduction of the bank rate is also helping them. Nothing approaching a boom is to be seen—fortunately —but the spirit of quiet confidence is spreading.

For that reason, I think that those politicans who are clamouring for an autumn budget are unwise. Granted that the figures of the budget introduced three months ago have been knocked sideways by the coal stoppage we have still nine months in which to recover ourselves. In any event there will almost certainly be a pretty heavy deficit next April; but if H.M. Government economises, as it is at last beginning to do, and the country works rather harder and forgoes the luxury of industrial quarrels, the position may become a good deal more favourable than at one time seemed possible. To introduce an interim budget in October would, I think, only distract people from their proper work, and possibly check the revival..

**The Public Health.**

The annual report on the public health for 1920 is a remarkably satisfactory document. The influenza pandemic of 1918-19 was steadily abating, and although there was a rather serious outbreak of scarlet fever and diptheria in the autumn, the death rate was low. The birth rate as a consequence of the post-war marriages of 1919, beat all records—nearly a million children being born. (The number of births, although still large in the early part of 1921, shows a tendency to decline owing to the spread of unemployement). The infantile mortality rate, which has also been falling year by year, was lower than ever before last year. This was to some extent attributable to the cool, wet summer—although it is satisfactory to note that the present heat wave has not perceptibly increased the rate this summer—but mainly it was due to the spread of knowledge among young parents; it is noteworthy, however, that in the opinion of the Ministry of Health, the death rate for the first year for life should still be halved. It remains true that the first month of life is the most dangerous. But generally the public health as a whole shows a tendency to improve each year, and the spread of preventive medicine will no doubt continue and make permanent this improvement.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, July 10.*

**Mediterranean Squadron at Alexandria.**

The third Light Cruiser Squadron, under the command of Rear Admiral Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt, is at present paying a visit to Alexandria, where an elaborate programme has been arranged for the entertainment of the officers and men. Admiral Tyrwhitt has been received by the Sultan, who entertained him and his senior officers at a banquet at which Lord and Lady Allenby, the Ministers, and leading British residents were also present. The High Commissioner has now arranged to take leave about the middle of August, by which time the Honourable E. Scott, Counsellor to the Residency, will have returned from leave, and so be able to take over the work.

**Suspension of a Zaghloulist Organ.**

The two sensations of the week in Egyptian circles are the suspension of Zaghloul Pasha's chief organ. *Al N zam*, and the order to Prince Aziz Hassan to leave the country. *Al Nizam* has been publishing a series of extracts from a pamphlet on the political situation and the reforms which are necessary, and in one of these extracts there appeared a passage making allusions to the position of the Sultan, which were not only offensive to his Highness, but also calculated to lead to public excitement and possible trouble. The Council of Ministers ordered the suspension of the paper for six months, and had the author of the pamphlet arrested and handed over to the military authorities, who will bring him in due course before a Military Court.

The Zaghloulists affirm that the action of the Cabinet is due solely to a desire to stifle opinion which is hostile to the present regime. I am in nowise concerned with a defence of the action of the Cabinet, but in fairness to the Council of Ministers, it should be stated that the passage in the pamphlet the publication of which was followed by the suspension of *Al Nizam* not only infringed the Press Law, but brought the paper within the terms of the Penal Code. The fact that the author of the pamphlet is to be brought before the Military Court is a further indication that wider considerations than those of purely local politics came into play; for the British authorities have steadfastly abstained from any interference with the administration of the country unless public security has been threatened.

**Prince Aziz Hassan's Expulsion.**

As regards Prince Aziz Hassan, this notorious member of the Khedivial family has got even less than he deserved. Ordered to leave the country, together with other relations, at the beginning of the war, and prevented from returning, owing to his connection with the ex-Khedive, he was finally given permission to come back to Egypt last April. Instead of showing gratitude for the concession, and holding aloof from politics, he at once took sides with Zaghloul and became one of the most active organisers of propaganda in favour of the head of the "Wafd." His activities soon cost him his allowance as a member of the reigning house, and as that did not bring him to his senses and he became more daring in his operations, the military authorities were compelled to intervene; and ordered him to leave by the "Helwan" last Friday. This the Prince did, and on his departure he was acclaimed by the Zaghloulists as a patriot. To those who know him and have followed his career during the last 30 years, the idea of his being an Egyptian patriot is simply ridiculous. It is probable that in this, and in former instances, he is trying to satisfy his own personal feelings and to push Turkish——and 'tis said though the Prince stoutly denies it, Khedivial—interests. From every point of view, Egypt is well rid of him.

Meanwhile there is a lull in the local political situation. The success which attended the departure of the Delegation and the firmness shown by the Government appear to have had a very depressing effect on the Zaghloulist camp. For the time being, at any rate, nothing is being done, and "El Rais el Mahbub" is said to be concentrating his efforts on a fight in the last trench, viz: the Constituent Assembly, in regard to the elections, for which he intends to stump the country.

**The Egyptian Auxiliary Corps.**

A very wise step with regard to the various auxiliary corps raised during the war in Egypt has just been taken by the British Government, which has handed over to the Egyptian Government its own share in the profits made out of the control of cotton introduced in 1918 to safeguard the supply of raw material required for the manufacture of munitions. The sum in question amounts to L.E. 960,000, and the money will be devoted to paying indemnitites and pensions to members of the Egyptian Labour Corps, of the Camel Transport Corps, and of other, similar corps who have been disabled through serious wounds, or by permanent physical infirmities, and to the widows and children of the men who have died as members of any of these Corps. The British Government have already given compensation to those who had been wounded, and to the families of those who had been killed; and this further action is an exceedingly wise one, since it has the additional advantage of disarming the criticism hitherto heard, that the British Government had limited the price of cotton in 1918 in order to make money out of the Egyptian fellaheen.

**The Bomb Discovery.**

Of late the Police have been actively searching for bombs, which it was said were to be used against the Cabinet and certain highly placed British officials, and they have now discovered two in Cairo and one at Mataria, on Lake Menzala. An enquiry has been opened but nothing definite can as yet be said with regard to the object for which they were to be used and the question of conspiracy. The bombs, though more scientific in mode of explosion, are similar in pattern to those used during the past three years, and they are certainly of local manufacture. Well informed circles affirm that there is a connection between these bombs and the "Vengeance Society," certain members of which were tried and sentenced by Military Court last summer; but apart from the fact that it is known that arrangements had been made to assist one of the convicted men to escape from prison, and that one of the British Officials mentioned had the men convicted in this case in his custody, it is not possible at the present juncture to say what the relationship is.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, July 18.*

**Party Manœuvres.**

The political world is quiet just now, but the various groups and parties are busy in a quiet way, and when the Skupshtina meets again in the autumn we shall probably see great changes. It would certainly not be surprising if M. Pashitch, at his advanced age, should retire from public life after his recent personal triumph. M. Protitch, who is just now resting in the country, may combine with Dr. Trumbitch to form an Opposition, which may be joined by the Narodny Club and Raditch's party. In the Democratic Party a split seems to be probable, for the Croatian element is gradually diverging from the Serbian, and some of the prominent men may cross the floor to the Radical side.

M. Pashitch has rearranged his Cabinet, as a temporary measure pending the reassembling of the Skupshtina.

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M. Pribitchevitch takes over the Interior as well as Education, and M. Uzunovitch is Minister of Communications in the place of Dr. V. Jankovitch, who has definitely retired from the Cabinet. This creates a vacancy in Agrarian Reform, which is filled by M. Kratta Miletitch, a Radical, who has not before held a portfolio, while General Zechevitch takes the Ministry of War, and General Hadjitch has been appointed First Adjutant to the Regent. M. Drashkovitch has definitely retired.

The programme of the Opposition will be the revision of the Constitution. This, as we know, is a series of opportunist compromises with which nobody is really pleased; but the great fact remains that the country has a constitution as a groundwork for improvement and something to go upon. It is a good sign that those who declined to be associated with the passing of the constitution, the Narodny Club, Dr. Koroshets's Slovene Clericals, and the Raditch Party, are apparently condescending to take part now in parliamentary proceedings. As the leaders are experienced politicians and undoubted patriots, nothing but good can be expected from the organisation of a strong and reasonable Opposition.

It is expected that some of the Bosnian Mohammedans will fall out, as a result of their party's conference at Serajevo. They are but a small party, and cannot afford to split, but the loss of any of them will be a serious blow to M. Pashitch's slender majority. Their co-religionists in Macedonia and Southern Serbia, who are mostly real Ottoman Turks, as opposed to the Bosniaks (who are Mohammedan Serbs) are opening their mouths very wide. It will be remembered that they voted for the Constitution, so perhaps M. Pashitch is pledged to grant them at least a substantial portion of their demands. They ask that they have their own schools, at the expense of the State, the teachers to be approved by them, and Turkish schools to be erected for instruction in the Turkish language wherever there is a Turkish population; for a special Mohammedan university for freedom of commerce; for agrarian reform in their interest; for equal rights of citizenship; that officials in their districts must have a knowledge of the Turkish language, and one or two other details. Some of these demands are not unreasonable and will be granted but others are impracticable. They propose to unite politically with their Serbian co-religionists, but this is an unlikely consummation, since the latter are differing among themselves. As many of the brigands and bandit of southern Serbia are Mohammedan Albanians, it is not surprising that these Turks press for the liberation of the interned families of the outlaws.

**Arrests of Communists.**

It will be remembered that at the last municipal elections, the Communists won in most of the towns. As a result of the recent events, the Mayor of Nish has now been imprisoned for a month, together with five members of the council, and their election quashed. The police are making arrests on a wholesale scale in the Voivodina, on the strength of the admission of the prisoners incriminated in the attempt on the Regent's life. Many hundreds are said to be now under lock and key, of whom most are Magyars, probably followers of Bela Kun, helped, probably, on a large scale of Magyar irredentists.

**Good News for Travellers.**

Visitors to Zagreb, while they unfailingly recognise the beauties of the town—"our white Zagreb," as the natives affectionately call it—are naturally more exposed than the residents to one feature in which the Croatian capital is indeed backward. The hotels here, never good, have degenerated to a positively distressed condition. The reason is not far to seek. The management had no power over its guests; for rooms are allotted to visitors by the Lodgings Committee and nobody is permitted to retain a room more than a few days. The natural consequence is that the servants take no personal interest in the visitors, and the management does not care, as the hotels are always crammed full, and the prices fixed. Consequently, everything is allowed to fall into disrepair, and cleanliness is an almost unknown virtue. The Zagreb people are ashamed of their hotels, and many complaints and reproaches are levelled against them in the press. Now at last the police are taking action in the matter, and have informed the proprietors that there will be a regular inspection, and that any failing on the grounds of cleanliness or order will be most severely punished. So now visitors take courage, and it is to be hoped that a visit to Zagreb will not be looked upon any longer as merely an unavoidable evil. Certainly nobody would stay a single day in any of the hotels as they are now unless he were obliged. A radical reform is really required. The hotels are all old-fashioned, and their management original. It is exceptional to be able to get the simplest breakfast in one's room, and when it does come, it is always cold, and of inferior quality. Hot water is a rare luxury and baths are practically unknown. Unwelcome guests are an unavoidable concomitant in the warm weather.


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Until recently, the restaurants have not been much better than the hotels, but some progress has been made in this direction. Of the making of bars there has been no end, where bad wine was sold at very high prices in doubtful company; but it is only within the last few months that there has been more than one restaurant where one could count upon getting a good meal, well cooked and decently served. In both these respects Belgrade is far better served than Zagreb.

## GREECE.

*Athens, July 2*

**A Gift to the Byzantine Museum.**

The Greek colony at Leghorn has presented the Byzantine Museum of Athens with three Bibles of great value, two of which are Greek and one Slovene, also with a chalice adorned with diamonds. These precious objects had been given to the Greek community of Leghorn by the Empress of Russia, Catherine II., in 1746.

**The Bulgarian Cattle.**

According to a telegram received by the Greek Foreign Office from its Sofia representative the Bulgarian Government has notified the Inter-Allied Commission in Sofia that it did not intend handing over to Greece the exact number of cattle as fixed by the Treaty of Neuilly. The Bulgarian Government maintains that a certain number of cattle has already either been handed over to the Greeks by special conventions, or carried off forcibly by the Greek frontier troops.

The Greek representative replied that these were merely pretexts of the Bulgarian Government by which they hoped to evade the fulfilment of their obligations; and added that the Hellenic Government insisted upon the delivery of the exact number of cattle as fixed by the Treaty of Neuilly.

**More Refugees Arrive.**

The Greek High Commissioner at Constantinople has telegraphed to the Government announcing the departure for Greece of about 30,000 refugees from the Ismid region who had arrived at Constantinople a few days before the former town was evacuated by the Greek troops. These refugees will be distributed among various towns and islands as follows:—Isle of Mitylene, 9,000; Lemnos, 4,000; Volo, Larissa, and other towns in Thessaly, 8,000; Island of Samos, 6,000; and Pyrgos and Tripolis, 3,000. The authorities in these towns have been instructed by the Government to requisition a number of buildings for the accommodation of the refugees. Furthermore the Minister of Public Assistance has opened a credit of 2,250,000 Drachmae; which is considered sufficient for the maintenance of the unfortunate victims of the war for a period of one month.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, July 11*

**Political Rumours.**

There has been much talk in the political world concerning the external policy of Bulgaria, and it would seem that we are back to the spring of 1919, when every parade of soldiers was looked upon as a mobilisation of the Army. There is, however, a serious side to the question of Bulgarian relations with Angora. About the middle of last month an Agrarian Deputy, M. Grozkoff, with two companions, left Sofia on a visit to Constantinople and Asia Minor. Their visit to the former city passed almost unnoticed, but ten days ago certain Turkish newspapers reported the presence of M. Grozkoff at Angora. The Government emphatically deny that he was charged with any mission, and state that he is travelling for purely business reasons. Nevertheless the incident has produced an unfortunate impression.

Rumours, each one more ridiculous than the last, are especially numerous these days. A typical one is the report that the Allies have actually decided to hand over Burgas to the Greeks in return for the cession of Smyrna to the Turks. The country is not being seriously affected by these absurd stories, but M. Stambolisky has deemed it advisable that he should make a personal denial of all the accusations brought against the country, and had announced his intention of leaving shortly for London, Paris, and Rome.

During his visit to the three Allied capitals, the Prime Minister intends to make a full *exposé* of the economic and financial situation of the country. It is not yet known who will accompany him, but M. Tourlakoff, Minister of Finance, is due to leave this week for Paris and Brussels. His visit to the former place is connected with the Bulgarian debts to France.

M. Dimitroff, Minister of War, will presumably act for M. Stambolisky during his absence.

**Bulgaria and the S.H.S. State.**

A point of view that is steadily gaining ground in certain Allied circles is that Bulgaria and the S.H.S. State are on the verge of a complete approachment, which has as it main aim a common policy in Thrace, and the regions adjoining. The Government are even accused of having approached the Serbian Minister here with a view to the incorporation of Bulgaria in the S.H.S. State. Such an accusation, besides being lacking in foundation, is so serious, that it would indeed be advantageous to all parties, if the originators of the report could be discovered. Naturally enough, Bulgaria is anxious to stand well in the eyes of the Yugoslavs, but she is far too independent to desire to be made an integral part of another nation.

Relations between the two countries are certainly improving, but it is not more than two months since the Serbians were threatening hostile action against this country, and although the foreign policy of Balkan States is notoriously versatile, it is hard to believe that old wounds and sores are as yet entirely healed. When they are healed—and it is to be hoped that the process will not be a lengthy one—matters may take on a different turn.

*Sofia, July 18.*

**The Sobranje's Holiday.**

The Sobranje has adjourned until September 1, and the majority of the Ministers are in the provinces. No reply has yet been given to the Inter-Allied Commission regarding the latter's demand for free trade in cereals, but it is expected that the Government will accede to the Commission's request.

M. Tourlakoff, Minister of Finance, is due to leave for Paris-to-day, and he will visit London, Brussels, and other capitals. Besides discussing Bulgaria's debt to France, he will make enquiries about the possibilities of arranging commercial treaties with various European countries. M. Stambolisky, also, will leave for London, Paris, and Rome in the near future.

**Diplomatic Appointments.**

M. Radeff, who has for some time acted as Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Minister at Berne, vice M. Pomianoff, who, it is said, is to go to Berlin. General Ficheff, a well-known soldier, is to succeed M. Nedesco at Bucharest; while the appointment of a Minister to Constantinople is under discussion. Bulgaria still remains unrepre-

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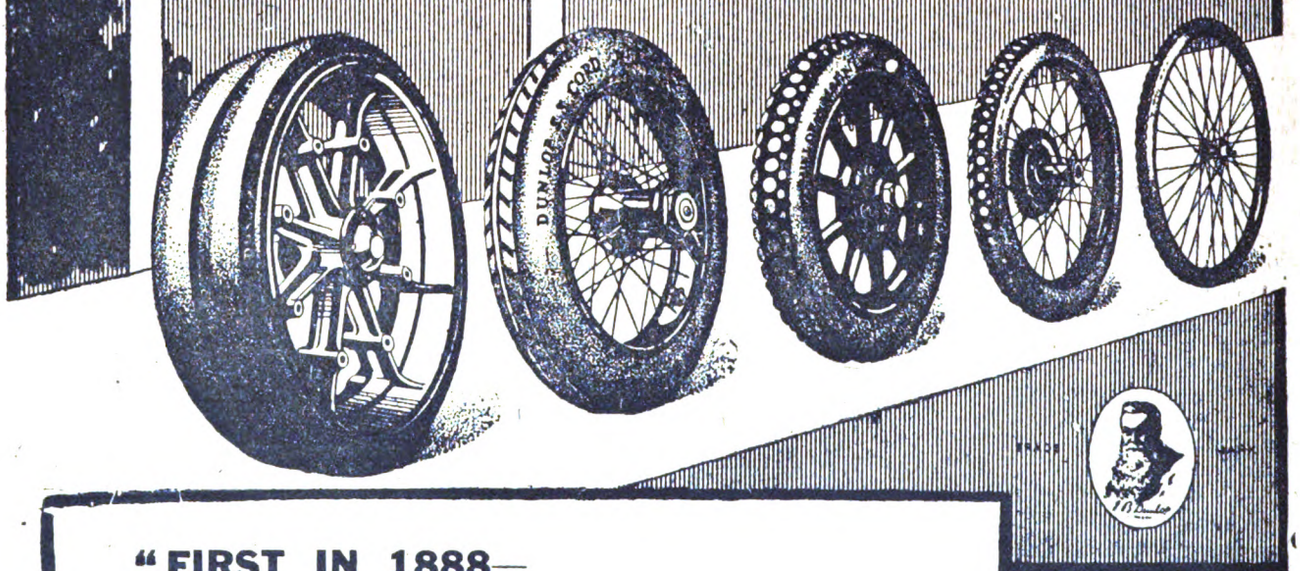

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sented in Greece, and there are no signs of M. Kissemoff, the Minister elect, proceeding there.

**The Army.**

The news that the Supreme Council in Paris has been discussing the question of Bulgaria's future Army has aroused much interest here; and naturally so, in view of the fact that on September 1 practically the whole of the present force will have the right to be demobilised. Only a few hundred voluntary recruits have been obtained and unless new measures are taken, either by the Allies or by Bulgaria, the country will be without an army in six week's time. To some people this may not seem a bad thing; but a force of some kind is essential to Bulgaria. In the first place she must have one to keep law and order in her own territory; and in the second place it would be impossible without one to control the bands of robbers and marauders that cause '*incidents*' on the frontiers. The Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control is still in existence, and is presumably able to advise the Supreme Council of the dangerous situation that may soon arise. Another point to bear in mind is that the Reparations Commission may have something to say on this subject; for the cost of maintaining an army recruited on a voluntary basis will much exceed that one recruited by conscription. A volunteer private costs 16,711 levas a year, inclusive; while a conscripted private only costs 6,570 levas.

## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, July* 13.

**The Powers and Albania.**

The Conference of Ambassadors in Paris has begun to consider the Albanian problem. For a long time—more than a year and a half—neither the Peace Conference, the Ambassadors', nor the Supreme Council, had given any attention to the subject. However, on March 2, of this year the Albanian delegation in Paris requested the Supreme Council to recognize officially the Albanian Government; and this request and the determination not to leave the question to the League of Nations induced the Conference to move in the matter. A committee has been appointed to deal with the question; the four members being:—Major Temperley (Great Britain), M. Laroche (France), Signor Galli (Italy), and M. Akosa (Japan). On the 8th inst. the president of the Albanian Delegation, M. Midhat Frasheri, was called before this committee, to make known the desiderata of the Albanian Government. M. Frasheri read a statement, setting forth that Albania desired from the Conference of Ambassadors the official recognition of its Government, and, as a natural sequel, the evacuation of its territory by the Serbs and the Greeks. Asked what was the Albanian view of the frontiers of 1913, M. Frasheri replied that they were very bad, having been laid down with a flagrant disregard of Albania's rights. Nevertheless, he went on to say, having regard to political realities, and not being able to hope for a rectification of frontiers in favour of their country, the Albanians regarded the frontiers of 1913 as being unalterable, even in their minutest detail; and the people were firmly resolved not to permit any alteration at all, however slight..

**The Greek Pretensions.**

The declarations of the Greek delegate to the League of Nations, and the pretensions be advanced in regard to southern Albania have made a painful impression in this country, and public opinion is greatly excited. Yesterday a great meeting of protest took place at Albasan, presided over by Monseigneur Dhimitri Papa; and another great meeting is announced at Valona, under the presidency of an Orthodox Notable, Aristide Rusti.

The subject of the inviolability of the frontiers of 1913 has given rise to a lively and excited debate in the Chamber, where the deputies unanimously voted against any sacrifice of national territory. Forced to take action of some kind the Government has had to take steps to safeguard her frontiers, and a concentration of troops has been ordered.

**A Centre of Albanian Studies.**

For the past year there has existed in Paris, at the School of Oriental Languages, a centre of Albanian studies, with a course in the Albanian language. About two months ago there was added to this centre a bureau of scientific and commercial information, which is intended to be of service to all who wish to travel in Albania or to transport business of any kind with the country. Any of your readers who are interested in such matters might care to write to the bureau. The address is:—M. le Secretaire du Centre d'Etudes Albanaises, Ecoles des Langues Orientales, salle No. 6, 2 Rue de Lille, Paris.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, July* 1.

**Ammunition Explodes.**

The salutes and rejoicings for the arrival of the Crown Princess Elizabeth were scarcely over when Smyrna was loudly shaken by two terrific explosions which occured about four o'clock yesterday afternoon. The powder and ammunition depots at Mersinly—one mile distant from Smyrna's northern boundary—were completely destroyed, and very few houses and shops in the city escaped without some of the windows being broken; while the factories at Daragatch were more severely damaged. The loss of life was small considering the enormous amount of powder and ammunition employed; for not more than 20 people were killed.

It is now believed that King Constantine will change his present residence in Cordelio—which is quite near an ammunition depot—and reside either in Bournabat or in Boujah, where are the British Colonies.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, July* 5.

**School Reforms.**

The Greek Community always shows great zeal in the matter of education, although the term hardly comprehends all that is connoted in our use of it, as regards school life. The movement for a higher standard and better pay of teachers has had some success; and attention is now being called to the need of better school buildings in villages throughout the island. In some places Cypriots who have made fortunes in Egypt or elsewhere have built and furnished schools on suitable sites in, or outside villages. But in only too many places elementary schools are in over-crowded, damp, badly lighted, badly ventilated, and often insanitary houses. Hitherto poverty has stood in the way of improvements by village efforts. But the great change, due largely to the war, which has come over the island, has quite altered the situation, and the people should be able to do much more than hitherto to remedy the defects, of which they are well aware. It is now being insisted on that some of the proceeds of rich church and monastery properties should be devoted to these educational needs instead of being largely squandered, or applied to purposes which have become an anachronism: Also it is urged that the Government Loan Fund might be more widely utilised for so desirable an object.

**The Heat.**

The heat has been oppressive. The Government

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Central Offices moved to Troödos on June 27. Already there is a large influx of visitors. Mr. Dickenson, President of the District Court, Nicosia, and Mr. Surridge Commandant of Police, have left for England; but the number of British officials going on leave this year is small. The office of Principal Forest Officer is still vacant.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Turkey and Russia.

The sixth of Mr. Arthur Ransome's articles in the *Manchester Guardian* upon "Russian Policy in the East" is devoted to an examination of the Russo-Turkish Alliance, the most interesting ingredient of which is, he says, "mutual mistrust." The Turks, as the weaker party, were at first the more eager to come to an agreement, which, however, was forced upon both Turk and Russian by the position of the Armenian and Georgian Governments, who threatened them both with intervention. But the respective policies of the two countries, the one short, the other long, differed considerably :—

Angora, of course, was not equipped with any such long distance policy as that involved in the Communist attitude towards the East. I doubt whether even to-day, it goes so far in its plans as the handful of pan-Turanian enthusiasts who are at this moment exploiting the Russo-Turkish alliance with the most decided views as to an eventual parting of the ways when Islam shall be strong enough to stand by itself. The men of Angora were faced with immediate problems. They wanted their rear guaranteed by a friendly power. And they sorely needed shells and cartridges. With these two limited objects they set about making up to Russia. They did it in a characteristic way. In notes which are models of literary ingenuity they echoed the rhythm and refrain of the notes that were issued from Moscow. They were tireless in insisting that the Anatolian movement was a movement of the "workers and peasants of Turkey." Some of their chief spokesmen expressed their belief that the "victory of Bolshevism," not in Turkey of course, but in Western Europe, was the only thing that could save the Turkish people from enslavement. Further, they said, in Turkey capital was foreign, and consequently Turkey in fighting the Sèvres Peace and the regime of Capitulations was engaged like Russia in a struggle against world capital, and therefore deserved the fullest support. What they asked for was an understanding in the East and military equipment for use in the West. They got the one, and it is extremely probable that in one way and another they received a good deal of material supplied originally by the Western Powers, material for which Denikin and Wrangel had had the temporary use.

Even now the Russian Communists have divided opinions upon the Turkish Alliance, some thinking it a frail thing that will be smashed by a reconciliation between Angora and the Entente :—

Assuming that the Allies like themselves, realised that Angora was Turkey, and seeing that the Allies did not seem to care much what happened to Armenia, they thought that the Allies would make friends with Angora, give the Turks a free hand in the Southern Caucasus, and with Turkish aid make a general attack on Russia's connections with Central Asia, repaying themselves for the expenses of such action by the seizure of Baku. The Angoran Government would make its way to respectability over the corpses of Russian Communists and would probably get nominal control of Batum.

—others urging that "every revolutionary movement in the East begins in Turkey." This party would have carried more weight if only they could have been sure that Angora could not be bought. There was yet another line of thought :—

And there was a party of Communists who, reasoning on lines which could not but appeal to Marxists, assured Moscow that it had nothing to fear, since the material interests involved were such that agreement between Angora and the Allies was out of the question. Of these Communists, Skatchko put in an admirably argued report, beginning with a brief analysis of the Sèvres Peace. He makes a list of Turkey's prospective losses and concludes "For Turkey remains only the central part of Asia Minor, deprived of its biggest commercial towns, deprived of all exits to the Mediterranean, deprived of its best Black Sea ports, Trebizond and Sanguldak, and deprived of the Bagbab railway. The part of Asia Minor left in the hands of the Turks is deprived of every chance of independent economic existence. In other words the part of Turkey which remains free politically will inevitably be enslaved by the Entente economically." That is to say that Turkey cannot agree without suicide. But what if the Allies alter the terms? Skatchko believes that this is impossible. Too much is involved. None of the Allies will give up its share except upon a mutual basis, and some will refuse to give up anything. He thinks that Mesopotamia is the key to the situation. No wholesale revision of the treaty is possible while England holds Mesopotamia, and "it is more than enough to read in the English newspapers of the significance of Mesopotamia for England—to hear that triumphal licking of lips—to understand that English Imperialism will not let this tit-bit slip from its mouth." And if England is to have Mesopotamia, she must give France Syria, Greece Smyrma, and so on and so on. Therefore the struggle between the Turks who have signed the National Pact and the Entente is one to the death, and Moscow can safely become intimate with Angora. Further until the end of the struggle with Western Europe, the Turkish influence will support in the Caucasian races a feeling friendly to Soviet Russia. And, "since the end of that struggle will be the victory of world social revolution, there will be no need to worry about any kind of national influence between Angora and the Entente."

And Mr. Ransome follows this paragraph by outlining another fear on the part of Russia which may tend to dissolve the Alliance :—

He, Skatchko, was listened to, yet the words of that last hopeful sentence of his strike a note of mistrust of a quite different kind. And if the old fear of Turkish understanding with the Allies is fading away (Angora's refusal to ratify Bekir Sami's unauthorised compromise with France contributed to remove it) this new fear is daily growing. What if the Turkish nationalist movement is successful and, covering its aims by friendly professions, extends its influence beyond the mountains of the Caucasus, beyond the Caspian, over the cotton-fields of Turkestan, up the Volga, and into the Urals? The Russians would be glad enough to play godfather to a gigantic Moslem movement which would be dangerous to the Allies, but they have no wish to suffer from it themselves. And day by day, as they were moving, readily enough towards the alliance with Turkey, the curtain was lifting on the stakes of that gamble. For the moment valuable Turkish help throughout Mohammedan Russia and in the neighbouring countries of the East from a movement which seemed risen as if by miracle to carry out for them their Eastern policy. But afterwards, supposing that the social revolution should miss its cue, and Russia be faced not by an ally turned Communist but a United Islam which by a single word spoken at evening from a minaret could halve the area of Russia during the night.?

### Palestine.

In the *Fortnightly Review* for July, Mrs. Rosita Forbes has a fascinating essay upon "Palestine," in which she touches lightly upon the country's history, and the characteristics of its chief towns. She concludes with a note upon its possible future :—

War and famine and plague lie behind her, but through them all one catches glimpses of the shepherd and the husbandman. To-day her whole future lies in the hands of those two, and the Jew loves not the country but the town. In colonies he does good work, such as wine-making near Jaffa, but Palestine cries out for the peasant who will live alone in his small grey cabin among the hills, the man who fears neither the silence of the open country nor the storms that rage over it. Wheat and barley can be grown on the high land, fruit trees can be planted on the plains, cotton can be developed in the Jordan valley.

Flocks and herds must still follow their Bedouin shepherd from pasture and pasture, but Syria is *one* land and she is an *Arab* land. From time immemorial she has only been strong when her two provinces have been united and the capital of her glory was Damascus. Science, literature, philosophy, spread from that city and seven rivers. All the great caravan routes lead to her. She is the centre of the great web of commerce which brought her goods from Egypt, the Euphrates and the sea. To-day oil from Persia and the railway from Baghdad must pass her way. She holds the lines that connect the produce of Mesopotamia and Arabia with Tripoli, Haifa, and Beyrout through them, with Europe. She is in the midst of the most fertile country in the world. A sea of vivid emerald, her miles and miles of fruit gardens divide the granary of Hauran from the desert beyond. Seven rivers lavish their prodigal waters on her favoured plain, so that on every side a new city may spread forth, with wide, new streets and modern buildings in open squares, yet never can she reach beyond the shade of her apricots and peaches, figs, olives, and vines. The Caliphate moved between Mecca, Damascus, and Baghdad, but never did it rest at Jerusalem, though the blue Mosque of Omar is the second holiest in the realm of Islam.

Jerusalem never could be a modern capital by her own natural position. Aloof on her steep mountain top, connected with the outer world only by two narrow passes, she is crushed within her old walls by the deep ravines that encompass her. She cannot spread in any direction. Already her houses are wandering up and down impracticable hills, and who tries to drive, bumps perilously from sudden climb to steep descent. No ancient caravan route went near her and no modern main line touches her. With her winter snow and her terrible summer drought, which of old drove every invading army back to the wells of the plains, she is infinitely remote from commerce and from politics, and she is neither Moslem nor Christian nor Jewish. She has neither race nor creed nor prospect of power. Outside the whirl of progress' wheel, with her narrow streets untouched and her old walls kissed by time, she will remain a pilgrim city whose only great buildings are convents and monasteries, churches and hospices—the goal of worship from East and West alike. To Damascus belong the palace and the parliament. To Jerusalem the altar and the kiba.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## AN ANGLO-INDIAN NATURALIST.

"BEAST AND MAN IN INDIA," By J. Lockwood Kipling (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1921. 7s. 6d. net.

Thirty years have elapsed since the first appearance of the late Mr. Lockwood Kipling's: "Beast and Man in India." The author's sympathy with what used to be styled the "Brute-Creation," his intimate knowledge of Indian folk-lore, and the lambent humour which shines in every page have made his work a classic. Its publication in a pocket edition will he hailed with delight by a generation which realises more keenly than its fathers did that the superior forms of life are linked in ties of kinship. Mr. Kipling's introductory chapter deals with the treatment of domesticated animals by Indians in general. He exonerates the latter from the charge of inborn cruelty so often brought against them; and ascribes their callousness to "necessity, custom, ignorance, rather than to downright brutality of intent." In point of fact the attitude oi mankfnd towards their four-footed slaves passes through three phases—barbarous insensibility, recognition of principle that animals in captivity have rights of their own, and, lastly, affection, which in this country is carried to excessive lengths. Most Indians and far too many Europeans remain in the first stage of this wholesome evolution. Our author noticed, without explaining it, the disappearance of the gigantic cranes known colloquially as "Adjutants," which haunted Calcutta in times of yore. It is due to more efficient methods of dealing with city refuse. Fifty years ago rubbish of all descriptions was thrown out to fester in streets and compounds. Under such conditions the adjutant served as a scavenger, and its wanton destruction was visited with a heavy fine. A decade or so later the local Municipality contracted for a railway which transports waste products to a vast salt lake on the city's, eastern fringe, and the adjutants have followed their food.

At p.p. 221–3 Mr. Kipling discusses the moot question of the elephant's sagacity. Evidence on this point is conflicting. Alone among domesticated animals he masters a small vocabulary of guttural sounds, and is guided solely by his mahout's voice. Again, the use of tools is commonly supposed to differentiate man from his humble relatives. But an elephant suffering from the mosquitos which penetrate the huge pores of his thick integument, puts them to flight by beating his flanks with a bough torn from the nearest tree. On the other hand, a newly-caught adult will submit to the ruling of a lad who climbs on his neck. It never occurs to him that it would be easy to remove the rash intruder with his trunk. Mr. Kipling offered no explanation of the curious fact that dead elephants are never found in the jungle over which they roam in a wild state. In his eyes the absence of their remains was "an orient mystery, dim and inscrutable." While the reviewer was stationed in the Chittagong Division of Bengal, he met an Indian who had discovered an ancient elephantine cemetery far away in the forests which bound Bengal on the north-east. The store of ivory which it yielded gave the lucky finder "wealth beyond the dreams of avarice."

"Beast and Man in India" ranks with the "History of Selborne" as a revelation of Nature's workings. It is free from the eighteenth century starchiness which renders portions of Gilbert White's immortal work somewhat heavy reading; and the author's illustrations add greatly to its charm. F.H.S.

## THE SARACENS.

"A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SARACENS.", By Ameer Ali Syed, P.C., C.I.E., L L.D., M.A. (London: Macmillan and Co. 12s. net.)

Since its first appearance, in 1899, this book has grown steadily in popular favour, and the fact that a new edition is now called for affords welcome proof that its subject has not lost its attraction for British readers. Indeed the prominent part played in the Great War by Arabia and the Arabs must have increased our interest in their history; and the author's sympathetic unfolding of the story he has to tell will do nothing to lessen our liking, or our desire to see a united Arabia restored. We cannot pretend to regard the Preface to this edition as adding to the value of the work; and apart from it, there seems to be very little difference between the first edition and this new one. We are glad to notice, however, that Louis IX is now given as the leader of the unsuccessful crusade which terminated ingloriously in Egypt with his own capture and that of many of his nobles, and which is here referred to as the Eighth Crusade. Three or four illustrations have dropped out, but they can easily be spared.

The title inevitably suggests comparison with Green's "Short History of the English People," and in point of fact it would not be at all surprising to learn that Syed Ameer Ali had to some extent modelled himself on that popular—and deservedly so—work. At all events we find certain strong resemblances in the way of treating the subject, and if we detect certain flaws in the 'Saracens,' as in the 'Short History' we also find the Eastern story full of human interest and life and colour, like Green's book. Indeed, it would take a very stupid writer to make such a story as that of the lightning rise and rapid spread of the Saracen power from anything but interesting; and Syed Ameer Ali is never dull. Sometimes, carried away by his narrative, no doubt, he indulges in a generosity of statement that may make us raise our eyebrows—as, for instance, when he writes (p. 210) that "Saffah was now the undisputed master of Asia and Egypt." But after all, such hyperbole serves only to lend the right Oriental flavour to the wonderful story; and in the main the author is a trustworthy guide. Occasionally his admiration for one character, and his desire to show it in the most favourable light seem to lead him into doing rather less than justice to others, with whom his favourite was brought into contact. Thus, in his account of the struggle between Saladin and Richard of England, his intense—and fully justified—admiration for the Moslem leader carries him so far that he appears to think that Richard achieved practically nothing; whereas, not only did Richard gain the admiration of the Saracens, but the (Third) Crusade secured the very substantial gain that Western pilgrims to Jerusalem should be exempt from the taxes previously imposed by the Saracen princes. But in this matter of 'taking sides' the History of the Saracens is by no means alone among histories. And it makes intensely interesting reading.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**
July 28 (New Style).
July 15 (Old Style).
Julkada 22, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 22, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Roper Parkington has arrived at Harrogate.

The Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Prince Paul have arrived at Vichy.

M. Jordania, President of the Georgian Republic, has arrived in Paris from London.

The Marquess Curzon received the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires at the Foreign Office on July 22.

Lady Dering had the honour of being received by the Queen on July 21.

The King has appointed Major Walter Fellows Cowen Gilchrist, C.I.E., 52nd Sikhs, to be a member of the Fourth Class of the Royal Victorian Order.

Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield are holding an "At Home" to-morrow, July 29, at 41, West-hill, Highgate, N., to meet some of his Majesty's Ministers.

Kasim Pasha Husseini and the other members of the Delegation from the Moslem and Christian Arab Congress for Palestine left Egypt for London on July 22.

Lord Oranmore and Browne and the Hon. Dominick Browne left Southampton last week in the R.M.S. Balmoral Castle for a two months' visit to South Africa.

The King received Major W. F. C. Gilchrist (Officer in Charge) and the King's Indian Orderly Officers last week, upon their return to India.

Mr. Bradley-Birt has left England to take up his new appointment as Member of the Legislative Assembly of India.


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The marriage arranged between Mr. Stephen Leggett, Public Works Department, India, and Miss Violet Sendell, of Chigwell Row, Essex, will take place at the Cathedral, Bombay, on September 3.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (July 18):—H.M. King Peter has so far recovered from his recent illness as to be able to travel, and so is leaving to take the waters at Arandjelovats.

Prince Hirohito, of Japan arrived at Port Said on July 23, on his way back to Tokyo, and was welcomed by representatives of the Sultan of Egypt, and of the British High Commissioner.

The engagement is announced between M. Marcel Coûteaux, Croix de Guerre (late Belgian Army), second son of M. Gustave Coûteaux, of Constantinople, and Phyllis Lytton, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Partington, of London.

A Reuter Berlin telegram says that the *Taegliche Rundschau* states that Dr. Ernst Hertzfeld, Professor of Oriental Archaeology at the University of Berlin, has gone to London to arrange a collection of object which he excavated at Samara.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Charles Rawdon Manders Fry, Lieutenant 2nd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, eldest son of Major-General C. I Fry, C.B., late Indian Army, and Mrs. Fry, of 28, Sackville-gardens, Hove, and Florence Magdalen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Scudamore, of Kingston, Jamacia.

The engagement is announced of Captain Charles Knowler Tester, M.C., Indian Army (16th Royal Light Infantry), only son of Mr. G. Brightling Tester and Mrs. Tester, of Maviswood, Eastbourne, and Josephine (Joyce), only daughter of the late Captain R. A. D. Rowley, Royal Irish Rifles, and Mrs. Rowley, of Clareholm, The Goffs, Eastbourne.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on October 1, at Dehra Dun, United Provinces, India, between Harold Dolphin Allan Isaac de Buriatte, of Calcutta, only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Allan Isaac de Buriatte, of Longley-road, S.W. 17, and Marion Doris, younger daughter of Lieut-Colonel J. H. S. Murray, R.E., and Mrs. Murray, of Dehra Dun and Cheltenham.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Frederick Francis Cooke (late Essex Regiment), formerly of Goorookellie, Ceylon, elder son of F. W. Cooke, Swardeston, Norfolk, and Joan Beryl, only child of James Bruce Rennie, of Galaha, Ceylon, and granddaughter of the late Captain James Rennie, C.B., Indian Navy, and of the late Sir John Hill, Bt., of St. Columbs, Londonderry.

The King received on July 23 the President and Members of the Egyptian Official Delegation, as follows Their Excellencies Sir Adly Yeghen Pasha, Prime Minister; Sir Hussein Rushdi Pasha, Vice-President of the Council and Ex-Prime Minister; Ismail Sidky Pasha, Minister of Finance; Mohammed Shafik Pasha, Minister of Public Works; Ahmed Talaat Pasha, President Court of Appeal and Ex-Minister; and Youssef Soliman Pasha Ex-Minister,

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Our Bucharest Correspondent writes :—Their Majesties the King and Queen left this week for Brassov, to be present at the solemnity of the unveiling of the Monument erected to the memory of the fallen warriors buried in the new cemetery of that town. The departure for France of the Royal Family has been fixed for July 15. The King going to Bagnolles to take the waters for a month, and the Queen and Princess Ileana to St. Brienc, in Britanny; the Sovereigns will spend a few days in Paris.

Mr. David Davies, M.P., gave a dinner at the Carlton Hotel last week to a number of prominent Indians now in London, in order that they might have an opportunity of meeting members of the Overseas Committee of the League of Nations Union and others interested in the League of Nations. Among those present were the Right Hon. George Barnes, M.P., Sir M. Bhownaggree, Major the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., Mr. M. Jinnah, Sahebzada Aftab A. Khan, Major-General Sir F. Maurice, Sir C. Sankaran Nair, Sir N. Sircar, and Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P.

A Reuter Message from Simla stated :—The Mount Everest Expedition arrived at Tingri on June 19. All the members of the party were well except Mr. Harold Raeburn, who has been invalided and sent back to Sikkim. The mountaineers are now exploring the North West approaches to Mount Everest. The remaining members of the expedition are engaged in short scientific excursions to the West. Some 4,500 square miles of new country have already been surveyed, but the setting in of the monsoons is hampering these operations.

## APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha to be a member of the Executive Council of Bihar and Orissa, in succession to the late Rai Bahadur Krishna Sahai.

The King has been pleased to appoint Mr. Arthur Herbert Cuming, Indian Civil Service, to be a Puisne Judge of the Calcutta High Court, in succession to Mr. C. P. Beatchcroft, Indian Civil Service, who is retiring fron the bench.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Colonel Charles Verelst Verelst, at the age of seventy-one. In 1869 he joined the 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars as cornet, and served continuously with the regiment in India and elsewhere.

The death is announced of Mr. C. J. Wills, a prominent engineer. Among the public works conducted by him and his firm were the Famagusta Harbour Works in Cyprus, the new breakwater at Port Said, and the new docks in Bombay.

The death is announced, at the age of fifty, of Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Synge, C.I.E., D.S.O., an officer in the Indian Army Supply and Transport Corps. He returned home on leave last December from active service in East Persia, where he had been Assistant Director of Supply and Transport on an 800-mile line of communication over deserts and mountains and many difficult places. He contracted there the illness from which he died. He served in the Tirah and Tibet expeditions in 1897 and 1904, and the Abor Expedition of 1911. In East Persia he was on active service for two years and was awarded the C.I.E. He was known under the *nom de plume* of "Powell Millington" as a writer of stories of life in India. He wrote "To Lhassa at Last," "On the Track of the Abor," and other books. For the Indian Government he wrote officially on economics and subjects helpful to the S. and T. Corps.

Major-General Henry Blackwood MacCall died last week after a long illness. He was born in 1845, and entered the Army in 1864. He commanded the 1st Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps in the Isazia Expedition in 1892, and also served with the Chitral Relief Force in 1895, where his work earned him a mention in despatches and the C.B. He was afterwards D.A.G. of the Punjab Forces and of a Second Class District in India, and was given the command of a division in 1915.

Lady Collins, widow of Sir Arthur Collins, K.C., late Chief Justice of Madras, died suddenly on July 20. at 83, Madrid-road, Barnes.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes :—An interestin veteran champion of the Yugoslav idea has recently passed away at Dubrovnik in the person of Dr. Pero Chingria, in the 84th year of his age. Always a prominent townsman, he has persistently declined to accept any Austrian decorations. He always looked to the eventual union, and prayed that he might live to see it. He is closely associated with the movement for the collaboration of Croats and Serbs. He was for many years prefect of his native town, Dubrovnik, the beautiful, and maintained a perfectly correct attitude even during the difficult days of the war. The break up of Austria rejuvenated him, and he assumed the chairmanship of the National Council and was rewarded by seeing the arrival of victorious Serbian troops at Dubrovnik in 1918. Finally, to crown his lifelong refusal of decorations from Vienna, he accepted with gratitude and enthusiasm the Order of St. Sava from the Regent, which was a token of recognition of his life's struggle for the cause of Yugoslavia.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes :—The following have been appointed as viceroys, in place of the former local governors and Ban, respectively in Liubliana, Serajevo and Zagreb. At Liubliana, M. Ivan Hribar, hitherto Minister at Prague, at Serajevo, M. Giurgevitch, and at Zagreb, M. Juraj Demetrovitch.

M. Pantscho Doreff has taken up his duties as Counsellor to the Bulgarian Legation in London.

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1921.


## THE STATUS OF EGYPT.

When a year ago an agreement was reached between an Egyptian Delegation and Lord Milner's Mission regarding the outlines of a policy for the settlement of the Egyptian question, it was confidently hoped that the work of drafting the treaty that it was then proposed should define the relations between Great Britain and Egypt would prove comparatively simple and straightforward. Much, however, has happened in Egypt since August 1920. Strictly speaking the memorandum to which both parties gave their assent in London has been annulled by the action of Zaghloul Pasha, who has broken his undertaking to support the policy therein outlined. But the good sense of the more enlightened section of Egyptian public opinion has prevailed against the unbalanced egotism of Zaghloul Pasha, and a Government Mission under the Prime Minister, Adly Yeghen Pasha, has arrived in England to negotiate the treaty that is to be the charter of Egypt's independence and to formulate the terms of her alliance with Great Britain. Partly as a result of the action of the Egyptian extremists and partly owing to the further consideration that has been given to the subject in both countries, not only has some of the old ground traversed in last year's discussion to be covered again, but fresh points have arisen. In a sense, therefore, the negotiations start *de novo*, but under a distinct indebtedness to Lord Milner inasmuch as both sides are convinced that complete agreement can and must be reached, and they can lay all their cards on the table in the knowledge that neither has any interest in disguising from the other the difficulties lying in the way of an agreement.

The British and Egyptian points of view, while in no particular antagonistic, are sufficiently wide apart to render protracted negotiations necessary, the more so as the present time finds the British Government occupied with other important matters—the Irish negotiations, the Near Eastern situation, and the Imperial Conference. It is to be hoped, therefore, that in spite of the advanced season of the year both parties will equip themselves with a large stock of patience, while actuated by a desire to draft a detailed agreement with all possible despatch. On the Egyptian side the questions that exercise the minds of Adly Pasha's delegation are: (1) the precise formula which will reconcile Egypt's independence with the special relations binding her to Great Britain both in her own interests and for the sake of British interests; (2) the maintenance of a British military force on Egyptian soil; (3) the powers of the British Financial and Judicial Advisers; (4) Egypt's relationship to the Sudan in view of her dependence on the Nile with its head waters and irrigation works controlled in the Sudan. The attitude of the Egyptian extremists is simple, but it is entirely impossible. They stand for an independence which would not admit Great Britain's peculiar relationship to Egypt, they would have all British troops removed at once, the British Financial and Judicial Advisers, if tolerated at all, would be reduced to more figure-heads, and they would like to see the Sudan administered from Cairo as a province of Egypt. The main difficulty of the Egyptian Delegation now in London arises from the fact that it does not feel strong enough to ignore the extremists altogether; it still hopes to find a solution that will meet to the extent of silencing, if not actually placating, the noisy adherents of Zaghloul Pasha. No doubt, the position of the Egyptian Government is a difficult one, but sooner or later it must decide whether there is any possibility of bridging the gap that divides the political intelligence for which it stands, and on which the future of Egypt must rely, from the folly and irresponsibility characterising the group now associated with the name of Zaghloul Pasha. We are inclined to think that the extremist and the moderate points of view are irreconcilable, and that the only goal which Adly Pasha's Delegation should aim at is to secure the terms which are demonstrably in the lasting interests of Egypt, no matter what views Zaghloul Pasha's faction may express. If a trial of strength has to take place, the sooner it is over the better. Adly Pasha's position has been materially strengthened of late, and the courageous defence of a treaty which offers a reasonable safeguard for Egypt's real interests could not fail to win him further support. One thing is certain, the stronger an Egyptian Prime Minister shows himself in advocating the right course and in opposing clamour on behalf of a wrong policy, the better the terms—from his point of view—that he is likely to secure from the British Government.

There are no subtle reservations in Great Britain's policy towards Egypt. She takes her stand on a number of clearly enunciated postulates: that Egypt must remain a strong link in the chain of her Imperial communications, that the British obligation to safeguard the lives, property, and interests of foreigners in the country must be honoured, and that two generations of British achievement in the country shall not be undone at this stage by the deliberate throwing of Egyptian affairs into the melting-pot. Great Britain is actuated by a keen desire for peaceful and friendly relations with Egypt, and she has no wish for any form of interference with the independence of the country that is unconnected with those three postulates. If the first is held to clash with complete independence, Egypt must reconcile herself to the encroachment; and she can rest assured that the more readily she accepts such restrictions as may be considered necessary the less she will feel them. The second and third postulates are entirely relative to Egypt's own capacity for self-government. It is of no use to claim, as the extremists do, that the whole art of self-government has been mastered in a day by the Egyptians. There is no proof in support of the statement, and the indications are all against its accuracy. On the other hand, the capacity for self government can be acquired and perfected only by practice. The recognition of this fact was the basis of the "Milner Agreement." It is just as stupid on the part of the Zaghloulists to insist upon the withdrawal of the British troops before Egypt has an adequate force of her own to take their place as it is to require that every British official should be withdrawn at once from the Egyptian Administration. Given the necessary good will on each side—we contend that it exists to the full on the British side—it should be a matter of a few years only before Egypt is able to gratify her aspirations. The whole trend of British thought points that way, and Egypt has but to prove herself capable of managing her own affairs. It matters not that Great Britain may seem to-day the sole arbiter of the Egyptians' future achievements; when the time comes they will be able to appeal to a larger tribunal. In regard to a British garrison it is natural that Great Britain should wish to be on the safe side; but there is no reason why the question should not be reviewed after, say, three years. On the subject of the Sudan the Egyptians must accustom themselves to the fact that their only safeguard lies in the community of interests between Great Britain and Egypt. On the day when they decide to antagonise their Ally they will have started to dig their own graves and the dry bed of the Nile will prove as convenient for a cemetery as any other spot. But there is no need for that day ever to arrive.. Good sense and statesmanship can evolve a Treaty of Alliance satisfactory to both countries.

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## FROM AN ADRIATIC DIARY.

*By William Ransted Berry.*

(Conclusion)

Bari, Feb. 17.

The captain is right; his melancholy justified.

We are one of but three ships tied up inside the breakwater, and their combined discharge of cargo could be carried in a Thames wherry. On the other hand, I personally felt encouraged when I saw about fifty barrels being put aboard the Dalmatia, for here at least, I thought, was a straw to show how the wind was coming up in the olive oil trade. Not so the captain. His eyes grew stony as he watched a barrel bounce light-heartedly on the floor of the hold. "Empty!" he snorted, and strode away to some far place where, like Achilles in his tent, he sulked what time winches rattled and barrels bounced.

A diverting accompaniment to the process of coaxing the Dalmatia to consent to be laid alongside the breakwater was provided by the evolutions of what appeared to be a boy's nautical school very much at sea in a many-oared barge or whale boat. There was a bearded man at the helm, evidently the instructor, and some ten boys having each an oar, which alternately smote them in the chest when they failed to catch the water—there was quite a little sea—or became entangled with other oars flourished by their owners through an angle of forty-five degrees. But it was not so much the seamanship of the school that intrigued me as it was its faculty of being always where it was not wanted. Did we move forward; the school escaped being cut in two by a hair's breadth. Did we go astern; as by a miracle the school darted from underneath the rudder and was helplessly swept away in the eddying backrush from the screw. Did a hawser suddenly sag; the school was under it and struggled with its dripping coils as do Laocoon and his two sons with clinging serpents; or did we draw close to the quay, broadside on; there was the school waiting to be crushed like an egg-shell, and shot to safety, it seemed, only by the driving quality of our captain's voice. And during these manoeuvres picture the instructor, standing in the stern, bland and eloquent, pointing out the meaning of each movement as we made it, describing every plate and barnacle as his gunwale ground against our iron side, oblivious quite of such a minor theme as danger and as unaware of the leather lungs of our entire company as if he had been deaf—which perhaps he was.

At dinner the captain was a different man. No grig could have looked happier than he when he thrust under my nose a local newspaper and bade me read what Bari had in store for us—which I could not with any proper understanding, for "that soft bastard tongue" which Byron described as "writ on satin," is almost stilled and meaningless to me. Yet I gathered that opera was toward, and thither we went, three ship's officers and I in a bucaneering victoria of the "cruiser" type, lurching over the ill-paved streets of Bari old-town like a Flying Dutchman in half a gale of wind.

The old town looked indeed very old. In fact, judging by its smell I thought it might be dead. But there was considerable movement in its narrow antique streets, and fish stalls all aglow with petrol flares—a reminder of Horace's remark that this is the part of the Adriatic where fish do most abound—were preparing to furnish after-theatre suppers to the patrons of hole-in-the-wall kinemas.

Bari new town is, of course, a horse of quite another colour. Broad boulevards and any amount of plate glass indicate the modern taste, as does a white and surprisingly large opera house which confronted us with enormous placards announcing "Il Forsa del Destino." Hereupon the captain's eyes glittered as with the light of madness. He clutched our arms, as many as he could, and proclaimed that forthwith we would take a box—"and devil take expense, Sapristi!" And so indeed it fell out. But not quite at once, for there is a quaint Italian custom whereby the opera or theatre-goer first buys a ticket of admission at the box office and then, and only then, may purchase from an individual stationed in the lobby the reserved seat he prefers. The system is cumbersome and most annoying if there is a crowd, but—"it has always been the custom, signor, so," with a shrug and snapping fingers, "what would you?"

My recollections of the opera remain somewhat confused by certain features furnished gratis by the audience and others, yet I remember that the orchestra was excellent, the *prima donna* and chorus good, but that the tenor was almost inarticulate in a piping crow like escaping steam. I cannot but remember too that every important aria was punctuated by stentorian "bravas" or fierce hissing demands for silence; that infants in arms were constantly crying or receiving nourishment in various parts of the house; that the prompter's voice was often considerably stronger than the singer's; that a telephone in a stage box rang intermittently or was spoken into by a portly gentleman whose voice could be distinctly heard above the music, and finally, that a stage setting representing the rural encampment of an army was well accepted by the audience in spite of two gigantic marble columns and a portion of the cieling of a great hall which remained inadvertently in the foreground as a legacy from a previous scene.

## WATERS OF BABYLON.

*By "Majnun."*

All day there had been a strong wind blowing from the north; the palm-trees rippled and shuddered and turned their heads from the whistling gusts, while fleecy clouds shot up over the horizon to race madly across the sky, flinging icy showers at the earth. But at last the storm blew itself out, in that backwater of day between afternoon and evening, and a peace, which at first seemed very still and voiceless after the rushing wind, fell upon desert and river. The water, no longer slashing at the banks, glided smoothly and untroubled, deep green in the shadows where the reeds trembled against the blue sky, and in midstream sunlit and sparkling.

Under such conditions the river is really beautiful. These are "The waters of Babylon, where we sat down and wept"; is it possible to believe that the saddest and most beautiful of all exiles' songs, with its slow and solemn cadences of thought, can have been conceived beside some rushing, wind-tortured stream? Rather it was on some such evening as this when peace after the storm, sunlight after rain, and a calm restored to the world, bring to the mind of man quiet associations of their own. And if he be an exile, they will cause him to remember all that he holds most dear.

GUARANTEED
WHITE HORSE
WHISKY

BY APPOINTMENT.
PURE SCOTCH

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Here the peace which had seemed voiceless after the storm found expression in small sounds hardly distinguishable from stillness, and not disturbing; gradually they made themselves heard as the voice, the words of Peace itself.

Up in a palm tree a dove fluttered and that glint of grey feathers roused me to the gentle cooing which sounded from the surrounding trees; a rook hopping stiffly along the bank brought to my ears the far off cawing of his brothers who flew high over head. Other sounds unravelled themselves from the silence—the "plop" of diving kingfishers, the miniature rush and flutter as the hawking swallows turned short over the water, and then another sound and sight—those missing words from the sentence which the voice had been striving to complete. For under the bank, ten yards upstream, a widening ring spread on the calm water and the sound of a satisfied gulp reached my ears, then another and another. The fish were rising.

As if by magic the alien palm-trees vanished. There remained the cawing of the rooks, the doves' croon, the swallows wheeling above clear water, and the ripple and gulp of the feeding fish. The sentence was complete,—"Maytime in England."

Some evenings later, when it had grown too dark to see anything of the river, except the dazzling reflection of the stars, I reeled up and turned back to camp very grateful to some little silver fish that had done more than give an evening's sport. For they had brought memories of green fields, deep with buttercups and evenings full of the scent of may. Memories of taut lines and the rush of good trout, of joys and disappointments, and of stories told in the back room of a little Cotswold Inn over beef and beer, by the light of an English sunset. And that counted for much besides the Waters of Babylon.

## NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

### House of Commons.

July 18.—The Prime Minister informed Viscount Curzon that information had been received that Afium-Karahissar had been occupied by the Greek Army.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Mills that the Egyptian Government had exiled Prince Aziz Hassan, as they considered it necessary in the interests of public security in view of the leading part he had been taking in mischievous political agitation.

July 19.—Mr. Montagu informed Sir J. D. Rees that the recent disturbances at Aligarh (the seat of the principal Mohammedan Univerity in India) arose out of the trial of a political agitator named Malkham Singh. It would appear quite clear that attacks in the city were directed mainly against the Indian police. No attacks were made on the houses of Europeans; one constable was killed and three dangerously wounded. It is not clear whether any rioters were killed, but a number was wounded. The Mohammedan University was not affected, and so far as is known, no students took part in the disturbances.

Major Steel asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what was the population of Bethlehem and how many of the inhabitants have emigrated during the past 10 years; and whether any who have emigrated during that period have returned? Mr. Wood replied that the population of Bethlehem is believed to be about 14,000. During the past 10 years about 4,500 persons emigrated from that place and only 393 returned to it. During the last two years the figures are 245 emigrated, 35 returned and 185 emigrated, 65 returned.

In answer to further questions by Major Steel, Mr. Wood stated that there are three official languages in Palestine, English, Arabic and Hebrew. The knowledge of Hebrew is not a necessary qualification for employment in the Government service. The total number of Government officials and servants in Palestine is 2,571, of whom 1,338 are Christians, 719 Moslems, and 514 Jews.

July 20.—Mr. Swan asked the Under Secretary for Foreign affairs whether 2,250,000 of the inhabitants of Egypt have signed declarations in support of the policy of Zaghloul Pasha, and if so, whether His Majesty's Government proposes to continue negotiations in regard to the future of Egypt with the delegation under Adly Pasha. Mr. Harmsworth replied he had no such information; on the other hand a member of the Egyptian Legislative Assembly in a letter published in the local press has pointed out that while the total population of Egypt is 14,000,000 over 17,500,000 signatures purporting to be those of adult males have already been affixed to declaration of confidence or lack of confidence in the Ministry of Adly Pasha. The reply to the latter part of the question is in the affirmative.

Colonel Nall asked the Secretary of State for war what is the size of the garrison in Palestine. Sir L. Worthington Evans replied that the strength of the garrison in Palestine on June 30 was approximately 7,200. This figure does not include Egyptian troops temporarily employed on works, police, and transport duties, and Indian followers (who are not generally classed troops). The estimated cost of the garrison is now at the rate of about £2,500,000 a year, exclusive of any expenditure in respect of capital works services

July 21.—Sir Robert Horne informed Mr. Alfred T. Davies that the total military expenditure incurred by the British Exchequer in respect of Persia between April 1, 1918, and March 31, 1921, is estimated at £39,000,000, but the final incidence of tnis expenditure as between Army votes and Indian funds is still under discussion. Expenditure in Persia other than military during the same period incurred by the British Foreign Office and the Indian Government amounts approximately to £6,500,000 and £6,000,000 respectively, but certain comparatively minor adjustments as between Foreign Office and Indian Funds in respect of this expenditure remain to be made. The total sum, therefore, spent in Persia during the last three years is £51,500,000.

## JEWS IN FAR-OFF LANDS.

"Jews in Far-Off Lands" was the subject of a very interesting descriptive lecture given by Mr. Israel Cohen on July 19 at the South Place Institute, Moorfields, narrating his recent travels in the East on behalf of the Zionist movement. The lecture, which was illustrated by lantern slides prepared from photographs taken by the lecturer on his tour through Palestine, India, Australia, New Zealand, China, Manchuria, Japan, the Phillipines Straits Settlements and Japan, was given under the auspices of the English Zionist Federation in aid of its Propaganda Fund.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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**Trade with Roumania.**

It is a difficult task in these days to persuade some British firms that trade with the Near East is worth their attention so long as abnormal conditions continue. I hope that those who are of this opinion will take careful note of Viscount Goschen's remarks at the annual meeting of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce. Pointing to the fact that British trade with Roumania during the past year had been much greater than in previous years despite exchange fluctuations, the disorganisation of transport, and falling prices in this country he stated that Roumania had clearly shown during this period of depression that she has a great capacity for absorbing our goods. He was further able to make the encouraging statement that payments had been on a considerable scale, and generally speaking had been made in a satisfactory manner.

**The Export Credits Scheme.**

It is satisfactory to know that increasing use of the export credits scheme is being made in connection with business with Roumania. In the most favourable circumstances a long time must elapse before the leu is established at a level which will permit of normal trade, and without the use of this medium it would be out of the question to look for that development of our commercial relations with Roumania which is to be desired in the interests of both countries. Viscount Goschen was very hopeful as to the immediate outlook. Marked progress has been made in the re-organisation of transport, the large stocks of merchandise are being liquidated, and the harvest prospects are excellent. It is estimated, I understand, that there will be a large surplus available for export, and that, of course, will react on the exchange, an improvement in which will bring about a renewal of buying.

**Yugoslav Currency Regulations.**

Further alterations are made in the Yugoslav currency regulations by a recently issued decree which provides that the import and transit of coin and paper currency is free though the Ministry of Finance reserves the right to prohibit the entry of certain currencies and to regulate the transit of currency. The export of gold and silver coin and of more than 2,000 dinars and of dollars is prohibited. Only authorised banking establishments may sell exchange, and the buyer must guarantee to import within six months goods to the value of the exchange purchased from the country whose exchange has been purchased. Where foreign exchange is required for personal needs authorised banks may sell up to the value of 2,000 French francs without a permit. The State reserves to itself the right to buy from exporters, through the National Bank up to one-third of the amount of foreign exchange acquired in payment for exports.

**Egyptian Cotton Freights.—**

If the attitude taken up by the United States over the Mescpotamia oilfields was absurd what can be said of the controversy now going on with regard to the shipment of the Egyptian cotton crop? As is well-known, a contract is made each year by the exporters for the shipment of the cotton to the United Kingdom and America, one of the conditions being that freightage must be available at regular intervals. Up to the present time the contract has always been obtained by the Liverpool Conference Lines, which alone have had regular services from Alexandria to the United Kingdom and America. Last year however, the United States Shipping Board, having extended its services to the Mediterranean, requested permission to tender, but its tender was higher than that of the Liverpool Conference Lines. Now no one objects to competition on normal lines, and if the American Shipping Board had followed its early policy there could have been no ground for complaint. But that is not what happened.

**—and the U.S. Shipping Board.**

This year a combined tender and also separate tenders to the two countries were asked for by the Alexandria General Produce Association, which deals with the contract, and again the Shipping Board was a competitor. The Liverpool Conference Lines quoted 60s. and 40s. to the United States, and the United Kingdom respectively, the rates to apply as regards the unexpired part of the old contract, while the Shipping Board's quotations were 40s. and 25s. As it was impossible to compare these contracts, the Liverpool Conference Lines were asked to tender again, and they quoted 40s. and 30s. The Association recommended that this tender should be accepted, and a day after they had taken this step a further tender arrived from the Shipping Board of 35s. to the United States, but by the time this had been received 90 per cent. of the exporters had accepted the Liverpool Conference Lines' tender.

**The American Attitude.**

The Shipping Board found occasion for a number of complaints. They urged that their second offer should have been waited for, they alleged undue pressure to make the exporters accept the Liverpool Lines offer, and they further complained that there was an unfair clause in the agreement made between the agents of the Liverpool Lines and the exporters. Naturally they obtained no satisfaction, and the next step was the

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intimation that if the contract stood the Jones Act would be put into force by the United States Government, enabling the refusal of the right of entry to American ports of any ship or ships. The position now is that the matter is being dealt with between the Foreign Office and Washington.

### Method or Opportunism.

In the case of the Mesopotamian oilfields it was possible to make the excuse for the United States that the position was not clearly grasped, but as regards the cotton freights no such interpretation is feasible, and one is left to the painful conclusion that there is a movement in America literally to seize trade by any expedients that present themselves. What do we find in this instance? An American combine is beaten in an open tender, and forthwith invokes the aid of its Government. Now the adjudication was made by a body which numbers but few English representatives among its members, and the 5s. difference between the tenders is far more than accounted for by the additional charges that would be entailed in the use of American ships in respect of insurance, dock facilities, etc. Where then was the Americans' grievance? Painful as it is to us the controversy has its humorous side. Had they secured the contract the Americans could scarcely have carried it out!

### The Constantinople Market.

The present position at Constantinople is described this week by our Correspondent, and from what he says it will be seen that things could hardly be worse there than they are. Commerce in the sense that it is generally understood is so precarious that it is almost out of the question, and merchants have even taken to dealing in exchange as a less hazardous method of earning a livelihood! As our Correspondent points out, it is hopeless to look for any improvement until Constantinople regains access to its markets, and unless that takes place soon it is to be feared that the results must be very serious since as a result of the prolonged and unprecedented depression even some of the more substantial houses are beginning to be affected.

### Bank of British West Africa.

At the general meeting of the Bank of British West Africa, the chairman, Lord Selborne, dealt at some length with the difficult trade conditions experienced in 1920. As I pointed out last week the effects of the trade depression have been particularly severe in the regions covered by this bank, and it is not surprising that the result should have been considerable embarrassment among the small traders. It is satisfactory to note Lord Selborne's view that the worst has been passed. He refused to prophesy regarding the future, pointing out that many factors have to be reckoned with, including not only the inevitable depression following the artificial prosperity which succeeded any war, but the slow restarting of the international machinery of credit and transport. We had yet to see, added Lord Selborne, real peace established throughout Europe, and at home a better understanding between classes whose real permanent interests were identical and not separate. Where these objects were attained we should see international trade once more established upon sound lines.

COMMENTATOR.

## COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

### Manchester Report.

(From our own Correspondent).

Manchester, Saturday.

We have experienced a quiet week and there has been a noticeable falling off in cloth inquiry with regard to India. The prospects of the market are exceedingly bright and there is every evidence that a period of renewed activity will shortly commence. In the cloth section no special feature has presented itself in connection with Egypt and the other outlets of the Mediterranean and only day to day buying has taken place Recent advices from Egypt however are a little more favourable. With regard to Egyptian yarn, prices for finer qualities have remained steady, but there has been a tendency for quotations for the lower counts to ease slightly. The spinning mills are now running full time and as the offtake in yarns has only been comparatively small it is only reasonable that spinners should give a little ground. Cloth inquiry for India has not been at all satisfactory and only occasional sales have taken place. Bids for China have been better but there is yet a lot of leeway to be made up. Recent reports received from that outlet show that stocks are gradually being liquidated. Encouraging sales in a variety of goods have taken place for Java and Singapore. The rate of exchange is decidedly against any developments in trade with South America. Users of American yarns have only bought sparingly, but prices on the whole have been fairly steady.

### Textile Machinery in Demand.

Lancashire makers of textile machinery continue to experience a keen demand for their products, chiefly from firms in India, although buyers in France and Japan have booked extensive contracts as well. The official statistics of exports from the United Kingdom of textile machinery show that for the first half of 1913 the shipments from this country amounted to 88,082 tons, and the figure for the first six months of this year is 79,202 tons, equal to 90 per cent of the 1913 half-yearly total. The exports of cotton yarns and piece goods for the first half of this year, so far as quantities are concerned, are only about 48 per cent., and 34 per cent. respectively of the totals for the first half of 1913.

### LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 21 :—.

The improved enquiry has been well maintained during the past week, and once again it has been of a general character, practically all Egyptian growths having claimed their share of attention at one time or another. Prices here and there have become somewhat irregular, and one is being constantly surprised by the cheap cotton which is on offer here. On the other hand, the recent sharp rise in the Alexandria futures market proved detrimental to those brokers whose stocks of cotton were based on that market, and prevented them from making any headway. The majority of spinners are working just now on a very narrow margin—some on no margin at all—and under the circumstances it is folly to expect them to rush in and support prices (as many people seem to do) every time the Alexandria market gives way to an hysterical outburst. The whole truth of the matter is that the spinner of this year is working for his bare bread-and-butter, and he cannot afford to pay fancy prices for his cotton when he knows that he may quite likely have to sell his yarns at a loss. It is an open secret that many spinners, finding the cost of their accustomed marks to be prohibitive, are looking in the open market for cheap outsiders, which can be "mixed in," and so reduce the cost of production The spinner is being forced to experiment and these experiments may well produce far-reaching results. It is surely a phase worth considering. Business in Manchester, whilst steady, seems slow in maturing and in certain quarters a fear is expressed that the Egyptian mills will run to over-production now that short time restrictions have been removed. Be that as it may, there certainly is more doing and a healthier tone is apparent all round. Rather more c.i.f. business has taken place. Quotations of Sakellaridis, good and above are reduced 50 points; those of upper, fair to good, are raised 50 points, and all quotations of brown are raised 50 points on the week. Sales, 1,700 (including 70 bales Sudan) Fully good fair Sakel, 16,50d.

Attempts are being made to improve the varieties of grape now grown in Ceylon, and to increase the acreage under viticulture.

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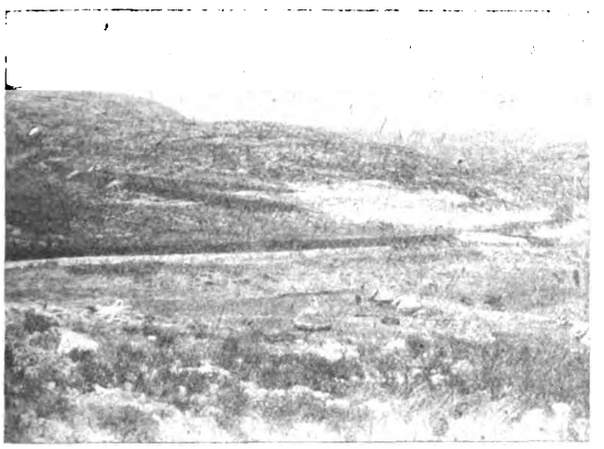
## THE PALESTINE RAILWAYS.

### Kantara—Haifa—Jerusalem.

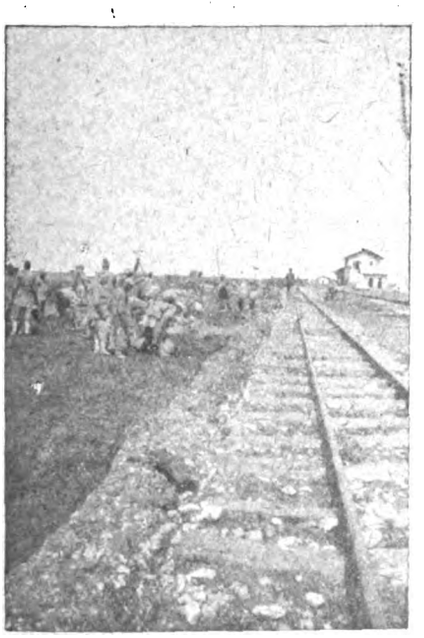
A correspondent sends us the following notes and photographs in connection with the Palestine railways:—

The history of the Palestine Railway—broad gauge from Kantara on the Suez Canal to Haifa and Jerusalem—is rather interesting especially to those contemplating business relations with Syria and Palestine, and the Near East Ports. The early part of 1916 saw the Egyptian Expeditionary Force about to embark upon an expedition with only crude means of transport—camels—a very few at that, and it was decided with the co-operation of the Egyptian State Railways, and the Railway Operative Division (R.O.D. R.E.) to build a railway to feed the force and maintain its supply column.



A station formation completed on the side of a hill.

With the assistance of the Egyptian Army Redeifs—(Reservists) the Egyptian Labour Corps, and the R.O.D. R.E. a start was made from Kantara in March, 1916. Sleepers, rails, and material of all kinds with rolling stock were imported from all parts, and by July 1916 Romani was reached, 40 kilos away, and the railhead was formed for the battle of Romani. All excavations were made by the Labour Corps and rail laying and maintenance was carried out by the Egyptian Army and R.E.'s.

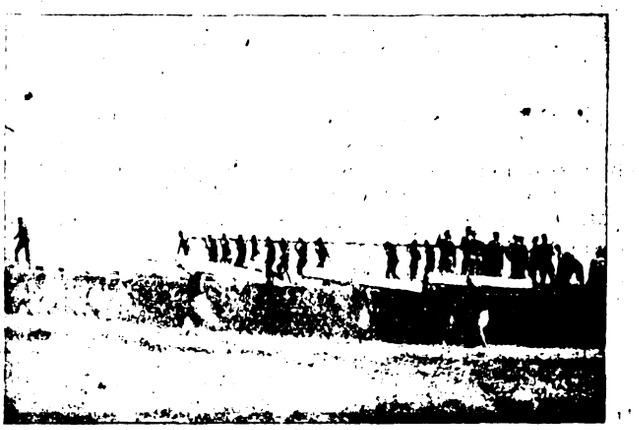


Laying sleepers and rails.

From Romani to El Arish and Rafa few difficulties were encountered, and the work was carried out at a good pace, Rafa being reached by February, 1917 (201 kilos)—practically 126 miles of formation made, and rails laid in less than a year. It was really good work considering that a stay of a month was made at Romani, and of a fortnight at El Arish. Rafa was made a junction, and a branch line was run out to Shellal, and on to Beersheba, and the main line was continued to Belah on the coast.

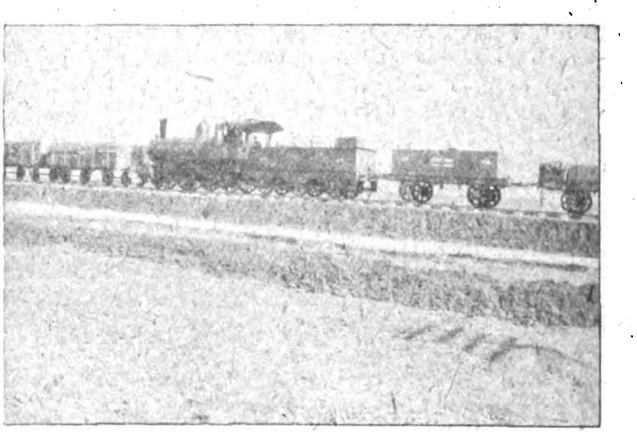
At Belah a base was made from which to carry out operations against Gaza, and a dummy station made at the Wadi Guzzi. The earthwork party then returned to Kantara, and started on maintenance and packing, and on the commencement of the double track. By October, 1917, this was completed, and the line doubled to Rafa.

Following the battle of Gaza in November, the line in single track was carried on without delay to Ludd, 302 (kilos), where a large station was built, and marshalling sidings and depots were constructed. From Ludd a further branch line was started to Jerusalem via the Junction Station and the old Turkish track from



Gang of Native Labourers.

Jaffa to Jerusalem. The old Turkish track from Jaffa to the Junction Station and thence to Beersheba was reconstructed, and the Turkish Narrow Gauge to Tul Keram was put in order, the broad gauge line being carried on to Wilhelm—a Jewish and German farming village. From just north of Ludd a small narrow gauge line was carried out to Rentis and the Hills, and a further narrow gauge from Jerusalem to just below Nablous. Following General Allenby's last big push, the broad gauge was carried on to Tul Keram, and then coastwards to Ceasarea and Haifa (364 Kilos); and the Turkish line to Nablous, Afule, Haifa, Beisan, and Semakh was repaired and in some places practically relaid. From this short *resumé* it will be seen that Palestine is fairly well supplied with railways. The formation



A Goods Train.

from Kantara to Gaza except from Belah and the Wadi Guzzi, is practically sandy soil, and produces next to nothing except isolated date palms, and a few water melons. From the Wadi Guzzi the soils are mostly good black earth covered in some places with a fine layer of sand, which rather seems to enhance the producing properties of the earth. Good crops are general, and with modern farming machinery and more Jewish colonies, Palestine should soon rank amongst the richest of the world's producers, instead of merely providing enough for its own needs.

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## GREECE.

ATHENS, July 2.

**Miscellaneous.**

A telegram has been received from Rethymo, Crete, stating that the heavy rains which fell recently caused much damage to the vines in that region.

The inspector of agriculture in the province of Arcadia has reported to the Ministry of Agriculture that owing to the continuous cold weather prevailing there the gathering of fruit will be delayed.

Much attention has been paid lately to silkworm rearing in Thrace, and the quality of this year's cocoons is said to be very fair. It is estimated that the number of cocoons produced in the whole of Thrace this year will reach 600,000 kilograms which should realise a price of about 8 drachmae per kilo.

Athens, July 12.

**Imports of Timber.**

Very large quantities of timber for building purposes have been imported into Greece since the Armistice in view of the construction of many new buildings by the numerous persons who have made big fortunes during the war, and who have now come to the conclusion that the best way to invest their money is by building houses with it.

Whereas prior to to the war Greece imported all her timber from Austria, Roumania, Sweden and, in small quantities, from Turkey, during and after the war many orders were placed in the United States of America. The quantity of timber imported from America during 1920 represented one-eighth of the total imports. Since December last, however, imports of timber from the United States have diminished to some extent owing to the high rate of exchange. Importers of timber in Athens are of the opinion that very large quantities will be required in this country in the near future for building purposes. Recent statistics show that during 1920 only 1,700 houses were constructed in Athens, whilst it is estimated that the number of new houses during the current year will exceed 2,000. These figures do not nearly represent the actual needs of the Greek capital which in view of its continually increasing population (at present over 300,000) requires at least 5,000 new houses every year.

In 1920 100,000 cubic metres of timber were imported from America, Sweden, and Roumania. Importers much prefer the American pitch pine wood and the Swedish fir wood to the Roumanian timber which is considered inferior. No Austrian timber has been imported lately owing to its high price. Whereas prices in America and Sweden have been reduced considerably of late, Austrian timber continues to be unattainable.

Prices of timber c.i.f. Piraeus are to-day as follows:—American (pitch pine) about 800 drachmae per cubic metre. Roumanian timber (fir and pine), 320-380 drachmae per cubic metre. Swedish timber 400-420 drachmae per cubic metre. Small quantities of timber are also imported from Yugoslavia at a price of 300-320-380 drachmae per cubic metre. The net profit of the Greek timber importers on the above prices is estimated at about 15-20 per cent. It should be pointed out that there are large stocks of Swedish timber on the Greek market at present, but this was considered insufficient in view of the numerous new buildings which, it is anticipated, will be erected in the near future.

**Discovery of Petrol.**

Well boring operations which have taken place in many parts of the country have revealed the presence of petrol in considerable quantities. In Epirus, near the village of Dragopsas, at a distance of a few kilometres from Janina, the petrol found is reported to be plentiful. Wells are being bored in that district by the "Syndicat Franco-Hellenique des Petroles" under the direction of M. Nicolescu, a mining engineer. This syndicate, whose central office is in Paris, intends extending its activities to Aetolia, Acarnania, and the Peloponnesus. Petrol has also been found in the island of Zante where oil drilling operations have been carried out for some time by an American Company.

**Miscellaneous.**

The Greek Legation at Washington has telegraphed to the Ministry of National Economy that the stocks of Greek tobacco in the United States amount to about 45,000;000 lb.

A telegram from Kavalla states that the recent rains which fell in that region have caused serious damage to the tobacco plantations.

It is estimated that this year's production of Calamata figs will only be about 8 million okes as against 13 million okes last year.

The Ministry of Agriculture has informed the Greek Chamber of Commerce in Athens that this year's production of silk will reach 108 tons.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, July 1.

**Fluctuations of the Leva.**

The leva has fallen very heavily since the beginning of the month, and for a short time on Saturday the 9th, the rate for the £1 was over 600. It rose somewhat later in the day, and at the time of writing is about 485. Almost all foreign currencies have appreciated, and naturally enough there is consternation in financial circles, and external trade is at a standstill.

The reasons for this sudden fall are numerous, but the chief are the fears of the general public regarding the confiscatory legislation of the Government with the resulting purchase of foreign money, and secondly the disquieting rumours afloat concerning Bulgarian intrigues abroad. Speculation also plays a large part, as does the raising of the Moratorium.

**Inter-Allied Commission's Action.**

With the object of arresting the fall of the leva, the Inter-Allied Commission have made strong representations to the Bulgarian Government that it is essential that the export of all cereals should be carried on on a basis of free trade. This would entail the virtual abolition of the grain consortium. At a time like the present, strong measures must be taken, and there are reasons to believe that this action on the part of the Commission will be well received by the majority of clear thinking people. It is not yet known what the reply of the Government will be, and as the Sobranje has been closed until September 1, it may be necessary to convoke a special

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session so that the law for the export of cereals may be revised. No one wants the leva to fall to the level of the Austrian krone; but in order to avoid this the country must export. Every encouragement must be given to the peasant so that he may sell his produce to the merchant who in his turn must receive full support from the Government so that he may at once dispose of his stocks abroad. In addition to requesting the Government to abolish the monopoly which was engaged by the Consortium, it is understood that the Commission advised that "Article 4" should be modified, and that the proposed legislation affecting capital and property should not be put into force for two years. If the Government accede to the request, important progress will have been made in the economic restoration of the country, and the Government themselves will have gained rather than lost ground in the eyes of everyone.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 21.

**Financial Measures.**

The Senate passed this week the first part of M. Titulescu's financial scheme, that providing for direct contributions and progressive income tax. The second part of the scheme, the progressive taxation of capital and war profits is being discussed; it will, no doubt, be passed in due course next week. Its outstanding feature is the progressive taxation up to 65 per cent of war profits, and up to 91 per cent of the fortunes made by public officials since the war. Under the first part of the scheme banks and all limited liability companies that have been in existence since 1909 (five years before 1914) will pay 12½ per cent. of their capital and accumulated reserves up till July 1, 1921; those with a shorter existence will pay ten per cent. If the whole tax is not paid in ready cash, then, either bills for 10,000 lei each, maturing successively within the ensuing ten years, bearing 7 per cent interest per annum, or shares of the respective companies to the amount of the eighth part of their capital, will be accepted.

Foreign companies will pay the whole taxation in ready money, their capital being reckoned as the fifth part of all sums involved in their transactions in this country.

**The New Tariff Regulations.**

The new Tariff came into force on July 3. It will be applied to the former enemy States, whose commercial conventions have lapsed, as well as to France and Italy whose agreements have in the meantime been denounced.

The agreements with England and Belgium remain in force until April 19, 1922, and up to the same date the most favoured nation clause will be applied also to Holland, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Spain, Sweden, Norway, and the United States. As to Czechoslovakia, and Poland, the recently concluded conventions will come into effect as soon as they are ratified by the respective countries.

The manufacturers of cotton, linen, and hemp goods have addressed a petition to the Prime Minister urging a protective tariff on these goods when imported, as they cannot compete with more highly developed industries abroad, as well as on account of expensive raw material, fuel, transport, and labour.

The 50 per cent. *ad valorem* tax on imported German goods has been abandoned, in accordance with the example set by the Allies.

The tax for storage of goods in the Customs warehouses has been increased as follows:—To double the present tax for the first month or part of it, to five times the present rate for the first six months and ten times the amount after that period.

**Transylvania's Industries.**

The Industrialists' Union of Cluj, in view of the general critical state of the industries in Transylvania, have again addressed an urgent appeal to the Minister of Industry, drawing attention to the catastrophe menacing the industry of that province, if the necessary measures previously indicated by the Union are not taken without delay.

The question of the gold export, which has been pending for a long time, has at last been, though provisionally, solved to the satisfaction of the producers, enabling them to pursue their exploitation, which was greatly menaced for lack of foreign markets. The Government has given permission for the exportation of one thousand kilos of gold extracted from the Transylvanian mines, the quantity approximately in the hands of the producers at the moment. The final solution of the problem is postponed; it will probably, when it comes, take the form either of an agreement with the National Bank or the establishment of a definite basis for export.

**Coke from Czechoslovakia.**

On the basis of the Commercial Agreement between the two countries, Roumania has obtained from Czechoslovakia thirty thousand tons of coke at the same price as that at which it is sold to the Czechoslovak industry, to be delivered in monthly shipments of equal quantities. As a result of this transaction the crisis in regard to metallurgical coke, from which Roumanian industry has been suffering since the war, may be regarded as at an end.

## CYPRUS.

Cyprus, June 28.

**General Items.**

A Communication from the Chief Secretary notifies Cypriots that there is no hope of finding employment in England for either skilled or ordinary labour.

Silver coins to the value of £40,000 have been imported in florins, shillings, and sixpenny pieces, and are being placed in circulation to replace the paper notes of one, two, and five shillings, which have been withdrawn.

Cyprus, July 5.

**Vineyard Prospects.**

Prospects in the vine-lands and the carob growing areas continue to be very favourable. Good news has come, rather unexpectedly, to the wine-producing villages. The price of wines has risen considerably and rather suddenly. Villagers are now getting up to 55s. a "load" (128 okes), which would work out at about 2s. 9d. a gallon. There is much unsold stock of various kinds in the hands of merchants, and there have been considerable losses. Grain of the new harvest is now on sale. At Nicosia the prices are for wheat 10s. the bushel, barley, 3s. to 3s. 9d.; olive oil, 5s. to 5s. 6d. the litre; potatoes 1 to 1½ piastres the oke (2 4-5 lbs.).

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended June 20, amounted to £E8,984 making the total for the year £E72,025. For the corresponding period of last year the receipts amounted to £E10.262 and £E90,501 respectively

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# BRITISH-ROUMANIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

## Encouraging Report.

The third annual meeting of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, was held at the London Chamber of Commerce on July 20. Viscount Goschen, who presided, in moving the adoption of the annual report and accounts, after referring to the regrettable death of the late Earl of Bessborough, first chairman of the Council of the Chamber, and to the valuable assistance he rendered in its formation, said that it would be observed from the figures in the report that the value of the trade between England and Roumania during the past year was much greater than that of previous years, although those trading with Roumania had had many handicaps in marketing their goods. Among these handicaps, which were not peculiar to Roumania, had been the exchange fluctuations, the disorganisation of the transport and the falling prices at home. Roumanian merchants had been chary of importing whilst prices were unstable. In spite of these obstacles, Roumania had been on the whole, a very good market during a period of world-wide conditions of trade depression, and had clearly shown that she had a great capacity for absorbing our goods. Payments had been on a considerable scale, and, speaking generally, had been made in a satisfactory manner, although of course, there were cases in which the settlement of debts had been adjourned. In this connection owing to the tightness of money in this country, some English firms had lately shown a tendency to accept payment of their sterling debts in local currency at a rate of exchange superior to the market value. This was due mainly to the anxiety of firms here to obtain cash even at a sacrifice.

With regard to the export credit scheme which had been referred to at their meeting last year he was pleased to say that this appeared to be increasingly utilised for business with Roumania. The market prospects for the next year were most encouraging. The large stocks of merchandise held in Roumania were beginning to be liquidated, and the congestion at the ports had now practically been removed. Considerable progress had been made by the Government in the reorganisation of transport by rail. This and the good harvest prospects were probably the most gratifying features of the present position, and, following the unification of the currency which had been nearly completed, greater activity could be looked for. This would be more especially the case if trading relations were resumed between Russia and Roumania, in which case a large proportion of the existing stocks in Roumania would be quickly disposed of.

Mr. E. W. H. Barry seconded the motion.

M. Gregoire Michaesco, Commercial Attache to the Roumanian Legation, made a survey of the present position in Roumania, in comparison with the previous years, and directed attention particularly to the following facts:—In 1920, when Roumania had still a large mobilised army, 44 per cent of the workable surface of the country had been cultivated and a medium harvest had been exported. This year, with double the area under cultivation, an excellent harvest was anticipated, and there would be 600,000 wagons of cereals alone for export. The petrol depended upon the existing pipe lines of which three had survived destruction by Germany, but in 1914 Roumania was classified as fourth amongst oil producing countries. Other considerable sources of wealth were coal, natural gas, salt (40 per cent of the production having been exported last year), gold, silver, zinc, lead, copper, and other metals. The exploitation of iron ore was developing, though quantities would still have to be imported, and the timber obtained from the Roumanian forests, calculated in normal time at 1,000 million lei was of a very good quality. At present all these sources of wealth were suffering through inadequate transport, but energetic steps were being taken by the Roumanian Government to repair the deficiency. With reference to the new Roumanian Customs Tariff, M. Michaesco indicated the basis upon which the diferent rates had been fixed. To meet the present situation several new banks had been formed with large capitals, while the old and well established ones had extended their operations. Roumania welcomed foreign capital in her enterprises in the form of experience, machinery and materials, her desire being to avoid trusts and to safeguard the national security. There would be held in Bucharest in September-October, 1921, a National Exhibition, and Sample Fair, and British firms were invited to exhibit catalogues, advertisements, &., in a "Foreign Information Pavilion," which would be rected especially for this purpose.

The report and accounts were adopted, and it was resolved on the motion of Viscount Goschen to invite M. Michael Boeresco, Roumanian Charge d'Affaires, to accept the office of President of the Chamber for the ensuing year in succession to M. Nicolas Misu, ex-Roumanian Minister in London. Sir Albert K. Rollit, D.C.L., LL.D., Litt D., Consul General for Roumania in London and Viscount Goschen, were unanimously elected vice presidents for the ensuing year, and the following members re-elected upon the council:—Mr. F. P. Archbold, Mr. E. W. Barry, Sir Trevor Dawson, Mr. Edward Dean, the Right Hon Viscount Furness, the Right. Hon. Viscount Goschen, Sir Clarendon Hyde, Mr. Samuel Lamb, Mr. T. B. Thornton, and Mr. W. M. Watson.

The meeting also re-elected Mr. Locke (Bank of Roumania, Ltd.) as Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Charles E. Musgrave, as honorary secretary, and Mr. Francis W. Pixey, F.C.A., as honorary auditor.

It was decided to invite the observations of members upon the new Roumanian Customs Tariff, as affecting their respective trades, and authority was given for representations in the proper quarter. It was pointed out that so far as the woollen trade was concerned, the new duties had the effect of prohibiting the import into Roumania of certain classes of British goods.

### ROUMANIAN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

H.M. Consul at Cluj (Mr. C. Goodwin) quotes the local newspaper *Vointa* as stating that the construction of a new railway line of about 35 kilometres has been decided in order to re-establish communication between Oradea-Mare (Nagyvarad, Grosswardein) and Arad. The line which formerly connected these two important centres was cut by the new Roumanian-Hungarian frontier thereby cutting off the milling industry of the frontier district from the supply of raw material in the great Hungarian plain, a supply on which it was entirely dependent. Direct communication with the Banat will no doubt improve the precarious situation in which the milling industry finds itself at present.

In addition, the construction of the following lines in the Cluj district are provided for in the programme for the financial year 1921-22 of the Ministry of Public Works according to a notice which appeared in the Bucharest *Argus*:—1. Livenzeni—Bumbesti (27 kilometres), which will establish direct communication between the great coal district of the Jiu valley and old Roumania. 2. Brasov-Nehoias (100 kilometres) which will relieve the congestion on the Braso-Predeal-Ploesti line. 3. Ilva Mica-Vatra Dorna which will connect the Transylvanian system with Moldavia and the Bukovina.

The construction of the following lines is said to be under consideration:— 1. Baia Mare-Sighet which cannot be reached by rail at present without passing through Czechoslovak territory, the Satmar-Sighet line being cut by the new frontier. 2. Toplitza-Bistricioare-Targul Neamtu which would establish direct communication with Iasi. 3. Reshitza-Caransebes to connect the great metallurgical centre with the main line Timisoara-Orsova-Bucharest. 4. Mehadia-Bazias on the Danube which cannot be reached by rail at present, the Timisoara-Caransebes line being cut by the Yugoslav frontier.

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# ENGINEERING TOPICS.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

## Heat Saving.

The present method of quenching hot coke with water the moment it is taken from the retorts has long been recognised by engineers as being particularly wasteful as not only is the whole of the heat contained in the incandescent mass wasted, but the cost of the water used is by no means inconsiderable. Further large quantities of dust and dirt are driven by the expanding steam into every part of the neighbouring buildings, and cost for cleaning, etc., is thereby incurred.

In one of the largest gas works in Europe a novel method has been adopted for not only getting rid of all the attendant disadvantages of cooling, but for utilising in addition the heat contained in the coke. The method certainly involves the laying down of a suitable utilisasation plant, but this is not particularly costly, nor does it involve any appreciable structural alteration or need any large amount of ground space.

The plant consists of a large vertical shaft, part of which may be beneath the surface, and parallel with this is a vertical boiler of the watertube type. The shaft is lined throughout with firebrick, and every precaution is taken to prevent the escape of heat into the atmosphere or the surrounding ground. A firebrick wall is built between the boiler and the vertical shaft.

The bottoms of the boiler and the shaft are connected by means of a firebrick flue in the centre of which is a firebrick chamber housing a fan of special construction gear driven, by means of a shafting, by a three phase alternating current motor. The tops of the shaft and the boiler are also connected together by means of a firebrick flue, and in that part of this which is immediately above the vertical shaft a hatchway is provided through which the glowing coke can be shot as it is discharged from the retorts. In this tip flue a network of pipes is fitted through which the boiler feed water is made to circulate.

As soon as a charge of coke from the retorts is shot into the shaft the hatchway and all other openings through which air could gain access are closed, and the fan set to work. The fan is of the propellor type, and the gaseous content and the incandescent coke is driven forward and upward along the top flue, through the feed water network and down the flue of the boiler into the bottom flue where it passes through the fan and is again driven through the mass of coke and along to the boiler and so on. This cycle of operation is repeated some hundreds of times until the coke is practically cooled to the boiler temperature when the charge of coke is withdrawn through an opening at the bottom of the shaft and a fresh charge admitted from the retorts. The hot gas driven through the coke is robbed of a portion of its heat by the feedwater pipes and the water tubes of the boiler. In its second passage through the coke it in turns robs the latter of some heat which it at once gives up to the boiler. The cooling effect is thus rapid and continuous, and there is neither dirt nor steam thrown off into the atmosphere.

It will be seen that the only air that can obtain access to the coke is that which is present in shaft flues and boiler when the coke is admitted. This is quickly burned up in oxidising the carbonic oxide present to carbonic dioxide, and after first passage or so of the gas is completed nothing circulates except carbonic dioxide and a percentage of inert nitrogen. A number of tests have been made, some of which were of an elementary and others of a most exhaustive character, and it has been found that whilst at first the percentages of the gaseous contents of the coke were carbonic oxide 14.4, carbonic deoxide 11.4 and nitrogen 73.2, after the coke was cooled down sufficient for removal the percentages were carbonic oxide 2.4, 24.1, and 73.2 respectively, the balance being apparently unaccounted for. The report of the tests states that during the final and conclusive tests the number of retorts discharged was 66, the coke weighing altogether nearly 22,500 kilogrammes. The temparature of the seed water was maintained at about 110 days Fahr, and it was found that over 11,200 kilogrammes of steam were generated, the steam being at a pressure of 70 lbs., and a temperature of 310 degs. Fahr. The coke, when admitted to the shaft, was at a temperature of 1830 degs. Fahr, and was removed as being sufficiently cooled when its temperature had fallen to just over 600 degs Fahr.

## The Aerial Derby.

Flying at an average speed of 162 miles per hour, a speed which constitutes a record for the race, the Aerial Derby was won by a tiny biplane, spanning barely 25 feet, fitted with a 450 h.p. Napier "Lion" engine. This engine, it should be mentioned, was only fitted in place an hour before the race commenced. In view of the astonishing results attained by the Napier Engine in the Air Ministry trials, its success in the Aerial Derby was a foregone conclusion. The Wolseley Viper and Siddeley Puma engines also put up extremely fine performances, and there is no doubt that in spite of the official apathy towards civilian aviation, our British aero-engine manufacturers are well maintaining their premier position.

## Pilots for Motorists.

A note just to hand tells me that the service of pilots for motorists unfamiliar with the metropolitan area inaugurated a short time back by the Automobile Association, is being widely taken advantage of by provincial motorists and tourists from overseas visiting London for the first time. It is interesting to note that many enquiries have been received for pilots from A.A, members arriving from such distant points as Australia. Canada, and South Africa. These pilots will meet a motorist anywhere on the outskirts of London, or, as in the case of members arriving with their cars, at the Port of London—down at the docks, and pilot them by the best route, avoiding traffic and so forth, either across London (to where traffic difficulties cease) or to any point itself. They are also available for shopping and sight-seeing purposes.

## New Anti-dazzle Device.

The Royal Automobile Club, I understand, has recently tested a new anti-dazzle device for motor-car head lamps, which is believed to offer certain advantages over the ordinary appliance. The inventor is Mr. G. W. Mascord, who resides at Barnes, and so far, I believe the invention has not been placed on the market. In this, however I may be under a misapprehension.

The invention is of a remarkably simple but ingenious character, and consists of a lamp with two glasses, one of which is fitted an inch behind the other. The surfaces of each consist of horizontal strips alternately of frosted and plain glass, but the near glass is so arranged that its frosted strips fall directly behind the clear strips and its clear strips behind the frosted strips of the front glass. The test, I understand, was made on a night which had a visibility some 8 degrees below the normal and it was found that all dazzle ceased at a distance of 53 feet from the lamps. A driver using these lamps, when approaching a pedestrian so dressed as only to be discernible with difficulty could pick him out at a distance of 185 feet provided he was no further from the centre of the beam than 19 feet or half its width. The driver could also see a pedestrian stepping off the kerb into the road 30 feet wide at a distance of 186 feet.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## NAVIGATION OF THE DNIESTER.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, July 12.

A Roumanian and Soviet delegation met on July 9 on a Roumanian vessel in the middle of the estuary of the Dniester with the object of regulating river navigation questions. This conference was brought about by the Ukrainian Soviet objecting to a Roumanian gunboat being stationed in the estuary.

## FOUNDERING OF AN AMERICAN BOAT.

(*From our own Correspondent*)

Bucharest, July 12.

The American cargo boat Mopang, bound for Constantza with a large consignment of goods, is reported to have foundered at a distance of ten miles off the coast between the Black Sea Ports Varna and Bourgas. Full particulars are not yet to hand. According to one account all hands, numbering 138, have perished, but other reports announce that the crew escaped in the boats. The real cause of the disaster is not yet known. It is surmised that the ship struck a stray mine.

## SHIPPING AT GREEK HARBOURS.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Athens, July 12.

There were 167 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Patras during May (O.S.) of the following nationalities :—Greek, 122 ; British, nine ; French, four ; Dutch, three ; German, two ; Italian, two ; Inter-Allied, one ; Norwegian, one ; American, one. The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the same month was 199, 23 of which were Italian.

There were 17 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Calamata during May (O.S.) of the following nationalities :—Italian, six ; Greek, five ; American, two ; German, two. The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the month was 17.

## A CENTRAL EUROPEAN WATERWAY

Considerable interest, says Reuter's Paris correspondent, is being taken in a congress which is now being held at Munich, the object of which is the furtherance of an extensive scheme for opening up a waterway between the North Sea and the Black Sea. The German Central Company for River Navigation, the Main-Danube Union and the German Austrian-Hungarian-Swiss Union for River Navigation are discussing the details of this scheme, according to which it is proposed to utilise the Rhine, Main, and Danube so as to provide a means of transit by water from North Western to South Western Europe.

## BRATISLAVA'S FUTURE.

Bratislava's geographical position at the corner of Czecho-Slovakia, Austria and Hungary makes the town eminently suitable for a trading centre, says the Prague Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial*. Its choice as the future seat of the International Danube Commission, already decided upon and only subject to confirmation at Paris, will endow Bratislava with a prestige from which it will largely benefit. Work at the harbour is proceeding fast, and the improvement which is noticeable in the traffic returns of the port bears testimony to the foresight of those who have predicted a great future for the town. Once the Ludwig Canal, which connects the Rhine with the Danube and flows into that river above Ratisbon, is enlarged it will be possible to ship goods from the mouth of the Rhine to the mouth of the Danube without transhipping. The importance of this to British traders is obvious. But the scheme of utilising Central European waterways does not stop there. Plans are on foot to connect the Danube by means of canals with the Elbe, Oder, and Vistula, opening up water transport with Poland and Russia, and making the Danube accessible from the Baltic. Thus the Danube will play a principal part in the restoration of Europe, while Bratislava occupies a privileged position on the river.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 11).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Makalla for Port Said, Colombo Madras and Calcutta (London, August 16) ; s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 27) ; s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, August 27) ; s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, September 14).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 3) ; s.s. Warwickshire for Rangoon (London, August 4.).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. General Napier for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 14).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Cumming for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 4) ; s.s. Clan Mackinnon for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 6).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 20 ; Glasgow, August 25 ; and Swansea, August 25).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. City of Oxford for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, August 12).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Benares for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 5) ; s.s. Lorenzo for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, August 23).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of Dunedin for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, August 2.).

*Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc (London August 11) ; s.s. Pembrokeshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, August 25) ; s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham Singapore, etc. (London, September 8).

*Glynn Line.*—S.s. Ravenspoint for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, August 5).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Politician for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 11 ; s.s. Craftsman for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 27).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Chindwin for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 10).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Titan for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, August 5) ; s.s. Eumeus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, August 5).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Cundall for Galatz and Braila only (Liverpool, August 6) ; s.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 20) ; s.s. Venice for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 27).

*Maindy Line.*—S.S. Maindy Transport for Antwerp and Moroccan ports, (London, latter half of August).


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## THE YUGOSLAV HEMP INDUSTRY.

*By our Belgrade Correspondent*

Hemp is grown in considerable quantities for home consumption in several parts of Yugoslavia, more particularly in the south near Vranje, but it is in the Voivodina, and in Srem that it has assumed the proportions of an important industry. It is in the Bachka that it is most developed. Here it was introduced by some Alsatians in the XVIIIth century since when it has been constantly increasing and the methods both of cultivation and of preparation improving. In 1884 Karl Mihelc improved the method of maceration, so that Bachka hemp can rival the best Italian product. In 1913, the output of hemp fibre was between 1,500 and 1,600 truckloads representing the cultivation of from 36,000 to 40,000 *jutara* of land, (one *jutro* is equivalent to .35 hectares). The best lands are in the Danube valley, but hemp is grown for seed in several parts of Croatia and Slavonia. Factories are mainly in the Bachka, where there are thirty, as compared with eight in Croatia and Slavonia and two in the Banat. A good and constant supply of clear water for maceration is an essential condition. The peasants' output, as distinct from that of organised companies and associations, is altogether about 590—600 trucks, representing a cultivation of an area of from 25—30,000 *jutara*. The pre-war average price for crude hemp unleafed was 5.50 krone per 100 kilos, or 6 kronen for the leafed crop. The amount exported in 1913 was as follows (in truckloads) :—to England 150-200, to France 150, to the former Austria-Hungary 263, and to Germany 636. The sale of seed amounts to something over 300 truckloads, of which about fifty were consumed by Hungary. There are ropeworks in the Bachka, but this branch requires development. Most of the rope-making is done by the peasants, especially by the Slovak colony at Odzhici, who take their product to sell on market days. The Bachka hemp is of a very fine quality, and the industry undoubtedly has a great future before it.

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Yugoslavia's shoe industry is still undeveloped and unable to supply domestic needs.

The German Government have offered to the Yugo-Slav Cabinet Council to settle part of the war indemnity by the delivery of 85 complete railway trains (locomotive plus 50 wagons).

A sample fair of the South and of the Levant is to be held at Catania (Italy) from August 1 to August 20.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97 15-32 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 64.50-65.50 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 139-144 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3 5-16-1.3 7-16 |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 262-269 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3 5-16-1.3 7-16 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 540-560 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.59-3 60 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 46.15-46.30 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 270-280 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 80.50-82.00 |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 375-475 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 2,600-2,800 |
| Warsaw ..... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 6,700-7,100 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**Will the German Mark Recover?**

**The Actual and Future Position of the German Mark.**

Under these titles our Expert on Foreign Exchanges has completed Article No. 3 in his series "Dealings in Foreign Exchanges from the English Investor's point of view." This article shows German Budgets in 1920 and 1921—Germany's policy to depreciate the Mark—Influence of Germany's £50,000,000 Indemnity payment—PROFIT POSSIBILITIES BY PURCHASING GERMAN MARKS—GERMAN 3% GOVERNMENT LOAN, etc. This article will be sent free of charge on application to—

**Foreign Exchange Department**
**THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,**
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## LIONDA AND CO., LTD.

### First Meeting of Creditors.

The first meeting of the creditors of Lionda and Co., Ltd. (now in voluntary liquidation) was held on July 21 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, London, E.C. Mr. Rendall Gothard, formerly auditor of the company, and now its liquidator presided.

In the course of a short statement with which he opened the proceedings, and in reply to subsequent questions, the Liquidator stated that the claims of unsecured creditors amounted to £27,459, and those of fully secured creditors to £4,770. The security in the hands of these creditors amounted to £9,155. There was here a nominal surplus of £4,385, but a loss on realisation was anticipated ; it was estimated that if there was a favourable realisation the balance would amount to £1,385. There were certain contingent liabilities amounting in gross to £2,921, debts due in respect of directors' fees and salaries amounting to £381, and a contingent liability of £250 in respect of income tax. As to assets, at the time of the shareholders' meeting, on July 4th, 1921, there was cash at bank £22, a cheque not then paid in but which had since been realised, of £440, and cash in hand £5. Bills receivable in the custody of the Ionian Bank amounted to £461, and were estimated to produce £300. Stock in the Near East, which was all the stock in the company's possession was reckoned as £9,003, but was not expected to realise more than £2,353. There was or had been office furniture at London, Liverpool, Salonika, Piraeus, and Athens ; but as regards London an execution creditor had come in, and had not left even the file cases. This creditor was for £650 ; the furniture had originally cost about £750, but had not realised more than approximately £200. At Liverpool there was furniture of the value of £70, estimated to produce £50 when sold. As regards Salonika, Piraeus, and Athens, the amount realised on furniture there would not be much, and, if there were any creditors in Greece, they had probably taken it by now.

Mr. Hodson (General Manager for the company in Athens), being asked as to the value of the furniture in the three branches, said he estimated it at 12,000 drachmae.

The Liquidator, resuming his remarks, said the debts had been divided into good, doubtful and bad. Good debts he reckoned at £596 ; doubtful—£1,186—he estimated to produce £550. Bad debts he reckoned at £261, and did not consider it would be wise to count on anything coming from this source. There was money standing to the debit of the branches at Athens, Piraeus, and Liverpool ; but having had no returns from those branches it was impossible to say whether it was all sheer loss, or whether there were assets which would eventually realise something. It was more than likely that as actual assets these sums should be wiped out. There was an unrealisable asset good will, £1,774 ; this had been the principal consideration in the original agreement entered into in 1915, when the London and Salonika business was transferred to Lionda and Co., Ltd. Under another agreement, dated December 1919, between G. N. Lionda and Lionda and Co., Ltd., all the assets (with the exception of stock), and the liabilities (which were not to exceed £500) of the Athens business were taken over by the company for a consideration of £6,700.

This agreement was to be carried into effect as soon as hostilities ceased, and the transfer was to date from February 1, 1919. He (the Liquidator) had been trying unsuccessfully to find out what were the assets and liabilities that were transferred but had no means of telling what there was tangible represented by this agreement. He had acted as auditor of the company's account. The last accounts were up to December, 1919. They were not full and fair accounts. He had explained this in his certificate and had made a special report. Among other points he had reported on was the exclusion of branch accounts, which made the accounts given practically valueless. His audit had been finished in March, 1921.

In reply to a question as to the stock of Messrs. Lever, Brothers, the Liquidator, explained that the figures he had given for stock did not include goods held on consignment for other firms.

In reply to other questions he stated it was quite conceivable there had been misfeasance, but he did not think it touched upon malfeasance. There had been neglect. Mr. Lionda was now in Hamburg, and would probably not attend the meeting of creditors if it was adjourned to give him the opportunity of doing so.

A list of the principal creditors was read out. The largest were :—W. and T. Avery, Ltd., Soho Foundry, Birmingham, £2,046 ; T. D. Barnes, £2,850 ; Cadbury Brothers, Ltd., Bournville, £2,378 ; F. Mathieu and Co., Antwerp, £2,635 ; J. D. Pappaelia, £2,844 ; United Brassfounders and Engravers, Ltd., Birmingham, £2,053.

A question as to shareholding in the company elicited the fact that there was no uncalled capital.

The proceedings at the meeting were somewhat lengthy ; compulsory liquidation was strongly urged by some creditors ; eventually the following resolution was proposed by Mr. A. J. Giles (Secretary of W. and T. Avery, Ltd.), seconded by Mr. H. E. Luscombe (Alsing and Co.) and carried : "That Mr. Rendall Gothard continue to act as Liquidator, and that Messrs. A. E. Salmon (Henley Telegraph Works, Ltd.) A. J. Giles (Secretary of W. and T. Avery, Ltd.), and H. Bradley (Cadbury Brothers) be appointed a committee of inspection to act with the present liquidator, and that (if necessary) application be made to the court for the appointment or confirmation of the appointment of those persons as a committee of inspection, and that any one of these persons may be appointed to make such application."

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN TURKEY

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Mamouret-ul-Aziz.

The report for May states :—There have been no exports. Inactivity has prevailed as regards imports principally because of Ramazan.

One knows the importance of spring sowings which have been 15 per cent. above those of last year. The cereals, the prices of which have risen similarly during recent years, stand at the level of preceding months. The rains that fell in the second half of May have been very favourable, and the hail has only slightly affected certain fruits.

Stamboul, July 2

No improvement is to be recorded in the Constantinople market. On the contrary the recrudescence of hostilities in Anatolia has had an effect on business, and the financial crisis has been intensified.

The fall in prices of manufactures continues at Manchester and in this market. Consignments made to Roumania are only liquidated with difficulty, and by means of large reductions of price. There is still no news of the result of some tentative consignments made to Batoum.

*Produce.*—Sugar. The fall in prices has stopped for the time being. Buyers are maintaining a very reserved attitude anticipating a fresh decrease in prices in view of the news of exceptional crops from Cuba and Java. The arrivals from Holland and America have been placed at £39-40. per ton. Sugar in customs is quoted at £T30-33 per 100 kilos.

Coffee. The Brazilian Government having ceased purchasing to sustain the market prices have sharply declined.

Rice. Prices are maintained in centres of production. During the week 100 wagons arrived, and have been easily placed. Quotations are :—Saigon and Rangoon shipment Port Said, £16-16½d. per ton ; Siam, £18-18½.

Flour. The market is very firm, and prices tend to rise. The arrivals are notably smaller, and stocks here are much reduced.

*Exports.*—Only the market in mohair presents any animation. The sales of the week amount to 1,000 bales. Prices have risen from 7 to 8 piastres compared with the level of the previous week.

Mersina.

The report for May states :—The commercial crisis which we have recorded in our previous reports continues, and there is nothing to enable one to foresee the end of this state of affairs, which is so prejudicial to the interests of the country on the one hand, and to those of the manufacturers and exporters of Europe on the other.

## ROUMANIAN WHEAT EXPORT DECISION.

Reuter's Bucharest correspondent states under date July 22 :—At the last meeting of the Cabinet the question of this year's exceptional harvest was considered, and it was decided that the Government would reserve to itself the exclusive right of export in regard to the total amount in excess of the country's internal requirements. With regard to other cereals, the Cabinet decided to grant complete freedom of export.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

*(From our own Correspondent).*

London, Monday.

There has been little change in the markets during the week. Generally speaking a firm tone has prevailed, but the volume of business has been small, investors for the most part continuing to hold themselves aloof. The further reductions in the Bank rate to 5 per cent, while welcomed all round, has not yet had any great effect, though it has helped to stiffen the gilt-edged market.

Among gilt-edged descriptions War Loan Fives are 88 3–1,6 a rise of ½ on the quotation a week ago. Findings are 3-8 better at 70 3-4, while Consols at 48 1-4 are 1-2 up. Indian Loans were better, the 3 1-2 per cents. closing at 58 1-4, while the 7 per cent. reached 104 3-8. Subscriptions to the Calcutta Loan, also a 7 per cent. issue, opened to-day, and it will be interesting to see how it fares compared with the Government loan.

There is little fresh to say with regard to Industrials. Business has been extremely restricted, except in a few directions, and there have been few changes of price of significance. British Oil and Cake Mills have been a firm spot owing to the belief that the company will benefit from the effects of the drought. Dunlops and African and Eastern have also been firm.

The oil market has generally been weak; owing to adverse influences, notably the report from Mexico that the whole of the Amatlam oilfield was on fire. There have been so many unfavourable reports from Mexico lately that one may perhaps be pardoned if one hesitates to accept all of them at their face value. I imagined that this last report was exaggerated, and according to later messages only two or three oil wells have suffered. Scottish American have been the weakest feature of the week, dropping at one time to 3s., but closing at 4s., while Tankers which slumped in sympathy are 6s. 9d. Anglo-Egyptians have continued to improve, and are now 1-11-16, a rise of 5-32. Phoenix at 10s. 6d. are 6d. lower on the week, while Roumanian Consolidated have shed 3d. at 11s. 6d. Steaua Romanas are 6d. up at 14s. 6d., but Burmahs are 3-16 lower at 6 15-32.

The Rubber market has been rather weaker than during the previous weelk. Still the outlook is decidedly brighter as a result of the rubber growers scheme, and if the proposed Rubber Producer's Corporation eventualises, while it would be too much to say that all the difficulties of the industry will be over, it would certainly make an enormous difference to the situation..

And now for the Near Eastern securities. Egyptian guaranteed 3 per cent. at 68, Greek guaranteed 2½ per cent. at 66, and Turkish guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 at 70 are all the same as last week.

Greek shares have been firm. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is a point up at 43, while the 5 per cent. 1884 is 42 the same as before. The 5 per cent 1890 Loan remains at 40, while fundings at 40 are also unchanged. The 4 per cent. 1910 Loan at 29, the 4 per cent. 1902 Loan at 32, and the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan at 38 are all unchanged.

In Land shares Beheras are unchanged at 8 , and the Preference Shares remain at 3. Anglo Egyptian Land Allotments are 3, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands have finished 3d. up to 1s. 3d. Gharbieh Lands have gained 1-16 at 1-4 , while New Egyptians are 1s. 6d. up at 23s. Union Foncieres at 2 1-8 have gained 1-16, while Sudan Plantations are unaltered at 2 15-16.

In Banks Agricultural 3 per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 52, while Agricultural 3 per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are two points up at 56. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 7, while National Bank of Egypts are 5-16 up at 17 7-8.

In miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 2s., Alexandria Waters have shed 1-8 at 6 3-8, Morums are unchanged at 10s., Egyptian Markets are 3d. up at 19s. 3d., while Egyptian Salt and Soda have gained 6d. at 30s.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 18. :—On July 14, Bombay monsoon more active in Peninsula with extension in Rajputana. On July 15 monsoon strengthened in North West India ; on July 16, extension into Sind with weakening in the Punjab. Bombay, July 14—cotton market quiet but steady. Fine M.G. Oomra, July Rs. 336, September Rs. 346. Calcutta jute and gunny markets for week ending July 16 :—Baled jute strong with few sellers except at full rates. After publication of jute forecast prices of firsts advanced from Rs. 59 to Rs. 62, and lightenings from Rs. 42 to Rs. 45. Market closed very firm for lower grade with practically no enquiry for firsts. Balers agreed not to sell new crop until July 22. Hessians quiet ; heavy goods firm with considerable business at improved rates. Good demands for heavy c's, sugar and Liverpool twills.

Rangoon rice market on July 14, fluctuated between Rs. 582, and Rs. 590. Small mills did business for new crop at Rs. 450. On July 15, market fluctuated between Rs. 585 and Rs. 591. Quotation for July-August and September Rs. 585 and opening price for the new crop Rs. 455 and closing price Rs. 445. On July 16 fluctuations were between Rs.592 and Rs.585, and market closed dull. At tea sale on July 12 Assam excellent ; Darjeeling irregular ; Dooars and Terais good. Cachars and Sylhets good Prices firm for finest sorts. Assams sold well ; all grades up to five annas were 3 to 6 pies dearer. 39,099 packages sold to date at an average price of 8 annas 7 pies per lb. Railway survey of 65 miles by Bengal-Nagpur Railway Co., to serve the Talchir Coalfield sanctioned. No change in bank rates.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on July 8 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 1–32 ; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £65- 16 ex. ; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2 1-8 ; Associated Cotton Ginners, 13-16 ; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56 ; Behera Ord., £E 7 7-8 ; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 73 ; Building Lands of Egypt, £5-8 ; Cassi di Sconto, Priv. Fr. 88 ex. ; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 39 Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23 ; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £13-16 ; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5 ; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 780 ex. ; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 601 ; Credit Foncier, 1885 Oblig., Fr. 591 ; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 223– Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 226, Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162 ; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130 ; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr., 75 ; Eaux du Caire, Jouissance, Fr. 100, Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord. 26s. 6d. ; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4 11 16 ; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £9 ; Gabbari Lands, £5–16 ; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 1-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s. ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref, £2 9–16 ; Kom Ombo Sto. Ane de Wadi, £4 3-16 ; Kom Ombo Ste, Fondateaur, £33 9-16 ; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35 ; Lots Turc, Fr., 41 1-2 ;Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 270 ; Nungovich Hotels, £5 3-4 ; Ramleh Railway, £1 15-16 Salt and Soda, 27s. 9d. Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 42 ; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 60 ; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2 3-64 ex ; Egypt Hotels, £1 63-64 ; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 27-32.


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## SUDAN NOTES.

*(From our own Correspondent)*

Khartoum, July 5.

Nuba Mountains Province.—There has been a plentiful rainfall during the latter half of May with the result that cultivation is showing signs of remarkable progress. The rains were especially heavy at Talodi, Kadugli, and Heiban, washing away many temporary bridges and rendering conditions very difficult for wheeled transport. Considerable quantities of dhurrah have been brought into Talodi and Rashad markets and have been readily sold. The prices of livestock have fallen, good slaughter bulls being offered at £E3 per head in Talodi market.

Bahr-el-Ghazel Province.—A very heavy rainfall has been experienced throughout the Province, the Wau gauge registering 4.247 inches for May. The river level has fluctuated considerably at Wau, and navigation to Meshra and Shambé has been most difficult. In May the steamer for Meshra was held up four hours march away, occasioning acute inconvenience to passenger and goods traffic. There have been a number of deaths from influenza in the Central district, a fresh outbreak being noted at Tembura. As a result of the energetic measures taken by the medical officers, the outbreaks of small-pox and cerebro-spinal-meningitis in the Eastern district are stated to be on the decline.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit. Business has been much brisker during the week. Currants have been in special demand, all grades moving off freely. Sultanas continue in good request, while Persian dates continue to be a good market.

Sugar. British refined has continued in good demand. West Indian has been done round about 48s. 6d., a rise of 3s. 6d. American is 58s. 9d. Futures are; August 18s., September 17s., October 16s. 10d., November 16s. 9d., December 16s. 7d.

Coffee. A quiet time has characterised the market. Futures are steady, quotations being July 42s. 6d., September 42s., December 43s., March 43s. 6d., May 44s.

Oils. The tone has been firm. Linseed oil at 39s. 3d. is 9d. up. Crude rape oil is unchanged at 54s., while the refined variety is 14s. up at 62s. Egyptian crude is 4s. 6d. higher at 43s., while deodorised is unchanged at 55s. Turpentine has been weak, the quotation of 90s. showing a drop of 25s.

Oilseeds. Rates have been steady. Linseed has been firm with Indian at 24s. and La Plata at 22s. Rapeseed is unchanged, Toria being 22s. 9d., bold Ferozepore 22s., and Brown Cawnpore 21s. 3d., while Egyptian black is 13s. 3d.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 191s. cwt.; butter, 252s. cwt.; cheese, 130s. cwt.; chillies, 135s. cwt.; eggs, 24s. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 10d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 79s. cwt. coffee (Costa Rica), 135s. cwt.; coffee (East India bold), 117s; 6d. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 99s. cwt.; coffee (Santos, superior), 57s. cwt.; coffee (Nairobi), 100s. cwt.; lard, 90s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 38s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 9d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 92s. cwt.; raisins (Sultana, Smyrna), 140s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 86s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 58s. 7d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 62s. 9d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 53s. 3d. cwt.; sugar (West India crystallized), 47s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 16s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 21s. 3d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £8 5s. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 1d. lb.; tea (Indian), 7d. lb.; tea (Java), 3d. lb.; tea (Ceylon), 9d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 82s. qr.; wheat (English, white), 84s. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 82s. qr.; barley (malting), 62s. qr.; oats (English), 45s. qr.; Oats (La Plata), 32s. qr.; maize (La Plata), 45s. qr.; flour, 67s. 6d. sack.

**Travellers to the Near East**

Can obtain all information as to the journey from
**Continental Traffic Department,**
**Victoria Station (S. E. & C. R.), S.W.1:**

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £150 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £40 ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £70 18s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £75 10s. ton; gold bars, 113s. oz.; iron (No. 3. Cleveland), 135s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 162s. 6d. ton; galvanized sheets (24G), £23 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 5s. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 3d. unit; molybdenite, 45s. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £25 ton; quicksilver, £11 bottle; silver bars, 36d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 12s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £165 12s. 6d. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 26s. box.; wolfram, 11s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 9d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 7d lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £14 ton; arsenic (white powdered), £41 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 7d. gallon; bleaching powder (30%), £19 10s. ton; borax crystals, 24s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 139s. cwt.; Potassium: Bi-chromate, 10d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £37 10s. ton; nitrate, £52 10s. ton; permanganate, 1s. 7d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3d. lb.; sulphate (90,%) £21 ton; Sodium, Crystals, 145s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 7d. lb.; alkali (58%), £8 18s. 6d. ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70%), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 7d. lb.; glycerine (crude 80%), £106 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1,260%), £120 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 4d. lb.; quinine, 4s. oz.; red lead, £37 10s. ton; white dry lead, £41 18s. 6d. ton; white-ground lead, £50 ton; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, £145 ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 9d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 9d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 8d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 7d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7d lb. 80 to 89 lbs., 7d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs, 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up 7d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; (second), 3½d. lb.; kips (first), 5d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb.; (third), 3½d. lb. Calcutta market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 8 to 11d Durbhangas, 6 to 8.8; Patnas, 5 to 6. Salted cows: 3 to 7 Arsenic hides (buffalo); 3 to 8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lbs. goat, 225 to 250 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 8.65d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian Sakel), 14.20d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian), £11 12s. 6d. ton linseed (La Plata), £19 17s. 6d. on; rape (Toria), £22 ton soya beans, £13 7s. 6d. ton; Bombay castor seed, £17 2s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £39 2s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; palm, £35 11s. 3d. ton; rape (crude), £53 10s. ton; soya, £35 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 10d. gallon; ground nut, £44 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £39 ton; shellac (T.N. second orange), 305s. cwt.; shellac (AC Garnet), 295s. cwt.; rosin (American), 20s. 6d. cwt.; turpentine (American), 114s. 6d. cwt.; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 10d. lb.; smoked sheet, 9d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)*

Tenders are invited for the following contracts and must be made by the dates mentioned.

**Egypt.**

Calico, canvas, twill, etc. The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of the following stores:—(1) Calico, cotton, grey G.S. (Tenders are due August 3). (2) Canvas, W.P., chocolate colour, 36 inch. (Tenders are due August 4.) (3) Twill, grey, for cavalry shirts. (Tenders are due August 4). (4) Lamps, candlesticks complete, lamps, candlesticks, globes spare. (Tenders are due August 4). (5) Canvas, green Willesdenised, super extra. (Tenders are due August 8). (6) Drill, cotton unbleached. (Tenders are due August 9). (7) Cases, tin, uniform. (Tenders are due August 5). Particulars regarding these tenders can be obtained from and samples inspected at the Office of the Inspecting Engineer Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, London, S.W.1.

Safes.—The Central Stationery Stores Department, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of 100 small safes of the following approximate internal dimensions:—Height 18 inch, width 12 inch, depth, 11 inch., August 25 (D.O.T.).

Cement.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 100 tons of cement required for the second half financial year 1921-1922, August 29.

Envelopes.—H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt invites tenders for the supply of 1,013,400 buff envelopes size 20 x 14½ centimetres, required by the Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, for the year 1921-22, August 25 (D.O.T.).

The Bratislava Orient Fair will take place at Bratislava from August 6 to 15, 1921.

The Prague Autumn Samples Fair will take place in the Exhibition Grounds from September 1 to September 8, 1921.

The Reichenberg Samples Fair will take place at Reichenberg from August 13 to 21, 1921.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 534—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Struggle in Asia Minor.*

At the time of writing there is little fresh to be said about the struggle in Asia Minor between the Greeks and the Kemalists. Greek troops are reported to have advanced by rail from Eskishehir to a point about halfway to Angora, and the Turks to be preparing defensive positions; but there has been no more heavy fighting, though both sides are claiming successes in minor engagements. At such a time rumours are sure to be numerous, and leaving aside those which are concerned wirh 'victories' and 'defeats,' we may note that an insurrection is said to have broken out at Konia against the Nationalist administration, and that desertions are taking place wholesale from Mustapha Kemal's army. The latter rumour is certainly well founded, and it looks as if the strain imposed on the Greek army by the lengthening of its line of communications will be more than compensated by this means. The position of the Nationalist Cabinet at Angora is not at all enviable just now, and it would not be at all surprising to hear of its resignation any day.

### *The Dream and the Business.*

It seems to be forgotton however that even if Mustapha Kemal and his supporters should fall, and even if their army should be utterly defeated and dispersed, the Greeks would not have reached the end of their hard work. Enver Pasha would almost inevitably appear upon the scene once more, and at the head of a fresh army, and the Turks, disheartened and weary though they now are, would surely flock to his banner, for a fresh attempt to save the 'Turkish homelands' from the *Giaour*. It is reported that most of the guns captured by the Greeks in their recent advance were Russian; and Moscow is doubtless ready to give further help to any enemy of the Entente; yet Greece, it is evident, is already doing something more than dream of an advance upon Constantinople. The Athens Press is discussing the question very keenly, and the Athens correspondent of a Zagreb paper lately reported that Greece had applied for help in the 'defence of Constantinople' to Bucharest and Belgrade, offering in return to support Roumania against Bulgaria on the Black Sea and to cede Salonika to Yugoslavia. The fact that such a suggestion as the latter can be put forward is in itself highly significant. The presence of the Allies in Constantinople seems to have been forgotten, with certain other facts. We trust that for her own sake Greece will refuse to indulge in dreams, at any rate until she has quite finished the business that she now has in hand.

### *The Rising in Albania.*

The Albanian Government is to be congratulated upon suppressing the Mirdite rising. It is difficult to follow the somewhat involved politics of that interesting but hot-blooded land, but it seems to be established that the rising was due to intrigues on the part of and incitement by Marko Gjoni, though what set him intriguing is not quite clear. Obviously, however, Albania has nothing to gain and much to lose by any disturbance within her frontiers at a time, when the question of those very frontiers is actually under consideration by the Powers. It will have been noted that the leader of the rising and many of his followers have taken refuge across the Yugoslav border. The Albanians have been in the past Albanians in the first place and Catholics, Moslems, or Orthodox in the second; if now they are going to reverse that order of things, or suffer outsiders to reverse it for them, it will be a bad thing for themselves and their country.

### *The Egyptian Negotiations.*

As last year the secrecy essential to the success of the discussions between Lord Milner's Mission and Zaghloul Pasha's Delegation was respected by the British Press, so at the present time no attempt is being made to divulge the details of the negotiations in progress between Adly Yeghen Pasha's Delegation and the British Government. From this fact, however, the Delegates need not infer that the British public is indifferent to the future status of Egypt or her relations to Great Britain. It happens that a number of important matters are occupying the popular mind just at this moment, and no subtle comparison between the respective populations nor claim of priority for foreign or Imperial over domestic affairs will convince the man in the street that he should devote more thought to the Egyptian than to the Irish question. So let it not be imagined by the Delegation or in Egypt that the Irish

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are monopolising attention because they have made more stir than the Egyptian extremists. Rather is it a fortunate coincidence that the two problems should come up for settlement at the same time, for a successful issue to the Irish negotiations can hardly fail to predispose the nation to a similar adjustment of the Egyptian question.

### *The Meaning of Compromise.*

We still hope to find that the Delegation has come to England resolved to discover a *modus vivendi*, in other words, that it is set upon substituting a treaty of Alliance for the Protectorate. In regard to details it will endeavour to obtain the best terms it can, but it will not sacrifice the substance because the shadow does not fall on its side as well. There may be no great difference between the aspirations of Sir Adly Yeghen Pasha, and those of Zaghloul Pasha, but the one is a reasonable man with a logical mind, while the other has posed, since he was in London last year, as an irresponsible fanatic. It is therefore, mere folly on the part of the followers of Zaghloul Pasha to claim that he alone can represent Egypt, for the good reason that he does not represent the sober sense. of Egypt, and if he were her spokesman, could only represent her badly. The role of the present Delegation is to emphasize the ultimate aspirations of Egypt, but at the same time to give evidence of her fitness to make good her claims by recognizing her own limitations until such time as she has proved her capacity to the satisfaction not merely of Great Britain, but also of the whole world.

### *Mesopotamia and the Arabs.*

It is satisfactory to have it clearly stated in the House of Commons, and upon the unimpeachable authority of Sir Percy Cox, that the Emir Faisal has not been guilty of the *bêtise* of announcing to journalists in Baghdad his intention to reconquer Syria. Those who are acquainted with the Emir, or who have followed his policy at all closely can never have credited such a ridiculous rumour; but since it was put forward in the French Press, which—presumably on the principle of being unable to forgive the man you have greatly wronged—loses no opportunity of attacking Emir Faisal, it is well to have the lie nailed to the counter. Sir Percy Cox has stated, in reply to questions put by Mr. Churchill, that the Emir has never made any statement to a meeting of journalists, and that in the only interview he has given to a Baghdad journalist his Highness's allusion to Syrian affairs was most friendly to the French. The Arabs, like the French, have a great reputation for generosity in many respects; and it would seem that the Emir is concerned to preserve it. His patience under extraordinary provocation redounds greatly to his credit, and it is to be hoped that his moderation and restraint will not endanger his popularity either in Irakel-Arabi or in Syria. Active efforts are now being made to bring about a thoroughly good understanding between the principal leaders in the Arab world; and a sagacious ruler in Baghdad, enjoying the confidence of all the Arabs of Mesopotamia and of the neighbouring regions and tribes, would be an important factor in solving the problem satisfactorily.

### *Further Aerial Progress,*

The development of air communications in the Near and Middle East is making almost startling progress. We referred three weeks ago to the opening up of a new and direct route, across the Syrian Desert, from Jerutalem to Baghdad; and we learn now, from the aeronausical correspondent of *The Times*, that the Cairo-Karachi route is receiving close attention from the authorities. Weather conditions on this route are described as generally stable, and when it is remembered that air-craft flying by day only can reach Karachi from Kantara in four days, as compared with nine days from Port Said to Bombay by steamer, the possibilities of speeding up the mails, and later, of establishing a good passenger service, are at once apparent. Indeed, it is estimated that by using relays of aeroplanes the mails could be carried from one of the points mentioned to the other in 35 hours. Even after making liberal allowance for excessive optimism in these estimates, it is evident that we are on the eve of remarkable developments, which we may still hope will prove beneficial in a host of ways, both to India and to this country. Incidentally, it may be added that the story of the opening up of the route across the Syrian Desert seems to promise well for exploration of the much greater Arabian Desert in similar fashion. That region, still mysterious in parts, may soon be as familiar to some of our airmen as his own particular 'run' is to the motor 'bus driver. Moreover, it is reported, the King of the Hejaz has just bought from the British Government four aeroplanes, to serve as the nucleus of a Shereefian Air Force.

### *The Prince's Indian Tour.*

The skeleton programme published of the Prince of Wales' tour in India will, not, we fear, reassure those journals which have been writing of the dangers of overpressure. There are nearly forty places to be visited in the course of the short Indian winter, not much less than 10,000 miles will have to be covered between them, and an extraordinary variety of occasions for interest and emotion is provided. The chief centres of political, intellectual and industrial life, the great military stations, the largest sporting and social gatherings, all are in the list, and along with them a fully representative selection of the Indian States, Rajput and Sikh, Maratha, and Moslem, as well as the Allied Kingdom of Nepal. A steady-going Victorian would have viewed the prospect with something akin to horror, and would have gone through it stolidly with the utmost economy of effort, but the Prince is a son of the twentieth century, which cultivates emotions as though they were muscles, and his hosts are assured beforehand of his response to their exertions.

### *Indians in East Africa.*

We have on more than one occasion referred to the acute differences of opinion regarding the status to be assigned to Indian residents in Kenya, a question which is important chiefly because it is almost universally regarded in India as a crucial test of the sincerity of England and the Empire. Nothing has yet been published regarding the official discussions which have been proceeding in London, but last week an interesting divergence of opinion was disclosed in the Standing Committee of Parliament which has been examining the subject from the Indian standpoint. The majority affirmed the principle for which India is contending, that there must be no trace of inferiority of status; the minority protested that the question is essentially Imperial, and too large to be decided by a body constituted specially to deal with Indian affairs; and when the matter is stated in that way, it is difficult to disagree with the minority. For practical purposes, the most satisfactory solution would be a friendly agreement between Mr. Montagu and Mr. Churchill, but if that is unattainable, Parliament must be the final arbiter, and

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it should not depend solely on the advice of a committee chosen in the interests of one of the contending parties.

*A Conflict of Experts.*

Last week's meeting of the East India Association was marked by a degree of actuality such as is not very often to be met with in Caxton Hall. The subject for discussion was the great project for irrugating Sind from the river Indus; Dr. Summers, a former Chief Engineer, read a paper strongly condemning the scheme which has been officially adopted, and the subsequent speeches disclosed the existence of a large volume of hostile expert opinion. On the other hand, the India Office claims to have the support of "the weight of expert opinion" for the scheme elaborated after many years of examination, and since the details of the dispute are quite unintelligible to the ordinary layman, he is naturally inclined to leave the topic alone. The questions at issue are, however, serious; the scheme involves an outlay of many millions sterling, its financial prospects are hotly disputed, and, as with all great irrigation projects, the possibility of injurious social and economic reactions looms ominously in the background. For our own part, we think the opposition have made out a *prima facie* case for an impartial committee of the type recently employed in Egypt; when Indian engineers are unable to agree, it is only reasonable to submit the dispute to the judgment of the expert world.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Sunday Evening.

**The Irish Negotiations.**

There has been no further news of the Irish negotiations, which are officially suspended while Mr. de Valera is consulting the Sinn Fein leaders in Ireland. A preliminary reply has been received from him in Downing Street, but it appears to be a mere statement that he has placed the Government's proposals before his supporters. It has been stated in some quarters that his message was more favourable than had been expected, and in other quarters that it was less favourable. For myself, I shall hazard the entirely novel suggestion, which has not hitherto occurred to anybody, that it was precisely what was expected—merely an interim statement that Sinn Fein had not yet decided its answer to the Government's proposition.

Some of the more trustworthy correspondents on Irish affairs have indicated that there is a division of opinion in Sinn Fein—between the moderates who are ready to accept the Government's terms, at least as a basis for further negotiations, and the extremists who will hear of nothing but an Irish republic. This seems entirely probable.

**The Interview that Never was.**

But even Ireland has had to take a back seat this week; Lord Northcliffe has been the leading figure in the limelight. A remarkable interview in the *New York Times*, was attributed to him in a cable to this country. He was represented as saying that the King said to Mr. Lloyd George: "Are you going to shoot all the people in Ireland?" When the Prime Minister answered: "No, your Majesty," the King was said to have replied: "Well, then, you must come to some agreement with them. This thing cannot go on. I cannot have my people killed in this manner." The interview proceeded to say that when the King went to Belfast, and "got under the skin of the Irish people by his generosity," "the Cabinet tried to spike his efforts by making speeches in the Lords and Commons three hours afterwards, which were intended to irritate the Irish people." It also suggested that the King made his speech to the Ulster Parliament off his own bat, and that it was he who induced General Smuts to go to Dublin.

The air was at once thick with repudiations. The King took the unusual but entirely proper course of sending a message to the House of Commons, in which he affirmed that "the statements are a complete fabrication. No such conversation as this has taken place nor were any such remarks as those alleged made by His Majesty." Mr. Lloyd George denounced the "criminal malignity" of the interview. And General Smuts declared that the reference to him was devoid of foundation. Finally Lord Northcliffe himself repudiated the interview.

The interview appeared in one or two provincial editions of the *Daily Mail*, but not in *The Times*. It remains to be seen what the *New York Times* has to say to the repudiation. It is the most staid and trustworthy American paper, and it is to be noted that Lord Northcliffe did not repudiate it immediately on publication. It was at first surmised here that in his vendetta against Mr. Lloyd George—which made him suggest in *The Times* recently that the Prime Minister was not a suitable person to represent Britain in America, as he was universally distrusted—his passion had entirely run away with his judgment. The matter has been taken very seriously in London, and although Lord Northcliffe has repudiated the whole thing, it is bound to do him considerable harm. The trouble this business has caused is by no means at an end.

**Labour and Rates.**

In comparison with this resounding affair, the refusal of the Poplar Councillors to pay the London County Council and Metropolitan Asylums Board demand for rates seems very small beer. But it is not really so petty as it appears on the surface. Poplar admits that it is legally wrong, but it states that it cannot bear the burden of the rates—which, if levied, would work out at over thirty shillings in the pound—and it suggests that the proper course is to equalise rates in the metropolis.

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This controversy, which was first raised some twenty years ago by the Progressives, has rather been allowed to slumber of late years, many of the Liberals who were theoretically in favour of equalisation objecting to it in practice, as it would involve the wealthier suburbs (in which they happened to live) paying for the poorer; but there are signs that Labour intends to take it up.

Labour Councillors have made a full study of the facts and I must admit that they put their case very persuasively and cogently in the Lord Chief Justice's court; it is evident that they intend to run it as an election cry at the municipal elections. I am not fully acquainted with the Labour proposals, but a fair case can be made out, not so much perhaps for equalisation of rates by itself as for a general reform in local government. But English local Government is the most intricate thing in the world, and it would require several volumes to explain it. The question will probably become prominent in the autumn; the return of cooler weather will make us more inclined to squabble.

**Roman and Anglo-Catholics.**

The Roman Catholics have been holding a conference to discuss the question of the Bible. Hitherto they have used the Douay version in this country, but there seems a general tendency to adopt the Authorised Version as the more musical, more popular, and on the whole better rendering. One or two of the speakers at the congress suggested that certain Protestant errors should be expunged, but apart from this there was general agreement that the edition could be used very much as it stands.

Almost at the same time, the Anglo-Catholics, or the High Church School of the Anglican Commission, held their annual meeting at Oxford. It seems to have been as great a success as the inaugural conference held by them in London last year, and it clearly justifies their claim to be the strongest party in the Established Church. It was noticeable that one of the speakers again advocated the celibacy of the clergy on the usual ground that it tends to a more spiritual life for the priesthood. On that matter I have neither knowledge nor opinions, but it does seem possible that the economic condition of our badly-paid clergy will furnish a still more forcible argument for celibacy. It is noticeable that the number of Candidates for ordination is heavily declining.

**The Scottish Census.**

The Census figures show that Scotland has not increased its population very much—it now stands at 4,882,157, an increase of 121,253, or 2.5 per cent. in the past ten years. Women have increased far more rapidly than men, which is attributable, of course, to the war, which hit Scotland very heavily. The increase is practically confined to the urban areas, and there is a general decrease in the rural districts, particularly the Highlands. Aberdeenshire has fallen 3.6 per cent., Banffshire 6.7 per cent., Caithness 11.6 per cent, and Sutherland in very much the same ratio; on the other hand Lanark, an industrial county, has gone up 53,189, or 3.6 per cent. Of the towns Glasgow has gone up, Edinburgh has fallen slightly, and Dundee shows the largest drop—8,134 on a population of 168,217. It will be interesting to contrast the figures with the first statistics of the English census, which will be published in two or three weeks' time.

**The Holiday Season.**

If one may judge by the crowds on the railway platforms, the introduction of excursion tickets should bring a lot of money in to the till. It is now possible to get down to Penzance and back for just under three pounds, which as things go is quite a reasonable figure, and other fares for shorter distances are in proportion.

But it will be a different kind of country that the cockney will pass through this year. In most of the South and East of England the harvest is already cut, and it looks strange to see the fields of stubble at this time of year, the summer. There was no particular reason, except the invariable custom of the calendar, why harvest festival should not have been held on the first Sunday in August.

**The Church Militant.**

It is whispered in ecclesiastical circles that the Church of England is thinking of starting a publicity department. The proposal is not as revolutionary as it sounds, for Rome and the Salvation Army both have press agents. Probably the Anglican Church has lost a good deal by not having a central organisation which could give information to editors and other journalists as to current topics in clerical circles, with the result that published information is often incomplete and inaccurate. The move should be a good one; and if in addition to supplying the laity with good news, it could supply the parsons with good sermons, the new department of the church militant would contrive a double debt to pay.

**The Week's Books.**

A few books are still coming out, although this is officially the dead season in literature.

"Makers of the New World" (Cassell) by "One who knows Them"—but does not know them very intimately—is another series of personal sketches of statesmen. The best is the *Te Deum* of Mr. Lloyd George; the worst is the utterly inadequate account of Mr. Balfour; the rest remind me of the lodger's description of the landlady's pudding: "That there are good things in your pudding, madam, I do not deny; but the pudding, as a pudding, is damnable." "The Eugenic Prospect" (Fisher Unwin), by Dr. C. W. Saleeby, a wonderful veteran, is an admirable account of modern eugenics. Its most forcible lesson is perhaps that conveyed in the following paragraph on the teeth: "Dental irregularities are practically universal among us. Some hundred million teeth have been extracted. About the same number have been spontaneously shed. The decayed teeth number two hundred million; there are about the same number of pyorrhoea sockets; finally, there are some twenty million diseased fang-tips."

"The Universal Church; a study in the Lambeth Call to Union" (Mowbray) by Canon Lacey, is an interesting study of the possibilities of reunion which will "avoid the pitfalls of abstract theory, evade practical difficulties, neglect the negligible, and move forward in the strength of the common sense of Christendom to do what is needed for the good of the Church."

Lastly, two novels: "The Obstacle Race" (Cassell) by Miss Ethel M. Dell; and "The Master of Man" (Heineman) by Hall Caine. Both are primitive, melodramatic, and crude, and both are bound to be popular. Those who like that kind of thing will wallow in it.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, July 21.*

The two official events of the week have been the French Fête and the first ceremony in connection with the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca. The latter was presided over by H. E. Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha, who in his capacity of Acting Prime Minister, represented the Sultan. The French Fête was, as usual, held in the Ezbekia Gardens and was a great success. It followed upon a reception in the morning at the French Agency at which Monsieur Gaillard, the French Minister delivered a speech reassuring the local colony on the question of their position and the protection of their interests under the proposed new regimé.

**The Alexandria Events.**

The first indication of the disastrous effect to Egypt of the series of demonstrations organised in Cairo and Alexandria by Zaghloul Pasha and his supporters has just been afforded us. After the troubles of March, 1919, a decree was issued setting up a Committee to assess the compensation due in respect of damage done to private property; and the Council of Ministers has now extended the mandate of that Committee to claims for compensation due in respect of damage done in Cairo and Alexandria between the dates of April 23 and May 24 this year. In the case of the 1919 troubles a sum of L. E. 1,000,000 was set aside. No new credit has been opened for claims arising out of the recent troubles, but it may be taken that they will not amount to less than those paid for damage done two years ago.

**Vindication of Tanta Commandant.**

The Court Martial on the Commandant of Police who after the Tanta troubles in April last was suspended from his post for exceeding his powers by firing on the mob, has been concluded, and the Commandant has been acquitted. This decision is most welcome; for there is no doubt that the Cabinet committed a very serious blunder when it took disciplinary action against this official, and that its policy greatly weakened not only the authority but also the *moral* of the police officials. The change in attitude of the Cabinet since the subsequent disturbances in Alexandria and Cairo has to a great extent steadied the Police, and the rehabilitation of the Tanta Commandant, who, after all, merely carried out his public duty, should go a long way towards restoring the confidence of his colleagues and all those who are entrusted with the maintenance of public order hroughout the country.

**The Egyptian Delegation.**

The liveliest interest is being taken in the progress of events in London, and most of the more important vernacular journals are receiving daily messages from their special correspondents in the Metropolis. For the most part these messages are accurate and deal in a temperate manner with the situation. Now and again, however, 'news' is received which, if one may judge from a recent notice issued by the Press Bureau, probably owes its untrustworthiness to the manner in which it has reached the correspondent in London. The paragraph runs as follows:—"A statement has recently appeared in the Egyptian Press based on a telegram received by the newspaper *Al-Ahram* from its special correspondent in London, giving an account of an article recently published in an English newspaper purporting to reproduce a statement of an official of the Egyptian Department of the Foreign Office concerning the forthcoming negotiations between His Majesty's Government and the Egyptian Official Delegation." In view of the extraordinarily circuitous manner in which the *Ahram* representative obtained his information, one is not at all surprised that the Press Bureau declares that there is absolutely no foundation for the statement reported.

At the same time it is to be hoped that more care will be taken with the issue of official *communiqué* by the Foreign Office. The one published on the 13th gave rise to no little flutter in the dovecotes here, owing to the statement that the two sides examined the Milner proposals. This was immediately taken to mean that the Milner proposals and nothing else are being made the basis of discussion; and you can imagine the commotion which was caused until the more instructed were able to explain what the real position was.

**The Civil Service.**

A somewhat humorous situation has arisen in the various administrations in regard to the Adviserships and other senior British posts. The Advisers to the Ministries of Education, Justice and Communications are all on leave; the Advisership in the Public Works is vacant, likewise the Financial Advisership and Under Secretaryship of Communications; while the Under Secretary for Agriculture is also on leave. The only Adviser at present in Egypt is the Adviser to the Interior who has only just returned and who, in addition to his own duties, has now taken over those of the Acting Financial Adviser. In every other administration every senior official is acting either for a colleague or for his immediate chief. In one Ministry, which shall be nameless, the whole of the British Staff has been "acting" for the past year, while for one day last week owing to the non-arrival of the French steamer, there was not a single senior British official left in either the Finance or the Interior. The present situation, which is due partly to the inexpediency of making new appointments in view of the political situation and partly to the inability of high officials to take adequate leave during the war, is regrettable; but it does not seem to have any bad effect on the administration of the country, which the less senior members of the Service seem to be able to carry on quite satisfactorily.

**The Mails.**

During the past month a marked improvement has taken place in the mail service between here and Europe, and we now have at least two regular outgoing and incoming mails, with occasionally an intermediate one to relieve the congestion. This is a nearer approach to the pre-war state of affairs, when we had five mails each way a week. During the war the postal authorities did wonders, but we by no means had regular mails. Indeed there were times when very long periods intervened and we still shudder when we think of the one occasion—thank heaven it was only one occasion—when no mail reached us for a month, and then papers of twenty-eight dates were delivered in one batch. The new arrangement is certainly a greater advance than any previously registered since the Armistice, and one can only hope that it will be maintained and perhaps in time extended into a tri-weekly service, which, if regular, is in reality the maximum that is necessary.

## GREECE.

*Athens, July 20.*

**The Fall of Kutahia.**

The first unofficial news of the fall of this Turkish stronghold was received at Athens on Monday morning by the new private wireless installation of the *Politia*, *Nea Himera*, and *Eleftheros Typos*. The Government, as usual, knew nothing about it until 10 o'clock in the evening when M. Gounaris received General Papoulas official message and communicated its contents to the National Assembly, which was sitting at the time. An hour later everybody in Athens knew of the joyful news. The church bells began ringing, and the air was suddenly filled with the deafening noise of thousands of rifle and revolver shots fired by the over excited Athenians. Spontaneous demonstrations took place at Omonoia

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Square and at other parts of the city, and the big crowds in the cafés and the theatres stood up singing patriotic songs and cheering for the King and the Army. Very few Athenians went to bed that night before 3 o'clock. On the following morning a thanksgiving service was held at the Cathedral at which Princess Elizabeth and Prince Nicholas, the Council of Ministers, the Chief of the French Military Mission, and many other officials were present. The Metropolitan of Athens officiated. During the service the banks, all Government and private establishments, and the shops were closed, and a hundred and one shots were fired from the Lycabettus hill. There were big crowds outside the Cathedral cheering for the Army. At night the town was illuminated and gala performances were given in all the theatres.

At the time of writing the first official news of the fall of Eskihehir is through.

**Admiral Countouriotis.**

Fifty deputies have brought forward a motion requesting the cancellation by the National Assembly of the Law which was voted by the Venizelist Government conferring the highest rank of full Admiral upon M. Paul Countouriotis, at the same time granting him an annual pension of 50,000 drachmae. Admiral Countouriotis was in command of the Hellenic fleet which rendered such valuable services both to Greece and to her Allies during the first Balkan war. He was also one of the two superior officers—the other being General Danglis—who in 1914 accompanied M. Venizelos to Salonika, where he played a very important part in the creation of the Provisional Government and the building up of the National Defence Army which fought with the Allies on the Vardar, the Struma, and the Doiran fronts.

It is to be hoped that the National Assembly will reject this unjust demand of fifty of its most fanatical anti-Venizelist followers, as both M. Gounaris and his friends are perfectly well aware that the honour was not conferred upon the distinguished Admiral by the Liberal party alone, but by the entire Nation as a token of deep gratitude for services rendred to the country.

**The Greeks of Trebizond.**

It is reported that the project of the Kemalists to remove all the Greeks from Trebizond into the interior of Asia Minor, has been abandoned owing to the threatening attitude adopted by the Mussulman population of that region. At the time of the Great War when Trebizond was occupied by the then victoriously advancing Russian armies, the Greek inhabitants of that town took the Mussulmans under their protection, and now that the tables have turned the latter are repaying their neighbours' kindness.

**General News.**

The anniversary of the fall of Bastille was celebrated as usual on July 14, by the French colony in Athens. A reception was held at the French Legation by the Chargé d'Affaires, M. Tripier, the Ambassador, M. de Billy not having yet returned from his journey to France. Among others, the Premier, M. Gounaris, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Baltazzi, and the leader of the Liberal Party, General Danglis, visited M. Tripier.

The Piraeus police have seized three large boxes containing Communist pamphlets which had been sent from Trieste. These were addressed to a bookseller in Salonika with a request to distribute them among the Communists of that town. The police have ascertained that the pamphlets were printed at the works of the well-known Italian Socialist paper *Avanti*.

As a result of the publication of an article a few weeks ago in the *Politia* (Royalist) entitled "Monastir under the Serbs," the entry of this paper into Yugoslavia has been prohibited by the Serbian authorities.

King Constantine left Cordelio (Smyrna) for the front this morning. Queen Sophie is returning to Athens to-morrow morning.

The first Turkish prisoners, numbering 360, have arrived here from Smyrna.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb.*

**Murder of M. Drashkovitch.**

The past week was marked by a tragedy which has plunged the country into gloom. M. Milorad Drashkovitch, who but a few days before had relinquished portfolio of the interior—although he had handed in his resignation on grounds of health several months ago—was murdered in cold blood in the presence of his family. Overworn by the cares of office at a difficult period, the Minister had gone to the seaside to enjoy a well-earned holiday with his family, at Delnica, and on the morning of July 21 he was sitting on a bench in the park, reading the paper, when suddenlya young man passing by drew a pistol and fired two shots at him at close range. The Minister sprang up, cried out "Catch him!" staggered a few paces forward in the attempt, and fell dead upon the grass. The miscreant bolted, but a detective who was standing by fired with his revolver, wounded him in the head, and he was quickly captured. The gendarmes had difficulty in preventing him from being lynched by the infuriated onlookers.

**His Career.**

There are few men who could be less spared at this moment than M. Milorad Drashkovitch. Born near Rudnik in Serbia in 1873, he had studied dairy-farming in Switzerland, and contributed much to the improvement of dairy methods in Serbia. He was Chairman of the Zadruga or Co-operative Society of Dairy Farmers, and took an active interest in banking. An indefatigable worker, capable, and honest, he was soon elected deputy in the Skupshtina. He first became a Minister in 1905, since when he has held almost all portfolios. At the

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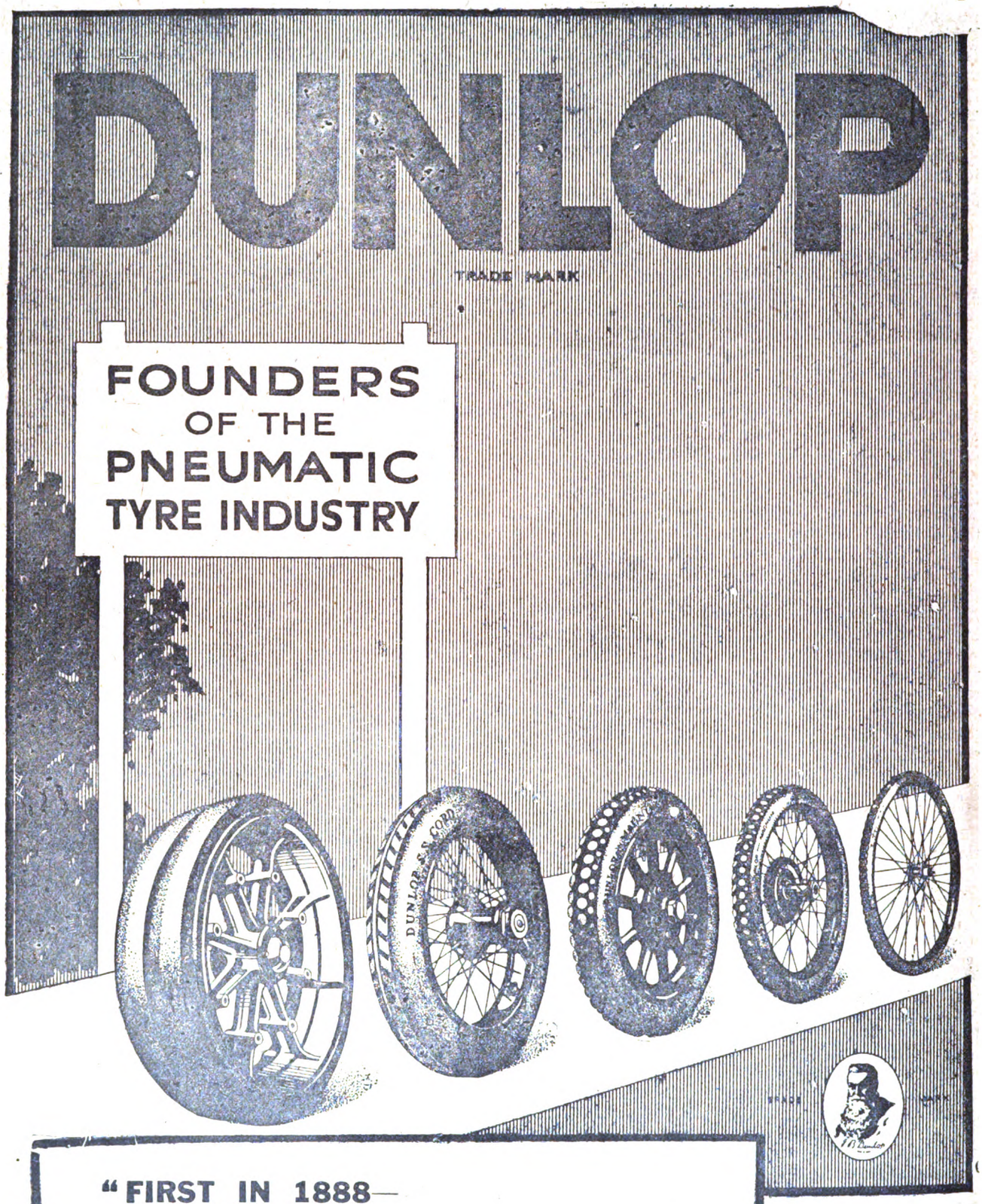


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outbreak of war he was Minister of communications in the Coalition Government. During the retreat through Albania he was Acting Minister of War, and it was largely due to his energy and capacity that that disaster was not greater than it was.

At Corfu he became Minister of Communications and organised the Serbian Red Cross in Geneva.

Originally a Radical, he seceded several years ago, and joined the Democrats on the formation of that party, of which he was a mainstay up to his death. It was as Minister of the Interior in the Vesnitch Cabinet that he produced the *Oznana* or declaration against the Communists, which nipped in the bud their plot of the New Year, and destroyed their organisation. He thus incurred the deadly enmity of the Terrorists, and it will be remembered that there was an attempt upon his life as he was leaving the Kolarats in Belgrade some weeks ago. The late Minister had one quality that is rare among politicians in this country: he was not abused by his opponents, and the Radicals and the Narodny Club respected his high qualities and his honesty. He was known and popular in Zagreb, where his untimely end is as sincerely mourned as in Belgrade.

On the 22nd his body was brought by rail through Zagreb to Belgrade, where he was accorded a State funeral.

**The Criminal—**

The perpetrator of the crime is a young Bosnian named Ali Aliagitch. It appears that he came to Zagreb to look for work, but he could not find it. A friend of his a student named Cholakovitch, a Socialist, has been arrested on the charge of having supplied him with the money and a weapon, and told him that it was the fault of Drashkovitch's *Oznana* if he could not get work. The deed is probably part of a big terrorist campaign.

When the first shock of the news had passed there was a general outburst of anger throughout the country. The Students in Zagreb vented their wrath against Communists and Frankovists alike, not sparing the Narodny Club, and there were disorderly scenes several evenings. The Government has decided to take most energetic steps against the Communists. All Ministers were recalled from leave, and M. Pashitch has postponed his visit to Prague where he was to meet Dr. Benes, M. Take Jonescu, and the Polish Foreign Minister. It is stated that the Government will call the parliament together and ask for a free hand in dealing with the situation, and that the Communist Party will be abolished; for the theoreticians are an element of danger, since, consciously or not, they encourage the criminal and terrorist element. A mass meeting has been held in Belgrade to enrol all good citizens in defence of the country against internal enemies. Major Milorad Stefanovitch, an invalid and president of the Association of War Invalids, in an eloquent and fiery speech, called upon the population to form a league of defence, to be called the Drashkovitch League They passed several patriotic resolutions, bound themselves to national defence and called upon all patriots to close their ranks and form defence leagues all over the country, and to support the Government and Parliament in its struggle against the dark forces.

**—and his Associates.**

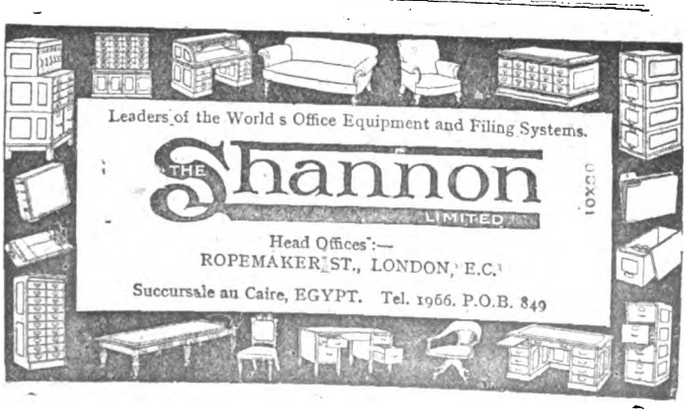
The man Cholakovitch is a student of the Commercial School at Zagreb and is only 21 years old. He is a native of Bjelina in Bosnia, and is of good family, but seems to have been an inseparable friend of Aliagitch, the murderer. He insistently denies having had any foreknowledge of the murder, maintaining that he is a Communist by persuasion, but opposed to terrorism. This is in fact the cry of all the Communists, who are terrified at the consequence of the creed they have been preaching It is reported that most of the members of the party in Belgrade are endeavouring to get away and to clear themselves of any implication. It is amusing to learn that three of the leaders in Zagreb, Wolf, Horvatin and Tsvijitch, have applied to the police for protection, stating that their lives are in danger, presumably from the outraged public. In the same way, after the attempt on the Crown Prince, Mosha Pijade, a member of a well-known Jewish family in Belgrade, and a prominent Communist, applied for police protection. How delightfully logical!

One early result of the police investigation has been the discovery of the man who attempted to shoot M. Drashkovitch as he was leaving the Kolarats on May 3. His name is Galovitch, and he is a consumptive youth, who was identified in hospital at Liubliana. He attempted to commit suicide when he learnt that his accomplices had been arrested, for he felt sure that they would betray him. Aliagitch showed every sign of terror when he was arrested, and feared he would have been lynched, as he fully deserved, but recovered his assurance after a short time. He was asked by M. Pribitchevitch, Minister of the Interior, if he knew what fate was awaiting him. "What can there be?" he answered impudently. "The gallows and a rope" said the Minister. "Bah! You cannot hang me," replied the murderer, "the Constitution does not permit the death penalty for political crimes." So they are ready enough to try to take advantage of the law and the police and the organisation of society against which they have declared war, just as they are to betray their comrades when their own precious skins are in danger.

Delegates of all shades of Socialist opinion have been appointed to confer with a view to combination against the Communists.

**The White Ensign at Belgrade.**

The British Danube Flotilla has paid an official visit to Belgrade, where it was received with unbounded enthusiasm. The Serbian public had heard much of the exploits of the British fleet during the war, but had little oppportunity of seeing any representatives of it with their own eyes. The monitors "Glow-worm" and "Ladybird" and M.L. 196 were therefore regarded with great curiosity by the citizens of Belgrade, and the officers and men were received with Serbian hospitality. They were met by Yugoslav naval and military officers: Dr. Kumanudi, Minister of Finance represented the Government. Admiral Pritsa, General Zechevitch, the Minister of War, Marshal Boyovitch, Chief of the General Staff and other distinguished guests were entertained to lunch on board. In the evening the visitors were received at a gathering of Sokols. They were very much impressed by the exhibition of physical drill and rifle drill by the Sokols and a detachment of Yugoslav infantry, after which Britons and Serbs danced the *kolo* together. In the evening the Belgradians were invited to visit the vessels, and for over an hour enquiring crowds investigated the mysteries of the monitors. Finally the visitors were entertained officially at a dinner at the Officirski Dom, and the following morning they sailed for Novi Sad, where they will be received by the Novi Sad River Fleet and by the garrison.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## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, July 12.*

### The War in Anatolia.

Except as regards the actual territory occupied, the Greek and Kemalist official *communiques* directly contradict each other. According to the Greeks there has been heavy fighting, and the prisoners and booty captured by the Greeks are both numerous and important. The Kemalist *communiques*, on the other hand, while more or less frankly admitting the loss of Eskishehir and other important points, make no mention of especially heavy fighting. On the occasion of the Greek offensive last March, it was the Greeks who circulated reports of imaginary victories; this time it is the Turks who are indulging in that particularly useless and silly form of propaganda. Thus, when it was common knowledge that Kutahia had been captured, reports were circulated in Stamboul to the effect that Brusa had been surrounded and that Ushak had been taken by the Kemalists. In such circumstances, it becomes practically impossible to judge the situation with complete accuracy. On the whole, however, there is no doubt that hitherto this round has been most decidedly the Greeks' round, and that the Kemalists have been very badly hammered. Whether the Greeks will succeed in dealing a knock-out blow is, however, still open to discussion; and although the importance of the Greek successes cannot be ignored, it may yet be possible that the final result of the fighting will amount to little more than a displacing of forces.

In well-informed Turkish circles, no attempt is made to disguise the extreme seriousness of the situation, but it is generally affirmed that whatever happens, the struggle will not be relinquished. The Turks still have an army in the Eastern provinces under the command of Kiazim Karabekir Pasha; but it is too late now for that army to be moved in time to be of any assistance in the present operations. In view of the undeniable superiority of the Greeks, therefore, the efforts of the Kemalists are apparently being concentrated upon the preservation of their army as a fighting force, and they will probably continue to retreat until a more satisfactory line of defence has been reached. Such a line can hardly exist west of Kastamuni—Angora—Konia, and it is therefore probable that the Greeks will advance into the heart of Anatolia before they pause. Will the Kemalist army still be of any significance as a fighting force when that moment arrives? It is not easy to form an opinion at the present stage of the operations, but the Greeks are taking no risks; for they are already strongly fortifying the Afion Kara Hissar-Eskishehir lines; and it is more than doubtful whether the Kemalists will ever be able to turn them out.

### The Bolshevists.

In the meantime it would seem that the Bolshevists have been quietly concentrating considerable forces in the Caucasus. At the risk of being accused of being an alarmist, one may at least regard such a circumstance as ominous. Bolshevist policy bears a remarkable resemblance in its essentials to Tsarist policy, however much it may differ in its outward forms; and Turkey's need has always been Russia's opportunity. It will be remembered that only a month or two ago, the details of the Bolshevist scheme for setting up Enver in the place of Mustapha Kemal were revealed in the Anatolian press. Enver, however, has been quietly continuing his task of recruiting an army of Moslem volunteers at Baku, and everything tends to substantiate the belief that the Bolshevists have by no means abandoned their scheme of placing him at the head of an army of "liberation" to save the Turks from servitude to foreign capitalists! Russia's opportunity will also be Enver's opportunity, for he has already proved a great success as a flunkey in the German service. Upon the events of the next two weeks much depends, and there is a promise of dramatic events.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Mesopotamia.

In an article upon "Mesopotamia" the *Outlook* of July 23 decides against both Mr. Churchill's policy and the policy of evacuation. The decisive objection to Mr. Churchill's schemes is that the country cannot afford them.

On the other hand, we have the policy of immediate evacuation. That is an attractive policy. It is easy to enunciate; it has a pleasing air of determination, of finality; and it holds out a promise of immediate economy to the tune of several millions a year. But the objections to it are scarcely less obvious than in the other case. One need not be a supporter of Mr. Churchill's particular schemes to see that while the evacuation of Mesopotamia may be very good for the prestige of the Coalition in the English constituencies, it will not be so good for the prestige of the British Empire in the East. It is agreed on both sides that the inevitable effect of an evacuation will be that Mesopotamia will relapse into a state of anarchy. We might, perhaps, disclaim any responsibility on that head if our troops had found Mesopotamia in that condition, but they did not. The Turks maintained a fair semblance of order in the country; travelling was safe—safer than it was in neighbouring Persia, under British and Russian control; trade was easy—so long as the proper official received his regular *bakshish*. In these circumstances, are we not under some moral obligation at least to endeavour to set up a strong native government in place of that which our invasion destroyed before we leave the country to its fate? Again, it is clear that if, from reasons of economy, we decide in favour of evacuation we must be prepared to persist in that policy; otherwise it may end by costing us more than Mr. Churchill's plan. We must be prepared, that is to say, to see the tribesmen at each other's throats, to see the trade of the country ruined, to see the Turkish Nationalists and the Bolshevists from the north taking a hand in the game, without interference on our part. It sounds easy, but the history of empires, from Roman times to our own, shows that it is not so easy as it sounds.

And the last paragraph consists of a plea for economy and for the Emir Faisal.

The position then appears to be that we cannot afford to remain in Mesopotamia on Mr. Churchill's terms, but that a too hasty withdrawal may in the end cost us even more, both in prestige and in money. We suggest that there may be a middle course. We suggest, for instance, that Mr. Churchill's figures should be examined. Is it really going to cost us nine millions a year to keep three million Arabs in order? Lord Cromer used to maintain British authority over twelve million Egyptians on exactly nothing a year. Again, we suspect that a good many of the subsidies could be dispensed with, or reduced. Instead of merely clamouring for evacuation some of Mr. Churchill's critics would do well to look into his figures and ascertain whether he is not asking for more than he really needs. To assume, on the contrary, that he will require more than he has asked for, and that all his plans are foredoomed to costly failure is to add unnecessary difficulties to an already difficult situation. Above all, why try to queer the pitch for our candidate, the Emir Faisal, by writing him down a failure before his candidature has well begun? Few people in this country are competent to do more than guess at his prospects; it is a question not only of tactics but of personality. It is however, quite certain that the establishment of a strong native government in Mesopotamia under the ablest of King Hussein's sons, would be, if not the quickest, at any rate the most honourable and, in the long run, probably the cheapest solution of the problem from our point of view. Nor is this simply a question of the future of Mesopotamia. We have definitely, and in a literal sense, "put our money" on the Shereefian family. It is the largest item on the credit side of our present account with Islam. The success or failure of the Emir Feisul will have its effect in Arabia, in Syria, and in the Sudan and India. On that account alone we should wish him well, quite apart from our obligations to him personally.

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According to the *Temps*, M. Le Marmier, a Frenchman in business in Bulgaria, was shot dead on July 14 at Phillippopoli, on his return home at night from a fête, by men who had hidden in his garden. The crime is attributed to political motives.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## ARABIAN MEDICINE.

**"Arabian Medicine"—Fitzpatrick Lectures, 1919-1920. By Professor E. G. Browne, M.B. F.R.C.P. (Cambridge: University Press. 12s. net.).**

Arabian Medicine, the title chosen by Professor E. G. Browne, for his book embodying the Fitzpatrick lectures, delivered by him last year at the Royal College of Physicians suggests a technical work of interest only to the medical profession, but this is far from being the case, for while it cannot fail to be of the greatest interest to all students of oriental history, it must be confessed that it is hard to discover very much in it likely to be of value to the modern physician. It is in the hope that this scholarly contribution to the historical records of the Arab Khalifates will be widely read by all who are interested in the Arabian political problem of the moment that we specially commend it to the notice of our readers, leaving our medical contemporaries to indicate to the profession the extent to which their knowledge of their calling may possibly be increased by the study of this work.

The tradition that in the dark ages of Europe the lamp of medical science burned brightly in the East, in the great Empire founded by the followers of the Prophet, we are thankful to find is in no way shaken by the searching examination to which it has been subjected by the erudite author of this book, notwithstanding the fact that he effectually disposes of the legend that the Arabian physicians who flourished under the Khalifate were men of original mind who made great medical discoveries, and whose work marks a definite advance in the history of the healing art. The most that can be claimed for them according to Professor Browne is that they rescued the wisdom of the great masters of Greek medicine from the oblivion into which it had sunk under the degenerate Byzantines. The belief that the Arabs imposed their culture as well as their religion on the nations they subdued rests on no foundation of fact. It may offend the *amour propre* of the modern Arab to be reminded that his ancestors were in effect totally uncivilized when they emerged from the desert to sweep over half the world leaving their victorious path strewn with the ruins of half a dozen empires; but it is well that he should remember that the golden age of the Abbassid Khalifate at best marks the period when the Arab had succeeded in absorbing the knowledge laboriously acquired by the people he had conquered during the centuries when his mental horizon was limited by the crude necessities of the pastoral nomad. Admitting however, that he gave far less than he took when he established his dominion over Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Persia, the fact remains that the transaction of conquest in his case was by no means one sided, and in giving to the lands he subdued his magnificent language he placed the world in his debt for all time. Professor Browne considers that the Arab translations of the Greek medical classics are among the best that have ever been attempted, and the care taken in their preparation, and the insistence of the translators on having access to the original text instead of being content to utilize the Syrian and Latin versions extant at the time, testify to the soundness of their scholarship and the fineness of their literary sense.

The tendency of the modern European to view life from the nationalist standpoint tends so often to obscure his historical sense when the life story of mankind in the East is the object of his enquiry that it is not very surprising that the rise of Islam is more frequently than not completely misinterpreted by him. His failure to grasp the fact that the Khalifate, whether centred at Baghdad or Constantinople has always been essentially an anti-national organisation, may perhaps in some measure explain the chaotic condition of the Middle East to-day. Once one has brought oneself to realize that the assault of the Arabs on the outside world was a missionary enterprise rather than a military adventure the sudden appearance in the early years of the Khalifate of a distinctive culture in the lands converted to Mohammedanism is easily understood. The Arab believer in the divine mission of the Prophet took no account of nationality. He was content to classify humanity into the people of God, and the people of Satan, and by claiming for the former the possession of all the good things of this life and the next, he offered the most powerful of all inducements to the unbeliever to forsake his false gods and embrace the new religion. It was not offered in vain, and in a very short time in the Company of the Faithful, recruited from many races in many lands, the Arabs themselves were in a minority. This is very forcibly brought home to us in Professor Browne's work, for in the long category of distinguished physicians of the Arabian school, whose biographies he briefly outlines, Arabs are few and far between, and as he tells us "scientific literature in the Arabic language was for the most part produced by Persians, Syrians, and Jews, and in a lesser degree by G eeks, but only to a very small extent by genuine Arabs." Persia no less than Greece was laid under contribution by the Arabs for the materials out of which was fashioned the distinctive culture of the Moslem world under the Abbassid Khalifate, and it was on the tradition of the great Persian medical school of Jundi Shapur that the Arabian system of medicine was founded. This school however was far from being a monument of Persian achievement in the field of medical science, for it owed its origin to Nestorian Greek teachers driven from the Eastern Empire by the intolerance of the Orthodox emperors to find protection in Persia under more enlightened rulers. The school, the author thinks, was little affected by the Arab invasion, but it was not until the latter part of the 8th century of our era, when Baghdad became the seat of the Khalifate that its influence began to assert itself in the Mohammedan world until "by the end of the tenth century the Moslems, to all of whom irrespective of race Arabic was not only the language of revelation and religion, but also of science, diplomacy and polite intercourse, had at their disposal a great mass of generally excellent translations of all the most famous philosophical and scientific writings of the Greeks—of the Greek medical writers besides Hippocrates and Galen their favourites were Rufus of Ephesus, Oribasius, Paul of Ægina and Alexander of Tralles; and for materia

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medica Dioscorides." During the Crusades when there was a considerable amount of intercourse between the great feudal lords of Christendom and the emirs of the Moslem armies the superiority of the Arabian physicians to their professional brethren in the West began to be widely appreciated. Frequently, the chivalrous Moslems raising no objection, one of the former was called in to attend an urgent case in the Christian camp, no doubt greatly to the annoyance of the western physician in charge. On one occasion at the request of the Frankish warder of one of the castles in the Lebanon, a Saracen emir sent his physician Thabit, who happened to be a Christian, to treat some persons who lay sick there. One of them Thabit found to be suffering from an abscess in the leg for which he very sensibly prescribed a poultice; but the treatment was not carried out owing to the appearance on the scene of the Frankish doctor of the castle. He insisted that immediate amputation offered the only hope of saving the patient's life, and then summoned a stalwart man-at-arms with an axe, and bade him chop off the leg at one blow. The man at arms did his best but the patient expired during the operation. The Frankish physician's interference with another of Thabit's patients also produced fatal results and so he decided to depart, having as he drily remarks, "learned of their medical practice what had hitherto been unknown to me." The book abounds with anecdotes illustrating the practice of many distinguished Arabian physicians, which the author has unearthed from the books in which they are recorded. Some of them are very amusing, and one regrets that space does not admit of their reproduction here. It is notable that in none of them is any attempt made to impute magical powers to the successful practitioner; the cure of the patient is invariably ascribed to the skill of the physician, his powers as a diagnostican being brought into special relief. It would seem as if the mental quality we are accustomed to describe as "smartness" was specially appreciated by the people who lived in the "golden days of good Haroun al Rashid." Intellectual brilliance appealed to them above all things; they liked their learned men to be clever, and had no use for books that were not well written, so one feels that if the gifted professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge, whose fascinating work is now before us had been fated to live in Baghdad in those far off days he would have held very high rank among the Arabian physicians.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Desert Mounted Corps: An account of the Cavalry Operations in Palestine and Syria, 1917-1918." By Lieut.-Col. the Hon. R. M. Preston, D.S.O. With an introduction by Lieut.-Gen. H. G. Chauvel, G.C.M.G., K.C.B. (London: Constable and Co. 21s. net.)

"The Jungle Girl." By Gordon Casserly. (London: Philip Allan and Co. 6s. net.)

"With the 1-5th Essex in the East." By Lieut.-Col. T. Gibbons, D.S.O. (Colchester: Benham and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Eudocia." By Eden Phillpots. (London: Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.)

### THE LEBANON HOSPITAL.

We have received a copy of the twenty-second report (1921) of the Lebanon hospital for Mental Diseases, Asfuriyeh, Beyrout, Syria. In the course of their report the London General Committee state that under the changed conditions in Syria the hospital has experienced no restrictions, and that the French authorities have in fact helped its progress. This annual report, which contains an audited statement of accounts and details of the work for the year, mentions that heavy expenses have been incurred during the last three years, and makes an earnest appeal for further funds to realize the aim of the hospital—to be a pattern in equipment and administration.

## PERSONAL & GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

August 4 (New Style).
July 22 (Old Style).
Julhijja 29, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab. 29, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja Holkar of Indore is staying at Lucerne.

Sir Horace and Lady Rumbold have left London for Constantinople.

M. Tourlakoff, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, is arriving in London this week from Sofia.

Prince and Princess Antoine Bibesco have returned to London from Washington.

Lady Willingdon left London last week by air for Paris, where she spent a few days before returning to India.

Captain H. I. Lloyd, who for the past few years has been serving in Mesopotamia, and latterly has been assisting Mr. St. John Philby, has arrived in England.

A delegation from the Church Missionary Society is going to India to study the many problems which face the Church and the missionaries in that country.

Miss Frances E. Newton has come to England on a visit, and is at present staying at her flat, 156, Sloane street.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Joseph Scruby, P.W.D., India, and Miss Barbara Gillman will take place at the Cathedral, Bombay, early in October.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Colonel Lawrence has left for Jeddah to visit the King of the Hejaz.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 20):—The Royal Family, who had to postpone their departure until after the close of Parliament, will leave in a few days.

An engagement is announced between John W. Leather, of Sylhet, India, and Dorothy Vera Potts, second daughter of the late Algernon and Mrs. Potts, of Glan-yr-Afon, Mold.


Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE ROUMANIAN PORTS ALSO FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS

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The engagement is announced between Ernest Aubrey Western Plumptre, of the Egyptian Civil Service, youngest son of the Rev. and Mrs. C. P. Plumptre, of Sevenoaks, and Amabel Maud Nisbet, eldest daughter of Mr. H. B. Nisbet, of Pitchards, Halstead, Essex, and 8, Howley-place. W.

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A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major B. D. Parkinson-Cumine, M.C., Military Barracks, Newry, only surviving son of the late Canon Parkinson-Cumine, M.A., and Florence Mary, daughter of the Rev. R. A. Cumine, M.A., Bengal Ecclesiastical Service (retired).

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A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on September 20, at All Saints' Church, Shelsley-Beauchamp, Worcester, between Major William Francis Richmond Webb, D.S.O., O.B.E., 22nd Punjabis, eldest son of the late Captain W. W. Webb; Indian Medical Service, and Sara Isabella, younger daughter of Mrs. Wallace, the Manor House, Shelsley-Beauchamp, and the late C.W. Wallace.

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The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Captain Geoffrey Colson Bull, 98th Infantry, Indian Army, younger son of Dr. and Mrs. Colson Bull, of Ramsgate, formerly of Turvey, Bedfordshire, and Gwyneth May, twin daughter of J. Penry Lewis, C.M.G., Ceylon Civil Service (retired), and Mrs. Penry Lewis, of Havenhurst, Canford Cliffs, Dorset.

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Mr. H. C. Luke, the Assistant Governor of Jerusalem, who is doubtless well known to most readers of the Near East as the writer of several delightful books of travel, has just had a narrow escape from drowning. The incident occurred at Jaffa, and when Mr. Luke was brought to shore he was only restored after prolonged treatment. Mr. Luke formerly served in Cyprus, and during the war he was with the Navy, in the Intelligence

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Our Zagreb Correspondent writes :—Rumour has long been busy about the betrothal of the Crown Prince. It was thought for a long time, and persistently and widely repeated in the Press, that he was going to England for his bride ; but it is now confidently stated in the Belgrade papers that his engagement will shortly be announced to Sophie, Duchess d' Ys, Duchesse de Vendôme, daughter of the Duc de Vendôme et d' Alençon. Relations between Yugoslavia and France are particularly cordial.

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The outlines of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales' tour in India have now been settled. H.R.H. will visit the following places, though minor alterations may be found necessary later. Bombay, Baroda, Udaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Bharatpur (including flying visit to Allahabad), Lucknow, Benares, Ratual (for Nepal), Patna, Calcutta, Rangoon, Madras, Bangalore, Mysore, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Agra, Aligarh, Delhi, Patiala, Jullundur, Lahore, Sialkot, and Jammu, Jhelum, Peshawar, Rawal Pindi, Kapurthala, Dehra Dun, and Karachi.

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## OBITUARY.

Mr. C. C. Burnand, of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt. The sixth son of the late Sir Francis C. Burnand, he died on July 20, on board the steamer "Ormond" on a voyage home after a long illness.

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News has reached England of the death, following sunstroke, of Major Arthur Charles Oldham, F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C. (T.), in the neighbourhood of the Persian Gulf. About a year and a half ago he accepted an appointment under the War Office at Baghdad.

Sir Archibald Fitzgerald Law, late Chief Judicial Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, has died at the age of 68. He went out to Cyprus in the following year as an Assistant Commissioner. He filled many important offices in the island, including the directorship of the survey, the head of the land registration department, principal forest officer, and Queen's Advocate on the Retrenchment Commission of 1891. He received his knighthood in 1908.

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The death has occurred of Major-General Charles Smith Mackean, C.B., C.I.E., a veteran of the Indian Mutiny. At the siege of Delhi he served with the Guides Infantry, and for his gallantry was recommended for the Victoria Cross. He was severely wounded at Agra. After serving in the China War, 1860, under General Sir Dighton Probyn, on his return to India he led the 1st Punjab Cavalry through the Afghan campaign of 1878-80. For many years he was one of the Deputy-Wardens of the Frontier. In 1889 he was appointed Consul-General at Meshed, and he returned to England in 1891, being promoted later to the rank of major-general.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF.

A telegram has been received by *The Times* announcing the suppression of the ultra-nationalist Teheran newspaper *Sottarch Iran* by the Persian Government. The sender of the message concludes with the words "Such is liberty in Persia."

Sixty third-class passengers are reported to have been killed or injured in a collision between a mail train from Rangoon to Mandalay and a goods train.

Abdul Hadi, the Afghan envoy to Bokhara, has returned to Kabul, where says the Simla Correspondent of *The Times*, he has doubtless reported the distressing state of Bokhara under Bolshevist domination.

M. Raskolnikoff, the *Pioneer* learns, has arrived at Kabul as Russian envoy instead of M. Suritz, who has returned to Russia on account of ill-health.

Having failed to provide security for his good behaviour, Mr. Ranga Iyer, publisher of the extremist newspaper *Independent* in India, has been imprisoned.

The number of Jewish immigrants who entered Palestine during the three months ending June 30 was 1,893.

The Danube International Commission will hold its session from August 15 to 25 in the presence of representatives from the Danubian countries and the Entente countries.

The French battleship Ernest Renan, arrived at Toulon last week, having brought from Constantinople 17 million francs in gold £680,000), part of the Turkish indemnity. The money will be deposited with the Banque de France.

A message to the French Press reports that a native of Sromdougou (French Sudan) recently found in the auriferous district of Faleme a gold nugget, the weight of which was 2 kilogrammes or slightly over 4lb.

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*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1921.


## BRITAIN & PERSIA.

It will be readily understood that the task which Lord Curzon set himself in the House of Lords last week of announcing the failure of Great Britain's policy in Persia was performed with the keenest personal regret For thirty years, as he reminded his hearers, no one has laboured harder for the integrity and well-being of Persia, and it may be added that the sacrifices made by the British Government, to which Lord Curzon called attention, to re-establish and strengthen and guarantee the future existence of the Persians as a nation were borne for the most part at his instigation. But now-as far as he could see, these labours had been largely in vain, and he was unaware of any encouragement to persevere in the task. The Persian Government had deliberately rejected the chance of recovering its for tunes with British aid; it had preferred to fall back on the familiar game of playing off one foreign country against another, even to the extent of accepting Soviet blandishments in the place of British friendship. Persia, appeared to be marching of her own accord towards an end which could not be otherwise than unfortunate. While many will share Lord Curzon's feeling of disappointment, they will, we imagine, lack the personal incentive to despair and will fall back on the consolation that failure in the lifetime of an individual may easily be turned to success in a period that seems comparatively short in the history of a nation. There has been no change in the conditions surrounding the Anglo-Persian relationship. Thirty years ago when Lord Curzon first took up his task there was the same "chronic instability of Persian Governments," the same "atmosphere of incurable intrigue" prevailing among the Teheran politicians. Even the rival to British influence is the same, although the crude methods of Bolshevism seem to be more rapidly effective than the long-sighted scheming of Imperial Russia. The war may have rendered Great Britain's task in many ways more difficult; but the same single-mindedness, the same instinct to keep nations less fortunately placed than herself are her's, and only a faint heart can contemplate a scheme of things that subordinates for all time British influence to that of the Soviets.

We share Lord Curzon's belief in the soundness of the Anglo-Persian Agreement. It was a disinterested attempt on the part of a Western Power to re-establish the existence and secure the prosperity of an Eastern country. Great Britain offered by the terms of that Agreement to reorganize the finances of Persia and to enable her to create a national army and proceed with the development of her means of communication and her internal resources. But no sooner had the Agreement been signed than Persia through her Governments changed her mind. It will be remembered that the British Government caused considerable umbrage in France, by failing to notify the French Government of its intention to come to an arrangement with Persia, and the first obstacle to the ratification of the Agreement came with the direct encouragement which the Shah considered that he had received during a visit to Paris to oppose its adoption. France has, no doubt, forgotten her disservice to Great Britain in this matter, but her work has been taken up and improved upon by Soviet Russia. For a time there was some ground for the hope that Persia would hold herself to the terms of the arrangement provided that the actual Agreement were cancelled. The British Government was prepared to meet the Teheran authorities on this point; the question of ratification was tacitly dropped, but Persia proceeded to give effect to some of the provisions of the Agreement by inviting certain British officials and military officers to assist in her reorganisation. When they reached the country they found the ground cut away from under their feet by the presence of a Soviet Emissary in Teheran. It is customary to inveigh against the familiar Bolshevist methods—the exercise of ceaseless political propaganda, distribution of money and the presence in the background of a Russian force. But there was nothing new or unexpected in these methods when the British Government withdrew its troops from Northern Persia and adopted a course of *laissez faire*. Bolshevist intrigues can only be countered by action and a definite policy; when Great Britain abandoned both in Persia, she deliberately paved the way for the success of the Soviet Minister in Teheran.

To our mind the most tragic feature in Lord Curzon's admission of the collapse of British influence in Persia is his award of the palm of superiority in diplomacy to M. Rothstein. Nine months ago we urged in these columns that only a constructive policy could save the situation in Persia. As public opinion in this country would not sanction the retention of British troops in Teheran, we suggested a complete withdrawal from the North of all the insignia of British power and a definite attempt to build up Persia from the South. It was probable then that the Shah, his Court and the Government would be obliged to follow to Ispahan, leaving the corrupt and demoralising atmosphere of the capital with nothing on which it could batten. Soviet Russia might have taken charge of Teheran, but it would have found itself in possession of an empty shell. It would have been powerless to interfere with the reorganisation of the nucleus of a new Persia in the South. An essential part of the scheme was that it should be entrusted to capable hands, and we ventured to suggest that General Ironside, then commanding the British troops in Northern Persia, might prove the right man. It would be invidious to inquire into the connexion between the loss of British prestige in the East and the record of personal failure on the part ofi so many of Great Britain's representatives, whose attainments may have fitted them for high posts elsewhere, but who lacked the qualifications that are essential to success among Easte n peoples. Lord Curzon may yet outlive his disappointment in regard to Persia, if he will devote himself to the all-important task of finding the men who will take up the work of rehabilitating British influence in that country with the knowledge, the energy and the enthusiasm which he first brought to bear on Middle Eastern affairs thirty years ago. Instead of the rule that British representatives abroad must be applied on the principle that A, having been at X, must now go to Y, let it be realized that throughout the East Great Britain cannot afford in the years immediately ahead to be represented by any but her most able diplomatists, most carefully selected with special reference to the particular country to which each is being accredited.

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# BOLSHEVIST RULE IN CENTRAL ASIA.

## 1. Afghanistan.

*(By Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah.)*

Bolshevist endeavour in Afghanistan has necessarily been carried out in a more circumspect manner than in Bokhara. The penetration of an independent kingdom strong in military resources and the frontiers of which are strengthened by natural barriers, presented a problem of much greater complexity to the Reds than they had encountered elsewhere. That their amicable treatment of Afghanistan was merely dictated by the desire to spare themselves the ardours of a long and expensive campaign is obvious from their behaviour towards Persia, which they had not the same reasons for placating. In the fact that Afghanistan is the highroad to India can be found the keynote of Russia's friendly policy towards the kingdom of the hills. Bolshevism, should it succeed in its Indian adventure, does not desire to have in its rear a discontented and rebellious Afghanistan. Rather does it intend to make use of the military virtues of the Afghan and the strategical possibilities of his country as stepping-stones to the southern treasure-house which it aspires to plunder.

Doubtless the Afghans have no illusions regarding the real nature of Bolshevist friendship; but they dare not quarrel with their powerful and aggressive northern neighbours, and it may be that they are not a little flattered by the court paid them. Nor is this all. They have been informed that Bolshevism is merely Islam in a modern form, and they see for themselves that Great Britain and her allies are not well disposed to Turkey. They cannot understand why Britain, one of the greatest Mohammedan Powers should remain a mere spectator while the future of the Islamic countries is being moulded. The Turks of Angora are still regarded as the greatest power in Asia, and as the official and hereditary centre of the Islamic world. The Greek invasion of Turkey in Asia has greatly excited popular feeling. I have many times heard it stated that the Bolshevists have at least treated Turks, Bokharians, Persians and Afghans well on paper, and the real manner of their behaviour in the neighbouring Islamic countries is not generally comprehended at Kabul. Whilst there I formed the opinion that the general policy of the Bolshevists is to create among the Moslems antagonism to the British power in the East. Frequently I was asked why Great Britain did not join forces with the Moslems to root out the Bolshevist danger. Red Russia has laid it down in her treaty with Afghanistan that no arrangement may be come to with the enemies of either signatory or of the Turks. But in my view no understanding can possibly be come to between Great Britain and Afghanistan unless first of all the Turkish policy of this country is rendered more intelligible to the Moslem world.

The question of the late war between Afghanistan and the Indian Government does not weigh at all. It has left no bad feeling behind. But the Afghans are undoubtedly sore that such scant recognition has been accorded to their previous neutrality. During the war had Afghanistan been disloyal to its traditional friendship with this country, it might have done very serious damage; but at that time its interests were scarcely considered at all by this country; its usual food supply was endangered; its political existence was ignored. The Bolshevists were quick to seize the chance afforded by this extraordinary neglect. They rendered the necessary assistance in food and money without which the population of Afghanistan might have been decimated. Now it is well-nigh impossible to dislodge them from the country. There is still no Afghan representative in London. The question of Waziristan rankles. There is a keen sense of unfair treatment meted out to a people who in the main are better disposed to this country than to Russia, who have a longer traditional friendship with it than with their Slavonic neighbours, whom they can never regard in the same light, or with the same predilections. Yet these predilections are not being taken advantage of—or so they feel.

The Reds have lately obtained concessions in Afghanistan which hitherto British diplomacy has found it impossible to acquire. They are busily constructing telegraph lines throughout the length and breadth of the Ameer's dominions; important military posts have been placed at their disposal; and a network of railways and military roads is being laid down. Three new main lines of traffic now cross Afghanistan from West to East. That to the north runs from Turmez in Bokhara by way of Mazar-i-Sharif, through Kafirstan, to a point on the Indian frontier close to Chitral. It is connected with Kabul, through which passes the midland route from Herat to Jallalabad, which has an extension to the frontier near Peshawar. The most southerly route commences at Farah, passes through Kandahar, and impinges on the Indian frontier close to Quetta. Thus, all three roads run to the borders of India, and menace three points of the first strategic importance.

Russian railways in Afghanistan are linking up with the great system which has been laid down in Bokhara, and which has through communication with Moscow. The Orenburg-Tashkend railway has been extended to the north-east frontier of Afghanistan, and at Turmez links up with the northern road to the Indian frontier. Another line is in active preparation from Khokand, and will effect a junction with the Oxus railway at Kharaba, by way of Shirabad. The Transcaspian railway has also been connected by branch with Kushk Post in the north-west of Afghanistan, with an extension to Herat, linking up there with the roads to Farah and Kabul, whence a line of railway also runs by way of Safed Koh, Bandi Bain, and the Kohi-Baba range.

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But the astute Bolshevists policy has addressed itself to the making of friendships as closely as to the making of roads in Afghanistan. The great officials of the Court have received the closest attention from M. Suritz, the Bolshevists envoy at Kabul, and his aide-de-camp, Colonel Rex, who now number among their associates Sirdar Ali Mahomed Beg Turzi, General Nadir Khan, Jamal Pasha and Abdur Raheem Khan, the envoy of the new Bokharian Republic. These personages, it is alleged, are those who stirred up the recent revolt in the Afridi country, securing the election the notorious Mullah Said Akbar, as the "tribal Ameer" of that people. They have allied themselves with Kemal Pasha in Anatolia, to whom they have sent messages requesting aid in men and material for the formation of a large army to be recruited from frontier tribes. From my own personal observations I believe that the prime object of this junta is the total destrction of the Khyber tuunnel. Nct that its partial wrecking would be a matter of any great difficulty. A few large boulders rolled into its entrance would certainly ruin the effectiveness of the railway for days at a time, and the very fact that it is in the Afridi country is sufficient to make it difficult to keep clear as a road through to the north. A far better insurance against the Bolshevist invasion of India is a friendly Afghanistan. And this, I firmly believe, can be won at a minimum of sacrifice.

## THE CARAVANSERAI.

I have to thank a corrrespondent in Port Said for permission to print the following letter written by a young Egyptian who was looking for employment :—"Dear Sir—The Director—I have the pleasure to inform you that I am Z— X— Egyptian youth in fetching for a gop, I was a Clerk at....., Port Said, to give board ships lies in harbour salts, and now this working has been finished, I have obtained a Certificate from the director of the said Company herewith attached. I have heard that a vacancy under your direction is empty and containing a clerk. I am quite ready to work at any gop at Port Said or Alexandria or Suez, etc. Hoping that my application will meet you for such a same. May God crown your work by success and leave you long —I remain Sir to be your obedient servant....." The letter strikes me as quite a good one, but the quaint expression, "fetching for a job" ('gop') and "such a same" make it amusing enough to smile over. And if I had been the recipient I should have considered just what the writer meant by his wish that God might "leave" me "long" Where? Alone? Perhaps it all depended on whether Z.... X.... got a "gop" through my influence! A friend who has read the letter is anxious to know : (1) What kind of salts the Egyptian youth administered on—or to the ships in harbour; and (2) whether the working (of the salts) was satisfactory. I regret that I am unable to reply to either question.

* * *

It is not often that I envy another man his luck, but I must confess that I do feel just a little bit jealous of Captain Yates, who has succeeded in recapturing, if only for a very brief time, something of the romance of the sea. According to the papers, Captain Yates, although he has attained the three score years and ten of the Psalmist, and although he appears to have been in a state of some financial embarrassment, set out on a career of adventure with all the light-heartedness of youth, and really accomplished wonders. Somehow or other, he bought a steamer—the Lydia, an old friend of mine if I may say so—at Southampton, and contrived to fit her out and sail for Malta. Unlike the famous Turkish admiral, he found the island, at the first time of asking; and, though his crew was by this time very hungry and a little inclined to get out of hand, he actually secured a contract to carry the mails between Malta and Syracuse. Unfortunately he took the job on upon terms impossible of fulfilment, and having got himself into trouble by an unfortunate habit of forgetting that short accounts make long friendships, he was finally brought to book by the intervention of an armed trawler. The latter, on approaching the Lydia, found Captain and crew armed to the teeth, and apparently bent on desperate resistance. But—alas, for these decadent days—many of the crew promptly threw their weapons away and, jumping overboard, swam off to the trawler. Others soon followed them, and at last Captain Yates, isolated, fell a victim to the trawler without a struggle. It was a tame ending to an adventure that opened well. If only the Lydia had hoisted the Jolly Roger, I might have felt tempted to join her gallant crew myself. As it is—

* * *

Dean Inge has in me a warm admirer, and I fail utterly to see why he should be labelled by a lot of professional optimists 'the Gloomy Dean.' Possibly my liking is due in part to gratitude, for on the only occasion on which I heard him speak he lightened up a dull and dreary public function with a truly witty speech. He has a whimsical way of telling unpalatable truths, and can put unpleasant facts forward with such an appearance of jesting that he often disarms criticism; and he must, I feel sure, do far more good than many less 'gloomy' clerics. Not long ago, at a meeting of the Social and Political Education League, he declared that he was rather inclined to think that if the House of Commons had taken an 'intelligent interest in the progress of our Indian Empire, we should have lost it long ago. Now, I make no pretence of understanding the great problem presented by India, but I cannot help feeling that there is a lot of truth behind this saying. We have been described as a nation unspeakably foolish in speech but wise beyond other nations in action, and, after all, the House of Commons *is* 'the greatest talking machine in the world.' The men who have made India have not as a rule been men of words, and the great output of oratory—chiefly native—about the country, which has been noticeable of late years does not seem to me to have helped India much.

**Corsair.**

## PARLIAMENT.

**Owing to pressure on our space, we are unable to publish "The Near East in Parliament" this week.**


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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

**The Trade Outlook.**

Hopeful indications are to be found in many directions of a trade revival. So far, however, the process is but slow, and it is evident that the expectations entertained in some quarters that developments would be rapid will not be realised. Stocks are going into consumption abroad, and much of the congestion has disappeared except in such centres as Constantinople, though even there the latest news is that the position is better than it was. Owing to the hopeless confusion in which industry was plunged here by the coal strike it will be many months before the period of normal production is reached which in the prevailing circumstances is perhaps not disadvantageous. If production keeps pace with a gradually broadening demand, then all will be well, but over production is the last thing to be desired at the present time with the congestion that must inevitably result.

**D.O.T.**

The cry for economy throughout Whitehall has not left the Department of Overseas Trade unaffected, and there it is understood that an attempt will be made to decrease expenditure by a reduction of the cost of the headquarters' establishment. No doubt there are ways in which economy can be thus effected, but the advisability of such a course is another matter. While there are those who doubt the value of Government assistance in trade matters, it is very generally agreed that there is no question at all that the Department has done, and is doing, a great work in the interests of British trade endeavour. It would seem in the circumstances a most foolish, not to say ungrateful, policy to do anything, therefore, that would in any way tend to circumscribe the Department's activities. Economy is all very well in the right place, but here one would think was a case rather for the expansion of usefulness than otherwise, seeing how essential it is that British trade should be developed at the present time.

**Sudan Agriculture.**

Attention was drawn in these columns recently to the somewhat serious agricultural situation in the Sudan. The position is dealt with in an article in the current issue of the *Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce. The writer states things have gone from bad to worse, "the price of wood fuel remains high and supplies are scanty, lack of labour continues, and our cotton lies decaying on the ground in hundreds of kantars." As regards fuel he points out that coal is offered at 60s. per ton Port Sudan, while the railway freight from Port Sudan to Khartoum is 62s. per ton. Naturally fuel at that price imposes an impossible burden on agriculturists.

**The Gezireh Scheme.**

As regards the labour shortage it is the writer's opinion that there are now in the Sudan more enterprises than the labour available can undertake, and he declares that the agricultural prospects and the economic situation of the country must remain uncertain, given the continuance of present conditions. In his view the principal cause is the Gezireh scheme. The proposed dam on the Blue Nile, has, it is maintained, been undertaken many years too early, further it has begun to prejudice what has been accomplished by private enterprise, and finally the writer states that owing to the extremely high price of materials, and the lack of labour the dam will cost four times more than it would have done under normal conditions.

**A Question of Expediency.**

These are certainly weighty objections, and would seem to call for a statement of the official view. Obviously it is no good saddling a country with a burden which it is unable to bear, and development if it can only be carried out at a disadvantage whatever prospects it may hold out for the future, should clearly be postponed. The growth of a young country cannot be forced; it can be assisted to a great extent by careful administration, but there must come a time when a pause is called for so that progress previously madecan be consolidated. The Sudan under the able guidance of British administrators has made an enormous advance in recent years, and it would be a thousand pities if anything were allowed to endanger the splendid results already achieved.

**The Freights Controversy.**

The latest development in the Egyptian cotton freights controversy is that, according to a telegraphic report, the United States Shipping Boards' representatives at Alexandria have decided to break off negotiations with the Liverpool Conference Lines, and that protective measures will be employed. That means, I presume, if the report is correct, that the Jones Act will be enforced. I do not see how in view of the facts which I set forth last week the Shipping Board could have expected to obtain satisfaction. The circumstances may have been unfortunate, but surely the action of the Board is not in accordance with the spirit in which commercial enterprise should be undertaken.

**Commentator.**

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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## IV. Yugoslavia.

We give the following extracts from the report of Captain E. Murray Harvey, O.B.E., M.C., on the economic and industrial conditions of Yugoslavia in 1920:—

There is said to be a great future for agriculture in Southern Serbia, where much land is yet virgin soil, uncultivated since the time of the Romans. The Yugoslav Government is granting free land and other privileges to farmers settling in this district, where the population is at present very scanty.

In Serbia the constant state of warfare, precluding the investment of capital, has left the mineral wealth of the country for the most part unexplored, and therefore unexploited. The absence of technical men of practical experience has resulted in much waste of time and money in prospecting territories which are of little economic value. The granting of extremely large concessions with exclusive right of search to individuals with very small capital has resulted in many promising territories being closed to people actively interested in mining. The laws will probably be amended and the concessions to be held by individuals limited. In Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia, the rival claims of Austria and Hungary to the development of State mining concessions has in the past adversely affected the development of mining industry in these provinces.

**Minerals.**

The principal iron deposits are the mines of Ljubija, in Bosnia, developed by the Austrian military authorities during the war; those of Vares, Bosnia, mines and iron-works; and those of Zenica, iron works only. Metallurgical works are on a primitive scale, and the production is only pig-iron and small castings. The largest copper mine is that of Bor, owned by a French group, the pre-war output of which was 7,000 tons of blister copper. The output is now, from various causes, much less. There are some other quite small propositions which can, however, hardly rank as producing mines. In north-east Serbia, in the Timok, a certain amount of alluvial gold has been obtained by dredging and sluicing. Some English dredging companies operated on a small scale, but no quartz mining has been done. Silver occurs in the form of argentiferous lead ores, but so far no deposits of great value have been discovered. The State lead mines of Postenje were abandoned in 1907, and a concession granted to a private individual. These mines are now under British control but are not at present being actively exploited. Chrome ore occurs in Serbia and Bosnia, and also in Macedonia, but amongst other reasons the high freight rates at present will not permit the active exploitation of these deposits. Manganese occurs in low grades deposits in Serbia, principally as manganiferous iron ore, but is not yet of high enough grade to bear exportation. True manganese ore has been worked near Sarajevo, in Bosnia, for upwards of thirty years.

Important mines for lead and zinc ore exist in northern Slovenia. Lead and zinc ore had been mined in numerous places in Serbia and Bosnia, but very little work is being done at present. Large deposits of bauxite occur in Dalmatia, and should in future be developed. There are no aluminium works, and such ore as has been mined is exported to Germany, Italy, or Austria. Cement occurs at Beocin, in Croatia, where a large factory is established. Small works exist in Styria, Croatia, and Slovenia. Large works operate at Spalato, which are developed principally for exporting the cement limestone to Italy, where the cement is manufactured. Oil is being prospected in the districts of Belovar, Virovitica and Darovar, in Croatia. The results, beyond the finding of large quantities of natural gas, are at present unknown. To summarise, Yugoslavia may be regarded as a country whose mineral wealth is practically unexploited, and, providing more active encouragement is given by the State, should well warrant investigation and active prospecting. The development of the mining industry, however, is so intimately dependent upon the solution of the existing transport problem, that until a concise statement of the Government's railway and waterfall policy is advanced, would-be investors in mining property will have to show considerable caution in the selection of areas for investigation.

**Factors Influencing Trade.**

The main factors contributing to success or failure in trade in British goods during 1920 were:—(1) Local exchange variations; (2) Time taken in transit of goods from United Kingdom to Yugoslavia; (3) Cash or credit terms of purchase; (4) Competition from countries with depreciated currencies.

It was a common experience that goods bought in the autumn of 1919 did not reach the commercial centres of Yugoslavia until February or March, 1920, that is, having taken five to six months to transit. Again, goods ordered ex. stock in the United Kingdom in February or March arrived in July and August. This delay was caused by:—(*a*) Congestion at port of shipment. (*b*) The fact that Yugoslavia has no port of its own except minor Dalmatian ports, as yet undeveloped to any extent, at which liners did not call during 1920; (*c*) The shortage of shipping; (*d*) The congestion and strikes at Salonika and Trieste; (*e*) Railway transport difficulties; (*f*) Delays in customs clearance, etc. All these hindrances did incalculable harm, especially to those merchants unfortunate enough to receive their delayed goods at a time when the exchange rate was adverse. Merchants or importers who had "sound money" credits and who paid cash for their goods were in an enviable position. On the other hand the unfortunate merchants whose capital was in local currency or who had to rely on bank assistance or finance, as well as those who secured credit terms from sellers in the United Kingdom were in many cases badly hit by the depreciation in the value of the dinar. For example, a merchant who ordered goods in May or June and who gave his sterling acceptance at six months found it necessary to cover that acceptance in December at the rate of 130 dinars to £1, whereas the rate at the date of purchase was 65 to £1. In other words, all his calculations were upset, and he actually paid in local currency twice as much as he had anticipated. Moreover, until he knew the actual figure at which he could or did cover for his sterling requirements, he could not sell his goods with the certainty of making a profit.

**Currencies and Competition.**

Competition from countries with depreciated currencies was very marked towards the end of the year and especially so from Austria, Czecho Slovakia, and Italy. Textile goods, machinery; boots, copper, motor cars, tyres, oils, iron and steel goods, earthenware, etc., were among the articles affected by this competition, the basis of which was the continued depreciation of local currency compared with the £ sterling. The depression in the United Kingdom and the consequent fall in the prices of all manufactured articles towards the end of the year did little to stop the competition referred to above. It is interesting to compare British prices with those of Austria or Hungary. For example, a well-known British 10.h.p. locomobile for threshing machines, 140 r.p.m., cost in November £760, whereas practically the same machine, 10.h.p. with 140 r.p.m. delivered by the machine factory of the Hungarian State Railway cost £206. Threshing machines with 26-in. drum from the same sources cost British £418 and Hungarian £133; ploughs £6, as compared with £1 12s. 0d. It was, however, remarked that typewriters of British and American manufacture easily hold their own against competition, especially those with Cyrillic type or an interchangeable type set.

*(To be concluded.)*

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## BULGARIAN PRE-WAR DEBTS.

At a meeting, held in Sofia towards the end of May, of members of the Union of Bulgarian Merchants, the Union of Bulgarian Manufacturers and delegates of other Commercial Associations the following resolution was passed :—

"This assembly considers that it is indispensable that the action of the Commercial Organisations be continued as regards the question of foreign engagements, and this on the basis laid down by the law on the suppression of the moratorium, recently passed by the Sobranje, that is to say to leave debtors at liberty to arrange their obligations by agreement with their creditors abroad, that is to say, before the foreign obligations are fully settled, to ask that creditors consent to receive the sums due to them in Bulgarian lei, deposited in a bank of the country designated by the creditors themselves, as follows :—For the English pound three times the nominal value i.e. 75 leva ; for the French franc, 2½ leva ; for the Italian lira, 2 leva, for other currencies of importance, Swiss, Dutch, American, Belgian, and Spanish, in triple proportion, interest included, on the condition, that is to say, that creditors will have the benefit of the interest on the sums."

Representations to the above effect have been made to the creditors of Bulgarian firms in the United Kingdom, and, as might be expected, there is no marked readiness to accept 75 leva for the £1 at a time when the pound sterling is quoted in Sofia at anything from 300 to 600 leva. (There has been a rapid recovery from the sudden fall which caused the pound to touch the latter figure). On the other hand, there is a desire to help Bulgarian merchants as far as possible, and it has been suggested that the most practical way would be to allow payment to be made in instalments spread over a wide period, and to remit entirely or in part interest due.

A further point, which was first taken up in "The Near East" and has since been raised in *The Times*, is that all Bulgarian moneys in this country, which were sequestrated during the war, and have now been placed under the jurisdiction of a Clearing Office, should be released. Great Britain is the only Great Power among the Allies which has adopted this procedure in regard to Bulgarian funds ; France, Italy, and the United States have specifically waived their treaty rights in the matter. The funds in question are not enough to meet all Bulgarian indebtedness in the United Kingdom ; but Bulgarian debtors have shown their willingness to meet their obligations, and the release of these moneys would mean that impetus would be given to the resumption of trade between the two countries. In the face of the action of our Allies, British insistence upon the rights fixed by the Treaty of Neuilly is most invidious and harmful to British trade.

British firms, however, in return for any concessions made, and Great Britain as a whole would have the right to expect that Bulgaria should take definite steps to set her house in order. Something should be done to stabilise exchange, which in the space of twelve months has fluctuated from 150 to 600 leva to the pound. Among the suggestions put forward to this end are :— (1) that the note circulation in Bulgaria should be limited and reduced by gradual withdrawals. (2) that the Bulgarian Government should release the export trade of the country from a number of restrictions.

In regard to the latter the Grain Consortium, it is satisfactory to note, is likely to be abolished at once as a result of the action of the Allied Commission for reparations, and other penalties on trade are gradually being removed. Reference has been made in some quarters to the tendency of the Bulgarian Government to increase its expenditure for purposes of representation in foreign countries. There is, no doubt, a natural desire to rehabilitate Bulgaria in the eyes of Europe, and suitable representatives abroad are one of the most effective means. Whether too heavy an expense is being incurred in this direction we are not in a position to say. With a depreciated currency the sums allocated in the Bulgarian Budget for legations and consulate may loom large, but it is hardly to be supposed that possible reductions, although a wise step perhaps for the cabinet's reputation, would have much effect on the rate of exchange.


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## GREECE.

Athens, July 29.

**M. Maximos' Departure.**

An agreement has been concluded between the Greek Government and the National Bank of Greece by which the latter grants to the former a loan of 150 million drachmae at an interest of six per cent. Immediately after the agreement was signed the Governor of the National Bank, M. Maximos left Athens for London on board a destroyer placed at his disposal by the Government. Official circles here have not given any explanation of his hurried departure, but it is understood that M. Maximos is seriously hoping this time to bring some money back to Greece with him. The *Proïevousa* says that prior to his departure the Governor of the National Bank had received a telegraphic invitation to proceed to London by an important group of capitalists with whom he had been in touch during his last stay in the British capital.

**Import of Motor Cars.**

The number of motor-cars imported into Greece has increased enormously during the last two years. One can safely say that in proportion to its size and population Athens boasts of more cars to-day than London. To the end of last year America headed the list, lately, however, owing to the appreciation of the dollar orders in the United States began to diminish and the Greek market is now flooded with German cars, mostly Mercedes

The table below shows the number of motor-cars imported from May 1, 1920 to October 31, 1920 :— American 183 ( the majority of these were Fords, the Chevrolets coming next ) , French 19, Italian 19, German 11, British 8, Belgian 3. Second- hand motor-cars :— American 101, British 27, French 23, Italian 23, German 11, Swiss 1.

**General News.**

According to official statistics the Hellenic Mercantile Marine on May 31 last comprised 358 steamers of a total tonnage of 547,597 and 1,195 sailing vessels of a total tonnage of 136,159.

The Minister of Supplies has prohibited the import into Greece of American luxury flour. Flour of this quality will henceforward be produced locally ( at the Piraeus ) and sold at 2.57 drachmae per oke, which is the same price at which the American luxury flour is now being sold.

The receipts of the Piraeus Customs during the month of June ( O.S. ) amounted to 4,962,264,75 drachmae in paper, and 172,030,20 drachmae in gold, as against 5, 395,798,90 paper drachmae and 238,949,40 drachmae in gold, which were the receipts for June 1920. There is therefore a decrease this year of 434,534,15 paper drachmae and 66,919,20 drachmae in gold.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, July 18.

**The Exchange.**

Since my last letter the value of the leva has undergone considerable improvement, and the £1 is now about 360 and 100 French francs are worth about 860 levas. The decrease in the rumours of Bulgarian aggression abroad, and the action of the Reparations Commission in demanding free trade in cereals are the most important factors in bringing about this improvement.

The action of the Reparations Commission in advising the Government to give up, or at any rate to postpone, the putting into force of the law which provided for taxes on capital and property has undoubtedly had a steadying effect on the general situation, and private citizens are not feeling so anxious for the safety of their belongings. It is understood that article 4 will not be put into force any more, and this also will have a salutary effect.

M. Tourlakoff, the Finance Minister, declared on Thursday that he expected to see the leva go up slowly, but did not think any great improvement would take place until the external loan was concluded. Presumably the Finance Minister will have the opportunity during his tour to discuss this matter with European bankers ; the Franco-Belgian Loan of 100 million francs has not yet been finally approved of as it is believed the Reparations Commission are not in complete agreement about the matter.

Sofia, July 27.

**Changes in Bulgarian Policy.**

Yesterday M. Dashkaloff, Minister of Commerce, announced that the Ministry of Finance had been instructed to withdraw the law instituting a tax on capital. He stated that when the Sobranje met in the autumn a vote would be taken to suspend Article 4 which deals with the punishment of those considered to have committed offences during the war. Meanwhile no other arrest will be made in connection with this act, and all trials proceeding will be suspended. The Minister further stated that the monopoly held by the Grain Consortium would be abolished, and that free trade would be established for the export of cereals. These reforms are of the first importance, and will, it may be hoped help to create a more stable, industrial and political situation.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, July 18

**The Economic Position.**

The Minister of Finance, Dr. Kumanudi, recently made a very interesting speech to his constituents at Split. Discussing the low value of the dinar to-day, and its recent further decline, he attributed this to the fact that on the eve of the harvest there was not sufficient surplus in sight to supply a heavy export. Moreover, there had been fairly heavy importing. Besides, ever since the liberation, the finances of the country had not had a fair chance owing to the general disorganisation and difficulties consequent on the unification of the new provinces ; there had been no uniformity of financial policy, but a series of independent ministers, each of whom had by force of circumstances been compelled to be an opportunist. They had also operated without parliament, and had instituted far-reaching measures by ministerial decree. The budget for the current year would work out at 4,800,000,000 dinars, which was not excessive for a state with a population of twelve millions. The deficit was not excessive in proportion, though serious enough under present conditions. The figure was 1,000,000,000 dinars. This the minister went on to explain was a temporary phenomenon and the result of the circumstances in which the young kingdom found itself. One of the main causes of the deficit had been the poor returns of taxes, due in part to the fact that in the new provinces, the financial staff was composed of foreigners principally Magyars, whose national interests had led them to adopt a policy of passive resistance. Import duties and state monopolies had also been disappointing hence the deficit. But, as the political situation had so improved and the state was settling down and organisation improving, especially in the personnel of the Ministry of Finance, there was every reason to hope that, in view of the great natural resources of the country, the budget would balance in a year or two. The success of the recent internal loan of 500,000,000 dinars to be expended solely upon communications was an important political and stabilising factor, and it was interesting to note that those very districts which were reputed to be least sympathetic to Belgrade were the ones that had borne the brunt of the loan and had so contracted great vested interests in the present regimé.

**The New Customs Tariff.**

The new Customs Tariff, which comes into force this week, includes a minimum and a maximum rate, appli-

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cable respectively to those countries with, and those without a commercial treaty. The rates are raised, but not so much as many of the local industrial people wished, though the tariff will decidedly afford protection to local industries, and this principal is now applied for the first time to iron, timber and textiles. The tax on turnover is abolished, and to make up the consequent loss of revenue, 100 dinars in gold are now to be accepted as the equivalent of 400 silver dinars (bank notes), instead of 200, as hitherto. The 10 per cent import duty on luxuries is maintained.

**Miscellaneous.**

It is reported that the returns of the National Bank on June 30 were :—Bullion 437,336,343 dinars; paper money in circulation, 3,745,943,320 dinars.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 20.

**General News.**

A report from Cluj states that Hungary and Czecho-slovakia have closed their frontiers to Transylvanian cattle. In consequence of this unexpected measure there is a danger that the cattle that have been transported in large numbers will die of hunger and the cattle-breeders suffer heavy losses.

The management of the Roumanian railways has granted a reduction of 50 per cent to all industrialists and merchants who participate at the Cluj Sample fair. The same reduction will be made also for the transport of all goods sent to be exhibited.

A Roumanian delegation is about to leave for Germany to take delivery of 5,000 horses according to the Peace Treaty and to superintend their transport through Czecho-slovakia. A special veterinary commission will control and examine the horses in Germany, according to the Wiesbaden agreement.

The Government is taking measures to assist those industrialists whose factories have been damaged during the war and which had to be repaired at great cost. Meanwhile their debts to the banks, which are charging high interests, will be transferred to the National Bank so that they will pay the ruling bank-rate.

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Owing to mildew, the output of wine in Algeria and Tunis will be below the average.

It is announced that the local authorities of the Department of Tyrnovo, Bulgaria, have decided on the construction of several new standard gauge railway lines.

Owing to the depression in the rubber industry, castor-oil plants are being grown on the rubber estates in Ceylon.

The amount of coal produced in Czecho-Slovakia for the first three months of 1921 amounted to 3,063,600 tons, and the output of lignite for the same period amounted to 5,435,000 tons.


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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## SUDAN COTTON.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Khartoum, July 13.

Red Sea Province.—The Tokar cotton market and the new light railway from Tokar to Trinkitat were both closed down on June 30. The quantities of cotton marketed during the season were in (Rantars) 1st class, 26,747; 2nd class, 19,869; 3rd and 4th class, 1,272. Prices ranged from PT 97½ to PT 80. for No. 1 PT 79½ to PT 70. for No. 2 and about PT 50, and PT 40. for Nos 3 and 4 respectively.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 28 :—Although the sales show little difference from last week's total, we fear that on the whole the inquiry for Egyptian cotton here has shown distinct signs of falling off, and this is merely a reflection of what has also been happening in Manchester. Speaking generally, spinners find they cannot buy cotton at present prices and sell their yarn at a profit, and it really looks as if things might drift back again into a deadlock unless some material change in the situation develops. Manchester reports have been going slowly from poor to worse, and to-day the following significant phrase occurred : "spinners are not improving their position." This sums up the situation.

On the spot, there is a quantity of cheap (!) cotton about, of the fully good fair Sakel variety, and this was partly recognised to-day, when the fully good fair quotation for Sakellaridis was reduced ¼d. per lb. The better styles of Sakel are being slowly picked up, particularly staple lots, and some difficulty is being experienced in purchasing similar cotton c.i.f. terms in Alexandria, where fears regarding the staple of the coming crop are freely entertained. For ourselves, we do not place too much reliance on these rumours—they appear unusually like the sea serpent—but at the moment they are undoubtedly assisting Egyptian shippers to obtain full prices for their better cotton. Upper remains very steady, but with very little doing. White cotton has received rather more attention, and other growths are practically neglected. A fair c.i.f. business has transpired. Quotations are reduced ¼d. per lb. all round, with the exception of fully good fair Sakellaridis, which is exceptionally 1d. per lb. lower on the week. Sales 1,600 bales (including 20 bales Sudan). Fully good fair Sakellaridis 15.50d.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From our own Correspondent*)

Manchester, Friday.

No special feature has presented itself in connection with this market and generally speaking we have experienced a very quite week. Fewer cables have been received from abroad, and the most noticeable falling off with regard to cloth inquiry has been in connection with India. The lull in the situation is accredited to the efforts of Gandhi who is agitating for a boycott of all foreign goods entering our Dependency. The general opinion however is that the threatened boycott will not meet with any permanent success. A rather disconcerting feature has been the slight fluctuations which have occurred in raw cotton rates. With regard to cloth inquiry for Egypt not many cables have been received and only a miscellaneous business has been done Transactions for the Levant have been within a restricted compass but here and there some encouraging sales have taken place for Constantinople. Generally speaking however the position has been rather dull. Not very much business has been about in Egyptian yarns and prices when tested have favoured buyers The cloth demand for India has been very disappointing but shippers to China have operated a little more freely and some encouraging sales in greys and whites have taken place. No fresh business has been reported in American spinnings and quotations on the whole have been a little easier. The Master Spinners' Federation have decided to abolish short time working in the American section of the spinning industry.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

**An Electric Ship.**

A large merchant vessel, the Invincible, has just been converted to the electric drive, and so successful has been the work, and so promising the results achieved, that the owners are now engaged in converting another vessel of similar size from steam to electric driving. From a description just to hand it appears that the equipment consists of a three phase alternating current motor of the induction type, supplied with energy at 2,300 volts. The source of supply is a three-phase alternator, direct coupled to a steam turbine, this combination being of the rigid frame, three bearing construction. Two 35 kilowatt direct current exciters are fitted, these being engine driven, and the controls for all these are mounted on one switchboard on which are also fitted the rheostats, instruments for all machines, and the necessary switches and circuit breakers.

The motor driving the propellers is self-contained, the bearings being a part of the frame, and the weight of this portion of the equipment is nearly 50 tons, the motor weighing 34,600 and the frame 63,900 lbs. A moveable steel hood is mounted on the top of the rotor, this part being of the ventilating system.

According to the description the main motor is ventilated by a motor driven fan of the induction type, which is capable of forcing 14,000 cubit feet of air per minute through the frame. The motor is of two-bearing design, and was handled during mounting as a complete unit, but it was found impossible to handle the generator in the same way, it being accordingly shipped in two portions which were fitted together *in situ*. After the frame was bolted to the foundations the rotor was inserted and the whole coupled together.

It is interesting to note that all fan ducts, auxiliary pipings from the turbine to the condensers, and other fittings are accommodated in the space between the motor and the turbo generator, but in such a way as to leave a perfectly clear passage for the removal of the motor for repair should this at any time become necessary.

**Magnet House.**

Few of these who take a more than passing interest in electrical matters but are aware that the General Electric Co., Ltd., have recently removed from Queen Victoria Street, where they had been for over 32 years, to their new premises in Kingsway, which they have named Magnet House.

A visit of inspection paid by a representative of "The Near East" showed that exceptional care had been taken in the designing and layout of the premises to cater for the convenience and comfort of visitors, and to ensure the prompt and accurate execution of their orders. Every modern labour saving device has been adopted, the installation being carried out on a scale commensurate with the size of the organisation it has to serve, and being in every instance specially designed to meet its particular needs. As an architectural achievement Magnet House takes a very high place, as an example of the modern store, designed for the convenience of its customers and the speedy transaction of their business it is second to none in London.

The building covers a ground area of 25,750 square feet, and has eight floors including the basement. Each floor is divided into eight sections by brick walls fitted with double iron fire proof doors, 130 in number, which were made by the company at their Fraser and Chalmers Engineering Works, Erith. These doors are of several patterns from plain to highly ornamental, and several have hinged folding sections through which employees can pass without any necessity for opening the entire door.

The various floors are served by five staircases, seven passenger lifts, and eight goods elevators, made by the Express Lift Co., Ltd. This firm was also responsible for the complete system of hoists and runways for loading and unloading vans and lorries, and for handling bulky goods. This lift equipment, comprising a total of 23 machines of various types, forms an epitome of modern practice in lift design and construction. For this reason alone Magnet House is well worth a visit by all interested in lifts or goods handling systems.

All inter-departmental correspondence is distributed by means of pneumatic tubes. A central exchange is located near the entrance hall for dealing with this service and is also used as a sorting office for incoming mail, letters being afterwards sent to the various departments by the tubes. Ventilation is secured by a network of ducts connected to a modern air washing plant and vacum tubes are also installed for cleaning.

An interesting departure from usual practice is that the showrooms are in the basement, where ample space is available for exhibiting every conceivable class of electrical goods. Here is a selection which is said to be the largest and most comprehensive to be seen anywhere a claim which we can well believe to be absolutely accurate. On the left of the vestibule is a handsomely decorated suite of rooms devoted to the exhibition of electric light fittings and domestic electrical appliances. With a full appreciation of the value of display and demonstration the company has devoted the utmost thought and care to this important section, with the result that the comfort and convenience of the visitor is catered for in the most complete manner.

The central apartment is worthy of special attention. Decorated in Georgian style, it contains a large, not to say lavish, display of modern electrical fixtures of all kinds. In the French room, which is tastefully decorated in white and vieux rose is a selection of Loius XIV and Louis XVI electroliers and brackets, together with French statuettes, bronze figures and table standards. The Adam section, carried out in tints of wedgewood green, contains many examples of brackets, pendants and electroliers in this style.

There is also a Jacobean dining room in which are shewn chandeliers, lanterns, and table candle-sticks of Tudor and Jacobean design, many of which are faithful reproductions of antique originals. The section devoted to alabaster ware holds an unrivalled assortment of inverted fittings, vases and pedestals. Unique and artistic sflk shades in great variety are arranged in an adjoining room and the remaining apartment is devoted to an exhibition of domestic electrical appliances Here are demonstrated heating and cooking appliances electric irons and fans, vacuum cleaners, washing machines and, in fact, every conceivable electric requisite for domestic purposes.

The industrial section of the show-rooms contain examples of all kinds of lanterns and fittings for factory lighting, ships' fittings and other items of electrical equipment for marine use, switchgear, telephones, electric light supplies, cables, and wiring materials. One interesting feature of the display is a board shewing full details of the company's new surface wiring system full particulars of which we hope to be able to give shortly in these columns. Whilst on this subject of industrial use of electrical appliances it may be mentioned that the company make great use of them themselves, and practically every type of appliance is to be seen at Magnet House in actual operation.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## FIRE AT CUSTOMS WAREHOUSES.

(*From our own Correspondent*)

Bucharest, July 20.

A big fire broke out at the customs' warehouses in Bucharest destroying merchandise to the value of about 20 million lei. The goods were insured, a large portion of it abroad. An inquiry has been opened into the cause of this mishap.

## SHIPPING AT THE PIRAEUS.

(*From our own Correspondent*).

Athens, July 20.

There were 477 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Piraeus during June, of the following nationalities:—Greek 395, Italian 32, British 15, American 10, Roumanian 4, German 4, French 4, Swedish 4, Spanish 3, Dutch 2, Inter-Allied 2, Belgian 1, Russian 1, The arrivals during June last year were 418 of which 21 were British and 21 Italian.

## POLAND AND THE DANUBE.

(*From our own Correspondent*).

Bucharest, July 20.

A Conference is now being held at Czernowitz, Bukovina, between the Polish and Roumanian delegates to regulate the transport question regarding the transit of goods to and from Poland via the Roumanian Danubian ports.

## LEAVE FROM CYPRUS.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—How to get to and from Cyprus has always been a problem of some doubt and difficulty. For many years the majority have travelled via Egypt, where there is often a delay of several days. Several officials lately have gone by Italian (formerly Austrian) Lloyd steamers, via Venice, and this route is a pleasant one for those going alone. Conditions are now very different for officials from what they were. Not only are salaries largely increased, but the Government pays the passages of officials going on leave, and of their families, both ways, every three years. Formerly there was no allowance of any kind. Indeed for those who were delayed on the voyage, sometimes for weeks, through quarantine, breakdown of steamers, &c., and no fault of their own, all the time lost was vigorously deducted from their pay, and of course from their pensions also.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 11).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Makalla for Port Said, Colombo Madras and Calcutta (London, August 16); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 27); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, August 27); s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London September 14).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 17).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. General Napier for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 14).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Mackinnon for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 6); s.s. Clan Cumming for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 11); s.s. Clan Mackenzie for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 18); s.s. Clan Macbride for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta, (Birkenhead, August 18).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 20; Glasgow, August 25; and Swansea, August 27).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. City of Oxford for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, August 12).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Baghdad for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 8); s.s. City of Benares for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 17); s.s. Lorenzo for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, August 23); s.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 3).

*Ellerman "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, August 11); s.s. Pembrokeshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, August 25); s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham Singapore, etc. (London, September 8); s.s. Glengyle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, September 22).

*Glynn Line.*—S.s. Ravenspoint for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, August 5).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Politician for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 9; s.s. Craftsman for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 27).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Chindwin for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 10); s.s. Burma for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 25).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Demodocus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, August 12).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Cundall for Galatz and Braila only (Liverpool, August 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 20); s.s. Venice for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 27).

*Maindy Line.*—S.s. Maindy Transport for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, latter half of August).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 6).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, August 12); s.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, August 19); s.s. Kashgar for Bombay, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, (London, August 26); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, (London, September 9).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Chanda for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 6); s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 20); s.s. Hatarana for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 27); s.s. Nardana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, September 3); s.s. Australia for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 10).

*Prince Line.*—S.s. Glendhu for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, August 12).


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# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## BANK OF ROUMANIA.
### Outlook Favourable.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., was held on July 27, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Locke) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—In rising to move the adoption of the report and the accounts for the year ending December 31 last, I must first refer to the regrettable death of the late Earl of Bessborough, who was our Chairman for many years and a member of the board of the bank for nearly a quarter of a century. His absence is keenly felt by us and very much regretted. His death was followed within a few months by that of Mr. Pyrame Naville, who had been connected with us for an even longer period. Lieut-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, and Mr. C. de Cerjat have been appointed by the Board to the vacancies thus caused, and you will be afforded an opportunity at a later stage of re-electing them, should you so desire.

I assume that, as usual, you will take the directors' report and the Balance-sheet as read. As you will see from the report, the trading accounts for the year, after deduction of the dividend of 5 per cent. paid in December last, and after making provision for bad debts, income tax, etc., writing down investments in British Government securities to market value and placing £2,000 to pensions fund, show a credit balance of £13,231 os. 9d.

This sum, in view of the unsatisfactory state of the exchanges, has been transferred to a contingency account. I am sure the shareholders will agree that, in view of the great development which may be looked forward to in Roumania, and, in order that we may be in as favourable a position as possible to participate in this development, this is the wisest policy to adopt.

I am very pleased to say that during the past year Roumania has made considerable progress towards the re-establishment of a normal state of affairs. The production of petrol, which in 1919 was 917,276 tons, was for the year 1920 1,030,086 tons, as compared with 1,544,847 tons in 1911. Last year's harvest was not as good as might have been desired, and, in addition, the area under cultivation was considerably below the normal. As regards the prospects for this year, practically all the area possible of cultivation is sown. A little damage has been done to the wheat by the recent heavy rains, but the maize crop has benefited considerably, and, although unfavourable reports were recently circulated, the latest advices received by us from Roumania are to the effect that, speaking generally, the outlook is very favourable, and I might add that in some quarters it is thought that the crop will be an exceptionally good one.

The past year has been marked by a new factor in the commercial development of Roumania—the creation of a number of companies, with purely Roumanian capital, formed for industrial objects. These companies so far have not achieved their full measure of success, owing to the fact that they are hampered in their acquisition of machinery by the adverse rate of exchange.

The effect of the unfavourable exchanges still weighs heavily on the economic life of the country, and, although the country in itself, from the fact of its being chiefly agricultural, is very prosperous, yet commercial and industrial affairs, owing to their dependence on foreign sources of supply for their requirements, are naturally very much hampered by the uncertainty of exchange. It is to be hoped that, with the possibility of bigger exports of grain, oil and wood in the near future, this exchange difficulty will gradually be overcome.

In conclusion, I should like, on behalf of the Board, to thank the managers and staffs, both at home and abroad, for the valuable assistance they have rendered in the conduct of the bank's business, and which we most warmly and thoroughly appreciate. I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, K.C.B., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., and Mr. C. de Cerjat were re-elected directors to fill the vacancies on the Board, and the retiring director, Mr. E. W. H. Barry, was re-elected.

Messrs. Jackson Pixley and Co., having been reappointed auditors, a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors and the management and staff concluded the proceedings.

## EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.
### Increased Expenditure.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on July 28, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the report and accounts, said that their earnings amounted to £496,084, an excess of £89,388 over those of the previous year, which were £406,696. The figures for 1920 established a record up to date, and this record had been passed in 1921. Regarding the results from the point of view of their gross earnings alone, it must be acknowledged that 1921 had been a favourable year for their undertaking. There were however, other aspects of the year's working which gave cause for thought as regards the future. Of those the most serious was the heavy increase in their working expenses. He might say at once that that increase in their working expenses was due to causes entirely beyond their control; that was to the situation produced by the war. If they considered this situation they would readily understand why their expenditure had thus increased. The economic conditions existing throughout the world and the abnormal rates of exchange prevailing everywhere had produced in Egypt, as in most other countries, a severe financial crisis. Large increases in the cost of living and in the prices of labour, materials and the necessaries of life had occurred in all countries. The result had been an almost complete stagnation of trade throughout the world. In the case of Egypt, the uncertainty regarding the political situation and the unrest still existing in that country had added to the difficulties of the position. It was unnecessary for him to tell them that in the case of any undertaking as a railway such conditions were distinctly adverse to its being worked upon profitable and economic lines. He felt sure that they would agree with him in thinking that, under the very exceptional circumstances that existed, the results of last year's working were the reverse of unsatisfactory. Nevertheless, as he had already said, there was reason for serious thought as regards the future, and, moreover, no one could foretell how long present conditions might last.

In 1920 they carried 6,502,599 passengers of all classes and their receipts were £261,989. In 1921 they carried 7,389,149 passengers, with receipts amounting to £333,113. The increases last year were then :—586,550 passengers and receipts £71,124. 515,070 tons were carried on their lines last year as compared with 545,783 tons in 1920. The decrease was 30,713 tons. In spite of this the goods receipts in 1921 showed an increase of £18,076 as compared with 1920. This increase was due entirely to the increased rates charged for transport. In comparing the variation of the chief commodities carried it would be found that building materials, coal, fruit and vegetables, all showed increases in 1921, while cotton, seeds, and manure all showed decreases. The main decrease was in cotton.

The increase in their expenditure last year practically extended to every branch of the service. Increases occurred in maintenance, locomotives, rolling stock, traffic and general charges. He had already explained that their expenses for the year were seriously affected by the exceptionally high cost of fuel, labour and materials of all kinds. They were also obliged in 1920 to increase the salaries of their staff in all classes. He informed them of that fact last year and gave them the figures, but they only felt the full effect of the increased charges in 1921.

Those increases were necessitated by the fact that the Government (including the State railways) had increased the salaries of all its services owing to the high cost of living. At that time, too, much unrest and agitation prevailed throughout the labour world, and in order to avoid the possibilities of strikes and discontent which would have seriously affected their working, they were obliged to increase the salaries and improve the position of their workers. That this was wise had been proved by the tranquillity which generally reigned among them during last year. He must impress upon them that those increases were just and could not have been avoided.

The report and accounts were carried unanimously, the declaration of a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares was approved, the retiring directors were re-elected, the auditors re-appointed, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors, and also to the agent and general manager, and the staff, both in Egypt, and in London concluded the proceedings.

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## ALGERIAN PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY.

According to an American consular report there was a total production of 502 931 metric tons of phosphate in Algeria during 1920. Of this amount, 351,221 metric tons were exported. During the first quarter of 1921 the production amounted to 133,106 metric tons, an increase on the production of the corresponding period of 1920, which was 88,826 metric tons. The statistics, however, show a decrease from the last quarter of 1920, during which period there was 172,494 metric tons produced. The exports of the first quarter of 1921 are given as 82,595 metric tons compared with 44,335 metric tons for the corresponding quarter of 1920 and 128,769 metric tons for the last quarter of 1920.

## THE HOUSING PROBLEM IN BEYROUT.

The return of many Syrians from North and South America, the presence of the French army of occupation, civil officers, European commercial travellers, tourists, and refugees have together caused an unprecedented housing shortage in Beyrout which is becoming a serious problem, (says an American consular report). The local government has attempted to control the rents by a decree, but the upward trend continues. The several hotels deserving of mention can accommodate only about 250 persons in all. The city, with a population of 190,000, has no first-class hotel. Building material (exclusive of wood, cement, and steel) is easily obtainable in Beyrout. Labour is cheap and stonemasons are highly skilled. Buildings are usually made from sandstone quarried in the vicinity of Beyrout. Such buildings if steel beams be used, require little repair.

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## ON CHANGE.

### Markets Inactive but Firm.

*(From our own Correspondent.)*

London, Friday.

A firm tone has continued to prevail during the week, but business has been, if anything, more restricted than ever owing to the holiday season. In the autumn I shall not be surprised to see a considerable change come over the scene, for by that time the effect of the improving trade ought to be felt.

Gilt-edged securities have been strong. Consols are 49, while War Loan Fives are 88 and Fundings 71⅛. As was to be anticipated the Port of Calcutta 7 per cent. Loan was a great success. Indeed, investors seemed to take to it with the same zest as they displayed in regard to the Government Loan. The way in which both loans have been taken up shows that there will always be adequate support for sound issues, and also that we have reached the end of high-yielding gilt-edged securities. Henceforward the trend will be downwards.

There have been no developments so far with regard to Near Eastern Loans. As my readers are aware there are two of these on the tapis. But I imagine that nothing will be done until the exchanges improve which they may be expected to do in the autumn.

There has been a certain amount of irregularity in the Industrial group, and in some directions weakness developed. British Oil Cakes have deen dull. Iron and steel shares generally have been weak, but textiles have been fairly firm. Bank shares have shewn notable strength during the week, Chartered Bank of India and the National Bank of Egypt being among the outstanding features.

There is little fresh to record as regards Oils. The market continues in anything but a stable condition, and for the moment values are moving in the downward direction. However a change may come in this group at any time. The position as regards Rubbers is unchanged. There have been a number of slight declines, but any development of buying would bring about a very marked change in prices.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated July 25 :—Bombay cotton market steady. On July 21 fine M.G. Oomras, July Rs. 340 ; September Rs. 348. In Bombay piece-goods market, reports encouraging ; enquiries from consuming centres due to propitious rains and brisk trade expected soon. Fall in Foreign cloth trade continues at Bombay where dealers await the development of the Swadeshi movement ; Japan-made Khadi now in the market ; local goods moving fairly well and prices steady. Calcutta gunny market, July 23 :—Hessians quiet and rates dropped back a few annas ; heavy goods quiet but firm. Rangoon paddy arrivals fair during week ending July 15 and prices very firm at Rs. 227 to Rs. 230 for both rail and boat. In Rangoon rice market, closing price Rs. 578 on July 21. On July 22 between Rs. 585 and Rs. 577½. No enquiries for new crop. At tea sale on July 19, good selection of useful quality teas from Dooars ; Darjeelings irregular ; few Cachars and Sylhets offered useful ; and few Assams good ; fine teas sold well ; medium grades lower. Teas below six annas were three pies dearer. 48,952 packages sold to date at an average price of 8 annas 8 pies per lb. No change in bank rates.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W. 1.)*

Tenders are invitedfor the following contracts and must be made by the dates mentioned :—

**Egypt.**

Suits.—The Inspector, Model Workshops and Trades Schools, No. 14, Sharia Abdin, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of dungaree suits for the Cairo and Asyut Model Workshops and Mansura Trades School, August 27.

Calico.—The Surveyor-General, Survey of Egypt, Gitza (Mudfriya), invites tenders for the supply of 2,500 metres calico, 2 metres wide, August 23.

**Yugoslavia.**

Motor Boats.—The Ministry of War and Marine of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom invites tenders for the supply of twenty motor boats, six of which are described as fast boats for communication purposes, eight as fast boats for harbour and coast service and six as cargo boats for towing and transport. Offers will be accepted for one or more of the classes of boat specified. August 10 (D.O.T.).

Hemp Cloth.—The Direction of the State Monopolies of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Government, Belgrade, invited tenders for the supply of 100,000 metres of Hemp Cloth 76 c.m. wide. A translation of the conditions of tenders, together with a small sample (2 sq. inches) of the cloth required, is available for inspection at the Department of Overseas Trade. Tenders should be addressed to the Direction des Monopolies de l'Etat, Knoz Mihailova Ulica, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, August 16 (D.O.T.).

## GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek debt from January 1 to May 31 (new style January 14 to June 13), 1921 :—

| — | Monopolies, tobacco stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery | Piraeus Customs. |
|---|---|---|
| | Drachmae. | Drachmae. |
| Gross receipts, May, 1921..... | 6,968,537.99 | 4,078,005.55 |
| Do. do. do. 1920..... | 5,146,104.44 | 4,619,240.65 |
| Estimated receipts for 5 months (Law of Control)..... | 12,041,666.67 | 4,458,333.33 |
| Actual receipts for 5 mhs. 1921 1921..... | 27,486,744.65 | 21,833,153.20 |
| Actual receipts for 5 mhs 1920 ..... ..... | 25,762,452.62 | 25,797,202.55 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 5 months 1921 | +15445,077.98 | +17,374,819.87 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 5 months 1920 | +13720,785,95 | +21,338,869.22 |

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

The products of the sales of Naxos emery have been paid in paper drachmae since August, 1920. In the case of the Piraeus Customs, the receipts in gold are included in the above statement at par.


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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## EXPORT OF ROUMANIAN CEREALS.

*(From our own Correspondent)*

Bucharest, July 20.

In view of the very good cereal crops, the harvesting of which is now in full swing, the management of the railways is organising regular special trains to carry the grain from the inland stations to the nearest small Danubian ports, whence it will be conveyed by barges to the larger Danubian ports and Sulina for exportation.

## SUDAN NOTES.

Khartoum, July 13.

Mongalla Province.—The prospects for crops at the end of May were good as regards the Dinka, Neur, Noru, Yei, and Kajo Kaji districts but very indifferent in the Rejaf and Opari districts, owing to a scanty rainfall. Reports from Latuka state that the crops in that district are promising but backward through lack of rain.

Dongola Province.—Practically all wheat grown in the Government Pumping Areas are to be taken over by the Supplies Department of the Egyptian Army. Irrigation extensions are being carried out in the Gabria Basin, which is being converted into two basins at different levels. All earthwork in connection with the improvement has been completed, and the regulator to control the flow from the upper to the lower basin is under construction. The works were inspected on June 27, by H. E. Sir Herbert Jackson, the Acting Governor General.

The slump in the produce market coupled with the unreasonably high price of sugar has resulted in a greatly reduced consumption of this article.

Berber Province.—The date-palm census in Abu Hamed Merkaz shows an increase of 28,000 over the returns of 1916. The additional trees are nearly all in the central district being chiefly of the Mishrig variety.

During June, wheat fell to PT 240 per 420 rottles, red sagia durrah to PT 142½ per 380 rottles, and maize to PT 100. per 315 rottles. The prices of barley and feterita durrah remained firm.

The sheep and cattle trade is still stagnant, average prices at El Damer being PT 114. and PT 700, per head for sheep and cattle respectively. Exports for June amounted to 719 sheed and 107 head of cattle only.

Halfa Province.—District reports indicate an exceptionally good date crop. Livestock trade shows a slight increase for June.

Kordofan Province.—The average prices of grain in the El Obeid market in June were as follows (in milliemes) :—sesame seed, 737 per ardeb of 330 rottles; dukhn, 569 per ardeb of 420 rottles; durrah (white), 569 per ardeb of 420 rottles; durrah (red), 425 per ardeb of 420 rottles; groundnuts, 784 per ardeb of 210 rottles. There was little movement, and very few sales effected. The cattle trade is at a standstill.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 181s. cwt; butter 248s. cwt; chillies, 142s. cwt; eggs, 25s. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar) 10½d. lb; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine) 79s. 6d. cwt; coffee (Costa Rica) 137s. 6d. cwt; coffee (East India bold) 120s. cwt; coffee (Mocha Longberry) 103s. 6d. cwt, coffee (Santos superior) 58s. 6d. cwt; lard 90s. 6d. cwt; ginger (washed Cochin) 35s. cwt; nutmegs (110's to 80's) 11d. lb; pepper (Singapore black) 4½d lb.; raisins (Valencia) 87s. 6d. cwt; sultanas (Smyrna) 107s. 6d. cwt; currants (Vostizza) 86s. cwt; sugar (granulated) 59s. cwt; sugar (No. 1 cubes) 63s. 3d. cwt; sugar (white Mauritius) 53s. 3d. cwt; sugar (West Indian crystallized) 48s. cwt; tapioca (fair Singapore) 2d. lb; sago (small pearl) 26s. 6d. cwt; sago flour 15s. 9d. cwt; rice (Rangoon No 2) 21s. 6d cwt; rice (bran Rangoon) £9 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts) 1s. 4d. lb; mace (fair Singapore) 1s. 1d. lb; tea (Indian) 7d. lb; tea (Java) 4½d lb; tea (Ceylon) 8½d lb; wheat (Australian) 82s. 6d. qr; wheat (English white) 82s. qr; wheat (La Plata) 83s. 6d. qr - barley (malting) 67s. 6d. qr; oats (English) 45s. 6d. qr; oats (La Plata) 33s. qr; maize (La Plata) 45s. 3d. qr; flour 69s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium £150 ton; antimony (English regulus) £39 10s. ton; bismuth 7s. 6d. lb; copper (standard) £71 ton; copper (electro) £75 10s. ton; gold bars 114s. 6d. oz; iron (No. 3 Cleveland) 137s. 6d. ton; hematite (mixed number) 162s. 6d. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G) £23 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign) £24 10s. ton; manganese Poti 1s. 3d. unit; nickel £190 ton; platinum 365s. oz; plumbago £20 ton; quicksilver £11 bottle; silver bars 38d. oz; spelter (G.O.B.) £26 7s. 6d. ton; tin (standard) £163 ton; tin plates (20 by 14) 27s. 3d. box; wolfram 12s. unit; zinc sheets £35 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: boric 71s. cwt oxalic 9d lb; citric 2s. 5d. lb; tartaric 1s. 5d. lb; ammonia (sulphate) £13 17s. ton; arsenic (white powdered) £41 5s. ton; benzole (standard) 2s. 7d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.) £18 ton; borax crystals 34s. 6d. cwt; potassium: bi-chromate 10d. lb; chlorate 5d. lb; caustic £36 10s. ton; nitrate £52 15s. ton; permanganate 1s. 4½ lb; prussiate yellow 1s. 3d. lb; sulphate (90 per cent.) £19 ton; sodium crystals 145s. ton; bi-carbonate £12 ton: bichromate 6d. lb; alkali (58 per cent.) £9 ton; chlorate 4d. lb; caustic (70 per cent.) £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite £21 10s. ton; prussiate 7d. lb; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.) £106 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.) £120 ton; lemon oil 3s. 5d. lb; quinine 4s. oz; red lead £39 5s. ton; white dry lead £42 ton; white ground lead £53 ton; sulphate of copper £30 10s. ton; sulphate of iron £145 ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American) 8.71d. lb; cotton (Egyptian Sakel) 15.30d. lb; linseed (La Plata) £22 ton; rape (Toria) £22 12s. 6d. ton; soya beans £15 7s. 6d. ton; castor seed (Bombay) £20 5s. ton; Oils: Linseed £39 2s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant) £82 10s. ton; palm £36 10s. ton; rape (crude) £55 5s. ton; soya £39 5s. ton; petroleum 1s. 10d. gallon; ground nut £49 ton; cotton (crude) £41 10s. ton; shellac (T.N. second orange) 302s. 6d. cwt; shellac (A.C. garnet) 295s. cwt; rosin (American) 20s. 6d. ; turpentine (American) 114s. 6d. cwt; Rubber: Plantation (No 1 crepe) 9½ lb; smoked sheet 8½ lb; fine hard Para 11d. lb.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended July 16 :—Since forwarding our last report of May 27, the sales of opium on our market amount to 78 cases at 8s. 9d. to 12s. per lb., as to quality. The exchange oscillated from Ps. 500 to Ps. 550 per pound sterling for cheque, and from dollars 0.68 to 0.78 for one Turkish pound, of Ps.100. To-day it is at Ps. 547 per pound sterling and 0.70 dollars for one Turkish pound. The arrivals of old crops ceased on July 8, bringing up the total to 1393 cases against 1745 at same date last year. This week new crop opium has come down, which amounts in all to 6 cases, against 28 at same date last year. Our stock of new and old opium is now 1120 cases.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97 5-16 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 65.00-65.50 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 139-144 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3 15-32 |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 284-288 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3 15-32 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 540-560 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.56 1-4 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 46.90-46.95 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 285-295 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 85.00-85.50 |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 375-475 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 3,100-3,300 |
| Warsaw ... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 7,400-7,600 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 535—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *Greek v. Turk.*

A fresh Greek advance has begun, and at the time of writing it is known that the Greeks have attacked in the Lefke region, and that the Turks are retiring. There does not seem to have been any fighting of a serious character as yet; and while the *moral* of the invading force is reported to be excellent, it is clear that the Turks are not only outnumbered, but also disheartened. Turkish deserters are reported to be giving themselves up to the enemy in great numbers; and though the Greek General Staff professes to think that the Kemalists may make a stand at the river Sakaria it almost looks as if Angora may be reached without fighting. The Nationalists evidently contemplate the possibility of losing their capital; for they are reported to be removing their archives to Caesaria. But even if the Greeks should be able to occupy Angora without further opposition, that would not mean that they had reached the end of the story. It would be only the end of a chapter, however satisfactory a chapter from their point of view; and in all probability King Constantine, his Ministers, and his military advisers are quite aware of the fact. If they should then have the courage to offer peace to the enemy upon reasonable terms, they would, therefore, not only be crowning a creditable piece of work, and earning the gratitude of the Allies, but also doing good service to the Greek people as well.

### *An Opportunity for Peace-making.*

For their part, the Kemalists are reported to be in a chastened mood, and it is easy to believe that they would welcome peace. But there is a great difference between wishing for peace and being willing to make sacrifices for it, and it is difficult to see indications of the latter frame of mind on the part of either of the belligerents. M. Gounaris has informed the journalists that the situation is still exclusively in the hands of the Army, which intends to 'smash' the Turks, and the Kemalists appear to have committed themselves so deeply with Moscow that they dare not appeal openly to the Entente for mediation even if they should wish for it. In the circumstances it might be no bad thing if the Allies took action without waiting to be asked. In a letter to *The Times*, Mr. Ameer Ali suggests that "England can still, by a single word, stop this desolating and unjustifiable war." We are unable to share that view, and we regret that it should have been put forward, because it may do harm in the Moslem world, now more sensitive than ever regarding Turkey's misfortunes. But if only the Allies would agree that peace must be made promptly, and would make it clear that they were acting in concert, and meant business, they could certainly put an end to the fighting at an early date. In view of the fact that France is somewhat nettled by the unaccomodating spirit shown by Angora in regard to the Cilician question, while Italy is vexed by the treatment of some of her subjects by the Nationalists, the present time would seem to be favourable for reaching an agreement on this subject at least.

### *"Propaganda"*

That the Kemalists have lately played their cards very badly is hardly to be denied. A little while ago they had a quite good Press in this country, as well as in France; but they have by their utterly unreasonable demands so damaged their reputation, and so estranged goodwill, that very few people can be found to say a good word for them to-day. On the other hand there has never been any difficulty in finding plenty of people ready to say anything that would do them harm; for those who are hostile to them are quite aware of the advantages to be gained by skilful propaganda—and, it must be added, are not burdened by scruples regarding the need of accuracy. In this connection we may note a statement issued through a news agency a few days ago. This interesting communication informed the world that the agency in question had 'learned'—from what source was not stated, but it would not be difficult to guess—that it "was understood" that the British prisoners in the hands of the Kemalists were 'being badly treated.' We are not inclined to credit the statement at all, for with all their faults the Kemalists have not said good-bye to all caution, nor are they lacking in decency. Moreover, we observe that the agency's remarkable statement proceeds to acknowledge that "it is not known where they" (the prisoners) "are at present, although they are believed to be in Angora."

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It would be interesting to learn how it is known—or why it is 'understood'—that the prisoners are 'badly treated' when even their whereabouts is only a matter of 'belief.'

### *Italy and Egypt.*

The statement by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Italy had not yet recognized the British protectorate over Egypt, and had made such recognition conditional on the safeguarding of Italian Colonial interests, whether it refers to the Protectorate of 1914 or to the new status of Egypt, serves as a reminder that Italy has never allowed the spirit of the war alliance to cross the Mediterranean. The extent of Italian Colonial interests, as the term is understood in certain quarters in Italy, was indicated by the claims, put forward as the price of Italian support in the war. The course of the struggle as far as the fortunes of Italian arms were concerned did not bear out those claims, and it was generally understood that they had been materially modified. It is certainly desirable that Great Britain, France, and Italy should come to an agreement regarding North Africa, but it is not encouraging to learn that Great Britain, in order to do justice to Egyptian aspirations, will have to make sacrifices in other directions for the sake of Italy's acquiescence. Provided, however, that the latter carries with it a definite undertaking that Italian intrigue in Egypt will cease, Egypt stands to gain by the arrangement. It is noticeable that the Italian Federation of Alexandria has urged upon the Government in Rome the necessity of the maintenance of the Capitulations. This is at least a more straightforward policy than to make the abolition of the Capitulations an occasion for driving a bargain.

### *Yugoslavia and the 'Reds'*

Our Correspondent in Yugoslavia announced, in the letter from him which we published last week, that the Belgrade Government intends to take vigorous action against the Communists; and no time has been lost in giving effect to the determination. At a special sitting the National Assembly by 190 votes to 54, has passed a Bill embodying the Protection of the State and Public Order Law, which will undoubtedly increase the panic that seems to have been caused in Communist circles by the outbreak of public wrath at the assassination of M. Drashkovitch. Under this law anybody destroying public buildings or tampering with the loyalty of the Army is liable to the death penalty; while 20 years penal servitude is the minimum sentence for many other offences. These may be severe measures, but they are not one whit too severe for the offences for which they may be awarded; and Yugoslavia is to be congratulated upon an attempt to make the punishment fit the crime, and on showing those who would destroy organized society, that organized society can on occasion treat them as they wish to treat it. The crime at Delnica has roused the Yugoslavs to a sense of the folly of tolerating Communism in their midst, and public opinion is behind the Government in this matter; and as a result it is announced that the Communist party has been losing members wholesale. The strange thing is that such pernicious doctrines can ever have obtained a hold upon a people so vigorous and so frank as those of the S.H.S. State.

### *A Deputation from Palestine.*

A deputation of Moslems and Christians from Palestine has arrived in London, to lay the views of their fellow-countrymen before the British Government, and to quote the words used by their Secretary to a representative of the *Morning Post*—"confident in the justice and the generosity of Great Britain that she will not permit the ruin of a small people whose destinies are in her hand." It is much to be hoped that their confidence will be in no wise shaken, and that His Majesty's representatives will afford them a full hearing, and give very careful consideration to their views. It would be idle to close our eyes to the fact that the situation in Palestine is very far indeed from satisfactory, and that unless it be skilfully handled it may eventually lead to the wrecking of our policy in the Near East. Sir Herbert Samuel has done extremely well in a particularly trying position, and the blame for the present condition of affairs cannot be laid at his door. It is due rather to our own inconsistency in failing to apply to Palestine, and in Palestine, that doctrine of self-determination on which so much stress was laid in the war, and in connection with which statements and promises were made to the Arabs, which led them on to hopes that now seem unlikely of fulfilment. And, it must be added, the problem has certainly been complicated by the fanatical spirit shown by a section of the Zionists. In this connection it must be remembered that many of the older Jewish residents of Palestine, if not the majority of them, are opposed to the policy of the Zionist Commission, and that other leading Jews—Mr. Morgenthau, for example—clearly regard the policy as outside the field of the practical.

### *The Fears of the Majority.*

The Secretary of the Moslem-Christian deputation now in London has stated definitely:—"We are not against the Jews. We wish to live, as we have lived in the past, in friendship with our Jewish compatriots in Palestine," and there is no reason to doubt the truth of his statement. But he went on to say that he and his friends do protest, "with all the force that a helpless people can evoke," against "the Zionist scheme which will make us helots in our own country, or drive us from that country." Writing in the *Daily Telegraph* on the same subject, Mr. Perceval Landon declares that the restoration of the Jews to Palestine is "to the Arab of Palestine . . . . nothing short of robbery—a cynical theft of the land which was Arab before the Children of Israel entered it, and still is Arab to-day." A little later the same writer refers to the impossibility of allowing the 68,000 Jews to take the leading part in Palestine with its 500,000 Arabs and its 60,000 Christians and to "the practical hopelessness of forcing Jewish authority upon the country." These facts, and others, certainly make us inclined to share the doubt expressed that the British Government may have lent its support to an attractive scheme without due consideration of the means by which it could be realised. If that be so, it has rendered no better service to the Jews than it has to the Arabs, and it had better take stock of its position before it becomes too deeply involved to avoid disaster. By giving the newly arrived Deputation a full and careful hearing it will at least have a chance to learn the views of the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Palestine.

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### *The Indian Congress Committee.*

Renewed attention has been directed to the political situation in India by the discussions of the extremist body which, with a sound appreciation of the value of a name, still describes itself as the Committee of the "National" Congress. Its attitude had been widely discussed in advance. The results of Lord Reading's personal intervention were quickly seen to be less than some enthusiasts had hoped; the surface drift of opinion appeared to be setting definitely towards the left; and last month anticipations were current in India that the Congress would formally declare itself a republic, or at least adopt what is spoken of as civil disobedience, a policy the essence of which is organised refusal to pay taxes. These anticipations have been falsified. As yet there is no republic; general civil disobedience has been postponed in favour of activities of a more commercial nature and, though it is recognised that individual provinces may feel themselves impelled to stop paying taxes, they have been instructed to obtain the consent of the central body before taking definite action. The principal measure favoured by the majority of the Committee is the boycott of imported cotton goods.

### *The Boycott of Manchester.*

The logical bearing of this boycott on the political situation is not immediately apparent, but some observers already claim to detect the working of the well-known principle *do ut des*, for Bombay, which has subscribed so largely to the funds of the agitation, is the centre of the Indian cotton industry, and prices were rising there last month in anticipation of a boom in the staple product of the city. No one would dream of suggesting that the saintly leaders of the extremists would knowingly enter into such a transaction, but on some previous occasions their knowledge of human nature has proved to be at fault, and it is conceivable that Mr. Gandhi is destined to be saddened once again by the wiles of designing persons. Whatever the logic may have been, the boycott has been started; it is an ugly fact for India, and also for those labour leaders in England who have lent their support to the extremist cause, but we must for the present postpone an examination of its probable consequences, and content ourselves with recording that the Committee decided also to boycott the visit of the Prince of Wales, a decision which was generally foreseen, but which was adopted only after strenuous opposition.

### *The Attitude of the Moderates.*

More significant perhaps than the resolutions adopted by the Committee is the difficulty it experienced in reaching them. There was a time when this body appeared before the public in the garb of unanimity, but on this occasion the reports tell of prolonged and heated discussions, and even in some cases mention the names of the opposition. This change may be read as indicating progress in the arts of politics, but at the same time it must be remembered that minorities in India have not yet learned to work heartily for measures which they disapprove; there is obviously strong driving-force behind the various resolutions, but it is less than the full force of the committee, itself representing only a part of Indian opinion. The immediate interest of the situation lies in the attitude to be adopted towards the boycott by the moderate politicians in the legislatures. To observers in England, it seems as if they must now choose between open warfare and disastrous eclipse, but the cross-currents of opinion are so numerous that no accurate diagnosis is possible at the moment.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

### Peaceful Politics.

Politically the week has been unusually quiet—not the quiet that precedes a storm, let us hope, but the quiet that presages more peaceful times. From Ireland there has been practically no news. Mr. de Valera has not yet returned his answer to the Prime Minister, but it is generally accepted that the longer the truce remains in being the more difficult will it be to resume hostilities in the event of the negotiations breaking down. The revelation that an old lady named Mrs. Lindsay was shot some months ago as a spy by the Sinn Feiners, has however, created a painful impression, and has been commented on in strong items by the *Morning Post*—which incidentally has also been urging the Ulster Cabinet not to meet the Sinn Fein leaders on Irish soil. It remains to be seen whether this advice will be accepted.

The Imperial Conference has come to an end. It has been mostly concerned with the Japanese Alliance, with defence, and with airships and wireless. The proposed additional conference on the constitutional relations of the Empire has been, as I anticipated some months ago, turned down by the Dominion Prime Ministers. It was advocated mainly by the centralising and federalist school at home, whose organ is the *Round Table*, but it found little echo in the Dominions, where autonomy is always the watchword.

Meanwhile discussion continues as to the Washington. Conference. A number of false hares has been started, and the matter appears to be generally rather complicated. I should like to think the prospects were bright, but I am bound to admit that the Press seems to be more optimistic than the situation at the moment actually justifies.

### London Government.

The Government are appointing a Royal Commission to enquire into the administration of Greater London. This is not in consequence of the grievance of Poplar, to which I referred last week—the step had been determined on some time before—but if the scope of the Commission does not include an inquiry into the equalisation of rates, which is Poplar's particular grievance, there will be trouble. The Commission is in fact overdue, for London is a tangle of conflicting authorities and administrations, and these must result in overlapping and waste, over-staffing and multiplication of correspondence, and other absurdities. The subject

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is so complicated that it is said only two men have ever mastered the intricacies of London Government; of these two, one is reputed to have had a mental breakdown from the accumulated mass of detail, and the other to have declared that Balkan politics were child's play in comparison.

Apart from the existing tangle, London has grown enormously of late years, and is still growing. Thousands of new houses are being put up at Ilford, Sydenham, Welwyn, and Acton; and since all their inhabitants earn their living in London, there is some case for including them in the county; as indeed there is also for including older places like Wimbledon. Some of the advocates of a greater London would indeed go so far as to incorporate Croydon and Sutton on the South, Romford on the east, and Watford on the north-west; they point out that these are really dormitory suburbs. In that case the population of London would be over ten millions.

**Rates and Local Government.**

It would not be very surprising if the whole question of local Government were not raised afresh as a consequence of this enquiry into London Government. From all over the country comes the complaint that the existing areas are wrong, the administration wrong, and the incidence of rates wrong. There seems to be something in these complaints. Why, for instance, should the rates in Kent be so much higher than those in Essex? As Kent is a rich county and Essex is poor, one would have expected a lower rate to have sufficed in Kent, but the reverse is the case. Then, again, there is the problem of the relation between Imperial and local Government. Mr. Lloyd George admitted that this was ripe for treatment in 1914; it is now long overdue. As a matter of fact, the rates are now in many cases a greater drain on the pocket than the tax, but with apparently less excuse; for half the taxes are due to the war, but the rates are not.

**Who Wants Runnymede?**

We are getting hardened to seeing historic properties put up for sale, but it gives one something for a shock, even in these days of change, to see Runnymede and Magna Carta Island in an auctioneer's catalogue. A good deal of indignation is being shown at the fact that the property is being sold, by order of the Government; even the most stalwart of Anti-Wasters should regret this economy.

Land everywhere is being sold, and some very interesting figures have recently been published in *The Times* to show why the fresh estates are being realised. The fact is that they only returned a small yield before the war, but the increase of taxation has turned that profit into a heavy loss. I notice that the Duke of Portland the other day referred to the possibility that he might have to give up his estates, and even his house; yet the Duke is one of the great land-owners of the country. Unfortunately the larger the holding, the worse the loss.

**The Dean's Deductions.**

There is little need to wonder that the Dean of St. Pauls is not popular with his brother clerics. The latest dictum of Dean Inge is that the Anglican clergy "understand the least, and take the worst measure of human affairs, of all mankind that can write and read;" from which he deduces that "the Church is more divided than any other religious body, and there is no agreement as to what it should stand for." For all that, I find that a good deal of hope is expressed by Churchmen to the work of the new National Assembly. It has shown a business-like spirit at its meetings, and appears to be taking a legitimate place as a parliament of the Church. It has certainly revealed differences of opinion, but that is what parliaments are for; and I cannot help thinking that the reasoned optimism of its members may be of more use to the Anglican Communion than the savage pessimism of its leading dean.

**The Shortage of Water.**

The drought has been officially broken by a few minutes' rain which wet the London pavements, and there have been moderate falls in the north. But the position is now becoming serious; for the springs are becoming depleted, and some of the smaller rivers are following the example of the ponds, and drying up. Only steady and frequently repeated rain over a period of weeks will replenish the springs, and since the consumption of water in the great cities is enormous, it will take a long time before the reservoirs are restored to their normal height. Incidentally the great heat and drought is beginning to produce its inevitable effect on the infantile death-rate. I suppose the holiday-makers would object to a wet August, but I doubt whether anybody else would mind; the farmers, having got in their wonderful crops of wheat and oats, now pray for rain to save the roots and their suffering stock; the doctors ask for rain every morning, and if the Metropolitan Water Board ever uttered a prayer, which is doubtful, it would pray now.

**The Servant Problem.**

There was a time, it is understood, when the one topic of the boudoir was the excellencies of prospective husbands, and the deficiencies of actual husbands, but those useful household ornaments no longer count. Housewives are faced by a worse problem than a shortage of husbands—who can be enslaved for life when caught—in the shortage of servants, who come as a favour, and walk out of the house on the least provocation.

It has been discovered that the Ministry of Labour is partly responsible. Instituted for the purpose of putting employers and employed into touch—which it has notoriously failed to do—it is said now to advise domestic servants not to take posts unless they are treated as daily maids whose work practically finishes at 5.30. As the work of a house does not finish at 5.30, mistresses naturally detest the idea of the "daily maid," and they have been tackling Dr. Macnamara on the subject. His answers seem rather confused and unhappy, but then it is not easy to justify a useless department. It would be a good thing if the Government were to abolish all the Labour Exchanges; for it is notorious that the best working men never use them, and they are merely costly centres for distributing the unemployment dole, an unfortunate experiment which should have been stopped long since.

**Week-Ends and Holidays.**

The railways seem to be accommodating the crowds of holiday-makers with fair success. The last week in July is proverbally the busiest in the year for seaside traffic, but most people go to their destination comfortably and punctually. The speed of trains is not quite so fast as in pre-war days, however; it takes, for instance, just over four hours instead of three-and-a-half to get to Manchester. But probably this is meant as an illustration of kindness of heart on the part of the railway companies; for nobody could really want to spend longer in Manchester than absolutely necessary.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, August 2.*

**Communism and Politics.**

The summoning of the Skupshtina to pass a special law of Defence of the Realm to deal with the Communist outburst has to a certain extent revived interest in politics, which had waned owing to the recess and had been overshadowed by the Bolshevist activities.

There seems to be no doubt that the whole Bolshevist plot is inspired from Moscow. The prime mover is said to be one Marco Gagliardi, chief of the Austro-Hungarian section, who had received instructions to carry out a campaign of anarchy in Yugoslavia. He was helped by a former commandant of Bela Kun's Red Army, and a plot had been prepared to murder the Crown Prince, M. Pashitch, M. Drashkovitch and M. Tomlenovitch, until recently Ban of Croatia, and other prominent persons including M. Pribitchevitch. The details were left to terrorist committees which were formed within the country, whose method was to select perverted young men and form them into "troikas," or parties of three, of whom one would carry out the attempt, with the others to assist and act in reserve. The first sign of activity was the attempt on M. Drashkovitch early in May, which happily failed. The lamentable success of another "troika" ten days ago is evidence of their determination. The attempt on the Crown Prince was the work of another "troika." In their investigations the police have unearthed and stopped in time the plots against M. Pashitch and M. Pribitchevitch.

The tools selected for the dirty work seem all to be very youthful, and sick in brain as well as body. The organisers took a great deal of trouble to find disappointed youths, lads of bad character and perverted minds. Such material is easy to mould. Meanwhile the other "troika" is under lock and key, Aliagitch, the actual assassin of M. Drashkovitch, and his comrades Colakovitch and Lopanditch. Their programme of murder included also Dr. Ribar, Speaker of the Skupshtina, M. Pribitchevitch, and General Hadjitch, till recently Minister of War. Another proscribed man was Dragisha Lapchevitch, leader of the Socialists in Serbia. Unfortunately one dangerous individual is at large, Rudolph Hercigonja, who succeeded in escaping before the police had sufficient information. It is characteristic that he is reported to have escaped to Hungary, and there have been received with open arms. It was he who inspired the "troika" of Aliagitch and worked upon their feelings.

Another matter shows the raw material available for criminal purposes in the callow youths who are demoralised and perverted. A whole gang of thieves has been arrested in Skoplje who have stolen goods to the total value of 200,000 dinars, made up of all manner of things, from postal packets and sausages to marble slabs and sheep. The sad part of the business is the fact that they are all quite young, some mere lads, and most of them still schoolboys. They have been corrupted by a scoundrel who keeps a sweet shop in Skoplje. They are well-dressed young fellows, and mostly of good families. They are quite defiant and impudently admit their guilt, decorating their statements with Latin quotations. Where the canker lies is hard to say.

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**Action against Communism.**

The country is now thoroughly awake, realising that once more it is threatened by a cruel and unscrupulous foe, and the danger is being met in the same spirit in which the less insidious foreign enemy was faced. A mass meeting of citizens in Belgrade has formed a league of protection, a "*Narodna Odbrana*," a title which has played a large part in Serbia's modern history; and the Legislative Committee has passed a draft Bill for the Skupshtina which is an emergency Defence of the Realm Act. The first step is the most logical, and that it is the forcible dissolution of the Communist Party. In vain the leaders declare that they are idealists, whose aim it is to bring about Communism by lawful methods. Nobody wants these people, least of all the terrorists, who have little use for them except as a mask for their underground action. What has clinched this point is the discovery of the fact that Steyitch, who threw the bomb at the Crown Prince received his instructions in the party's committee room inside the Skupshtina itself. So the party is to be wound up and forbidden, and their elections declared void. This will involve 58 by-elections, the results of which will be interesting to see. Propaganda in favour of Communism, Anarchism and Terrorism is forbidden subject to a penalty of death, or, under conceivably extenuating circumstances, penal servitude for twenty years. The Communist press is also forbidden, and of course, helping Communist action, whether at home or abroad, in any way, or interfering with the authorities in their campaign against it, will be dealt with with the utmost rigour. Among other provisions all members of the Communist party are to be disqualified from holding any public office, or to be in government service. All their organisations are closed, and their property sequestered. In introducing the Bill, the Minister of the Interior stated that it was based on similar laws obtaining in the United States and in Switzerland. There is little doubt that it will be passed by the house without delay.

Meanwhile, of course, the police are being very active, and are conducting searches in the houses of all who have been in any way connected or associated with the Communist Party, and it is reported that a large number of hidden bombs and weapons have been found. The majority of the active agents seem to be Hungarians, or former Austro-Hungarian subjects.

## GREECE.

*Athens, July 30.*

**The War in Asia Minor.**

It goes without saying that the Greeks expected to win their new war, but not even the most optimistic patriots ever hoped that after three weeks the beginning of the offensive the road to Angora would be open to the Hellenic forces and that Mustapha Kemal Pasha's army would be reduced practically to half its original strength. That the Greek victory is complete there cannot be the slightest doubt, and Kemal's *communiques* which appear from time to time in certain European papers announcing imaginary successes, such as the re-occupation by the Turks of Afion-Karahissar and Oushak, do more harm than good to the vanquished, and cause a good deal of hilarity here. The official lists of prisoners are not yet ready, and although reports bring their total number up to 50,000, this figure is without doubt greatly exaggerated, the correct number being somewhere near 25,000. The war material which fell into the hands of the victors is also said to be enormous.

Apparently nothing has yet been decided on the next move of the Greek Army. It is realised here that although the occupation of Angora would be a great moral victory, and would place a very strong trump card

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in the hands of the Greek diplomatists when the time for the peace *pourparlers* arrives, Napoleon's blunder in his campaign against Russia should not be repeated in this instance, and that there should not be any mistake upon which is the real capital of Turkey. The railway line from Eskishehir leads to Angora in the east, and to Constantinople in the north, and the Greeks are now in a dilemna as to which would be the best and surest route to follow. Those few who imagine that the solution of the Near East problem is now in sight will be painfully surprised to hear that the Hellene has sudenly lost all interest in the Treaty of Sèvres; and that it would require a good deal more than the Smyrna vilayet to satisfy his ambition. This is what the Athens *Times* (Chronos) writes:—

Greece having concentrated all her forces, having spent her last penny in order to prepare for the offensive, and having, for the fourth time, taken her sons away from their homes in order to throw them into the struggle, would be extremely silly to do all that for the sake of the small slice of territory which the Treaty of Sèvres awarded her. Had our army been defeated we should have been unable to retain Smyrna, Thrace, and Macedonia, but being victorious, we could not possibly accept any other solution than that which would ensure liberty to the entire Hellenism and not to one vilayet alone. Greece is fighting alone against Turkey, who is backed by the material and moral encouragement of great protectors. She is therefore obliged to do her very utmost in order to overcome so many united enemies. But the enormous sacrifices which she has made, the terrible wearing out which the country is now undergoing, and the inconceivable exhaustion which she will feel immediately after the termination of the war, could not be repaid by the morsels which are given to her by the Treaty of Sèvres. Greece will therefore ask for more than has been given her; she will ask for everything because she has risked everything in this great struggle from which she is emerging victorious.

Practically all the other papers write in the same strain and advise the occupation of Constantinople.

**A War Council at Kutahia.**

On Sunday morning M. Gounaris proceeded to Smyrna, and thence by special train to Kutahia in order to be present at the war council which took place under the presidency of King Constantine. It is said that very important decisions on the future action of the Greek army were reached, but so far nothing has been communicated to the Press. It is generally thought, however, that the Hellenic forces—or at least the bulk of them—will advance on Angora. If there is any truth in the report that the Kemalist Government has been or is about to be transferred to Sebastia, this would be taken as an indication that the Turks are not in a position to offer any serious resistance; and the occupation of their capital should prove a comparatively easy task for the Greeks. The noticeable change in the tone of the European and particularly the French Press with regard to the Greek affairs, is favourably commented upon by the Greek papers, which point out that Europe is at last beginning to see things in their proper light, and realises now how cleverly she had been bluffed by the bogey of Anatolia.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, July 25.*

**Political Movements.**

M. Stambolisky is expected to go abroad early this week. Although no definite announcement has been made, it is thought that his trip will be in the nature of a holiday rather than of an official tour. It is said he will first visit the Tirol, and afterwards Switzerland. After his severe illness in May he took virtually no holiday, and in view of the many measures that are due to come before the Sobranje during the Autumn session, it will do him good to have a complete rest.

It is possible that in September there may be a further reconstitution of the Cabinet, as M. Bakaloff, Minister of Public Works, may resign, and become President of the Sobranje, and M. Manoloff, who is now President will replace M. Bakaloff. There are also stories afloat concerning the coming resignation of M. Oboff, Minister of Agriculture. However, the coming month should be a quiet one.

**A Note to the Allies.**

On Wednesday the 20th, the Bulgarian Government addressed another Note to the representatives of the Great Powers at Sofia, concerning the persistent rumours that have been in circulation regarding Bulgarian intrigues with Moscow and Angora, the report that ex-King Ferdinand had been visited by M. Dimitroff and other Government officials, and the allegations that Bulgaria was not loyally executing the terms of the Peace Treaty. The Note contradicted all these rumours, and declared that the policy of the Agrarian Government remained unchanged—to fulfil the country's obligations, and live on good terms with all nations.

In this connection I may refer to the statement, published in an English newspaper, early this month, that the British Minister here had warned King Boris and M. Stambolisky that it would be most unwise to allow ex-King Ferdinand to return. There is the highest possible authority for stating that the Minister never gave any such warning.

**An Unwelcome Development.**

Almost any foreigner, either resident in, or visiting Bulgaria, will affirm that the attitude of the Bulgarians towards foreigners has always been most correct and polite. The Military Missions that represented the Great Powers during the 18 months following the Armistice conducted their work in a spirit of mutual good will, and in no other ex-enemy country were the relations between victor and vanquished more cordial than in Bulgaria. It is, therefore all the more regrettable that during the last few weeks a suspicion—one has neither the right nor the wish to call it more than that—of chauvinism has made itself felt among a certain section of the public. It has not yet raised its head; but to the careful observer its existence below the surface is evident. Naturally enough the foreigners most apt to encounter this feeling are the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control. The Commission has now been functioning for about a year, and there have been few, if any, unfortunate incidents; but lately a good deal has been

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said about the discovery of hidden arms and ammunition, and it is possible that this has been the cause of the beginning of this new phase. Even when relations were most friendly, there was known to exist a section of "irreconcilables," whose policy was anti-Ally, and who had very little love for any foreigners. Signs are not wanting that of late this section has grown more powerful, and although it represents only an insignificant proportion of the population, it would seem to have a certain amount of influential backing.

**"The Allied Demarche."**

On the 22nd the Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Italy notified to M. Stambolisky that they were charged by their respective Governments to draw the attention of the Bulgarian Government to the fact that there were certain disturbing elements at work in Thrace, and that the continuance of these activities of these elements might have serious consequence for Bulgaria. The Prime Minister replied that the contents of the recent Government Note would explain the intentions of his Government, and that in any case all possible measures had been taken to prevent frontier trouble.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, July 31.*

**The Russo-Turkish Treaty.**

One of the most important results of the occupation of Eskishehir by the Greeks has been the immediate ratification of the Treaty concluded in Moscow between the representatives of the Soviet Government and of the Great National Assembly, on March 16, 1921. The text of this treaty has been published in the Anatolian press, and as has been previously remarked in *The Near East*, it contains an exceedingly important clause concerning the Straits. Only five clauses have been made public, of which the first and the fifth are of international importance. The first clause not only contains an obligation on the part of either party to conclude no treaty with a third party without the knowledge and consent of the other, but also a clear undertaking on the part of the Soviet Government to refuse to recognise any treaty imposed upon Turkey without the consent of the Great National Assembly; and further includes the recognition by the Soviet Government of the frontiers of Turkey as defined by the National Pact. The fifth clause is of especial importance to Great Britain and runs as follows:—

> "In order to ensure free communications through the Straits, both contracting parties agree to entrust the drafting of the convention relative thereto to a conference to be subsequently held, consisting of delegates of the countries bordering the Straits and the Black Sea. It is understood that the decisions taken by the forthcoming Conference must not infringe the complete sovereignty of Turkey and the security of the Turkish capital, Constantinople."

It has become the fashion in England to scoff at the Bolshevist menace as a bogey; and the Greeks, who insisted that the Nationalist movement consisted of nothing but bluff, stoutly refuse to believe that there is anything to fear from the Bolshevists so far as military operations in Anatolia are concerned. It is undoubtedly true that many months must elapse before any Bolshevist force worth considering could reach the Western Front in Anatolia, and it is also undoubtedly true that in the interval the Greek army may occupy Angora, Kastamuni, and Konia. And then—?

As a matter of fact, however, it requires little discernment to realise that the real protagonists in the microasiatic drama are not Turkey and Greece, but Russia and the Allies, more particularly Great Britain. The foreign policy of Russia must inevitably be the same whether a Tsar or a Bolshevist dictator control the destinies of the Empire, and no Russian of whatever hue could possibly agree to a settlement of the Straits question without the participation of Russia. The Russo-Turkish Treaty practically amounts to a formal declaration addressed to the Allies to the effect that if the voice of Russia is not to be heard in the settlement of the Straits question, there shall be no settlement. Russia may be in the grip of famine, risings, and rebellions may distract the central Government, disease may be decimating the population of entire provinces, but it may be taken as certain that so long as Russia possess a thousand men capable of holding a rifle, there will be no peace in the Near East without consideration of Russian interests. During the war, Bernard Shaw pointed out that the outbreak of Bolshevism in Russia meant that Russia would be at war against the whole world, and his words have been strikingly verified. Bolshevism may be regarded as a bogey, and the possibility of a Bolshevist army rendering the Turks any effective assistance may be scouted as an absurdity, but the bogey has confounded most of the prophets who have been foretelling its downfall for the last three years, and there are a hundred thousand men in the Caucasus.

**The Central Government.**

The fall of Eskishehir seems to have put new heart into the various little cliques whose highest ideal in life does not extend beyond the loaves and fishes of office. The Cabinet, however, acting probably upon instructions from Angora, is resolutely clinging to office; and indeed it is difficult to see what advantage could be obtained from any other Ministerial combination, except to exasperate the Nationalists. The idea has been noted that when the Greeks have occupied sufficient territory, general elections should be held with a view to convoking a Parliament in Stamboul, which would immediately ratify the peace terms proposed by the Allies at the London Conference. The idea is sound enough in many ways, but there are several obvious drawbacks. For the time being, at all events, it is unlikely that there will be any change in the present Cabinet.

**The Russian Refugees.**

Once again the question of Russian refugees in Constantinople is claiming public attention. The French who were solely and entirely responsible for their presence here, have whittled down the relief afforded to them until it has reached practically vanishing point. The result is that there are hundreds of unhappy wretches wandering about the streets, and bereft of both housing accommodation and work. It is pitiful to see them sleeping in the streets at night, and one shudders to think what will happen to them if nothing is done before the winter arrives again. To sleep in the open during the summer is not so bad, but the summer does not last for ever—even in Constantinople. To find work for all of them in the capital is out of the question, for there is already acute distress amongst the native population, owing to unemployment. *If* Constantine can cut the Gordion knot of the Anatolian question, there may be work enough for them, but —.

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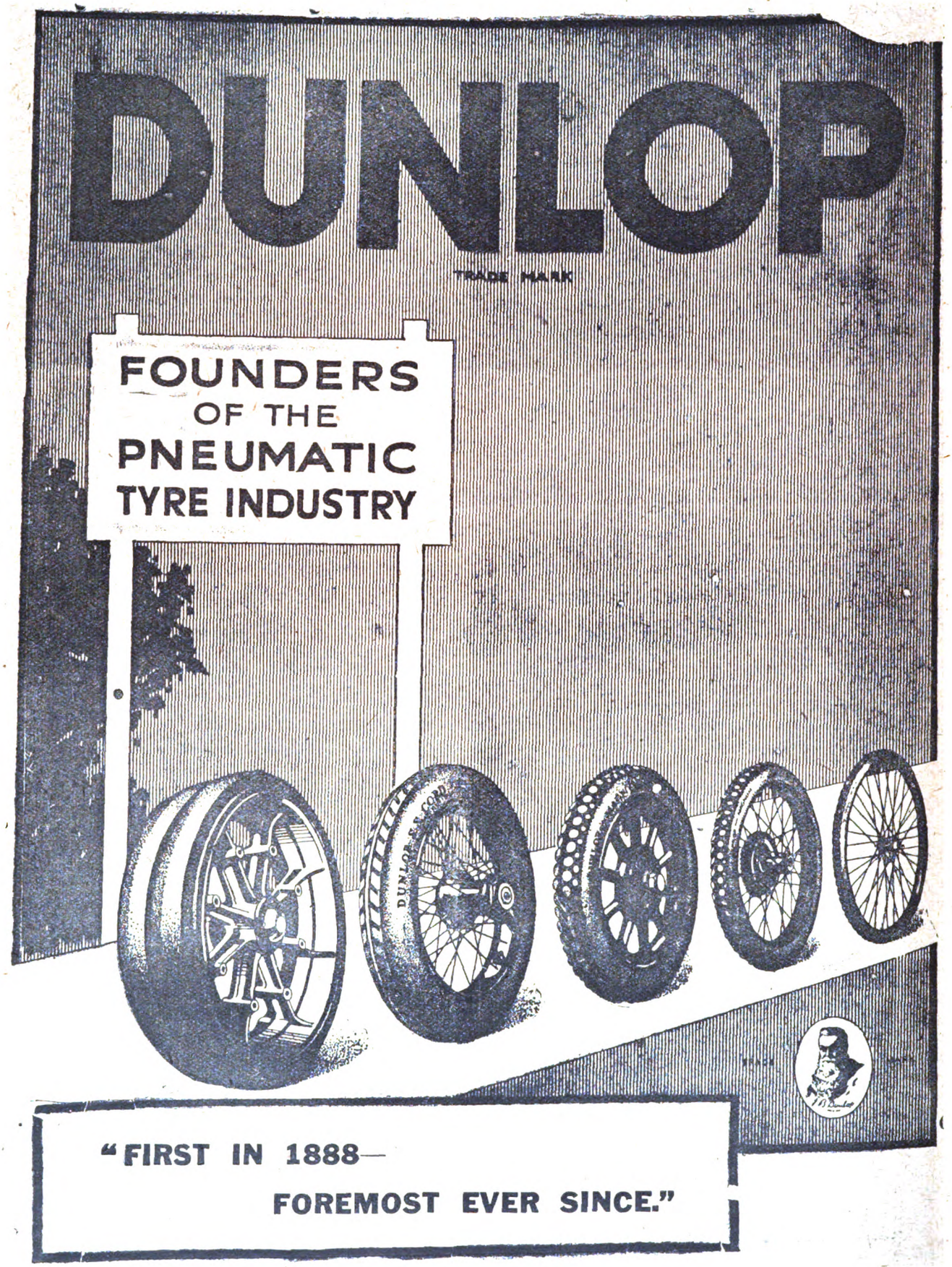


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## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, July 20.*

**The Mirdite Incident.**

It is well known that the Mirdites—the Catholics of the mountainous North of Albania—form three bairaks, namely Orosh, Spac, and Dibri; and latterly two other bairaks, Fandi and Kushneni, have been added to the three original communes; so that to-day the bairaks of Mirdita are really five in number, though sometimes they are wrongly considered as twelve—in which last ralculation Kabash, Selita, Thach, Berisha, Bugjoni, cbali, and Puka are included.

After the death of Bib Doda, at the end of the year 1919, Marko Gjoni was regarded as the chief of the five bairaks of Mirdita. This man, who is sixty years of age, is absolutely illiterate, of small intelligence and quite unscrupulous. Last spring this Marko Gjoni betook himself to Tirana and took the oath to be a faithful defender of united Albania and to do his utmost to preserve order in the mountains. On his return to Mirdita, he was invited by the Serbs to Prizrend. It should be noted here that Yugoslav troops are on the frontiers of Mirdita, and that their presence on Albanian soil handicaps severely the actions of the Albanian Government, seeing that the ways of communication are cut, and a free field is left to Serbian intrigues.

As a consequence of his meeting with the Serbian authorities at Prizrend, Marko Gjoni was won over to their plans. It needed indeed such a creature as him to create difficulties for Albania at the very moment when the Conference of Ambassadors is giving its attention to this country; and to give colour to the belief that Albanian unity is an impossible dream and that the Government enjoys no authority. And so Marko Gjoni returned to Mirdita three weeks ago and assembled the mountain chiefs together at Orosh, exhorting them to declare themselves independent from the rest of Albania, and to proclaim a republic of the twelve bairaks. Marko Gjoni promised help in silver, men, and arms, but in spite of all these promises, he found support only in two bairaks, Orosh, and Selita. All the others refused.

The Government of Tirana immediately dispatched four battalions under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Fehmi Kosturi, with both heavy and light guns; and this expeditionary force further had officers who were Catholics from Mirdita itself. The troops advanced from Lesh (Alessio) and Puka without meeting any resistance, and since the 15th of this month they have been at Orosh, the whole bairak having submitted fully. Marko Gjoni is at the moment in Serbia as the guest of the Yugoslav authorities.

The Tirana Government is now busily engaged in the organisation of these mountainous districts, where, in spite of the alarming tone and exaggerated nature of Belgrade despatches, there are really no more difficulties.

**The New Government.**

Although for reasons of internal order the Government of Ilias Vrioni resigned, it was a foregone conclusion hat it would be charged with the formation of a new Cabinet. And so it proved. Ilias Vrioni remains President of the Council; Pandeli Evangjeli, the ex-President of the Chamber, becomes Minister of Foreign Affairs; Suleiman Delvina, formerly President of the Council, is Minister of the Interior; Sotir Petsi, goes to the Ministry of Public Instruction; Dhimitri Kacimbro, Minister of Justice; Mehdi Frasheri, Public Works and Agriculture; Tef Curani remains at the Exchequer, and Selaheddin Shkoza at the War Ministry. Most of the oldi Mnisters retain their posts. The admission of Dhimitri Kacimbo, Doctor of Laws, is an excellent sign, the new Minister being an Orthodox Christian and a native of Argyro Kastro, that it to say, he comes from a province which the Greeks persist in claiming for Greece.

**School of Agriculture.**

The difficulties which beset the Government of Tirana do not prevent them from making efforts by peaceful methods for the progress of the country. For instance a Municipal Library has been opened at Tirana, and though as yet it is in a modest building it has already a rich collection of books. Again, the Director-General of Public Health, Dr. Rifat Bey Frasheri, is organising on the best lines the laboratory and the hospital of the town. A measure even more important and of very great service to the country is the creation of a model farm at Valona and of a practical school of agriculture at Lushnia, a small town in the North of the great plain of Muzeka.

## SUDAN.

*Khartoum, July 13.*

From Dongola Province comes news that Government dispensaries, each in the charge of an Assistant Medical Officer, have been opened at Debba, Korti and Argo, and have proved to be so popular amongst the natives that it is hoped to open a fourth dispensary at Kareima early next year.

High temperatures have been experienced latterly, the record being registered at Merowe—119.3 Fahr. on the 3rd June last.

In Berber Province irrigation work in connection with strengthening the Saliba of the Upper Basin at Wad Hamed is reported to be progressing well, and the land is now being cleaned and ploughed preparatory to sowing.

## ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, July 29.

**The Greek Victories.**

The recent victories of the Greek Army, at first celebrated with frenzied enthusiasm in Smyrna by the dominant Greek population, daily afford less satisfaction to the long suffering Anatolian Greeks, as news arrives of the heavy losses of Smyrna men at the front. A considerable drop in the value of the Drachma was also quite unexpected; and entailed heavy loss to the patriotic Greeks, who naturally anticipated that the value of the Greek money would be enhanced by the Army's success. The only money that has so far increased in value since the fall of Eski-Cheskir, is the Turkish.

**General News.**

H.M.S. "Seraph" (Captain Kirkby) has arrived in Smyrna to replace H.M.S. "Tuscan" which leaves to-morrow to join the Destroyer Flotilla at Buyuk Déré on the Bosphorus.

Sir Harry and Lady Lamb gave a dinner party on July 25, at the British Consulate-General. Besides the officers of H.M.S. "Tuscan," the guests included the new general manager of the Aidin Railway Company, Major-General Raymond de Candolle C.B., and Mrs. de Candolle.

Bournabat Club, represented by Messrs. H. Giraud and E. Whittall played a match against the Cordello Club, represented by J. Giraud and H. Barker, at Cordelio on Wednesday July 27 and the visiting team won, after a hard struggle by 6—4, 10—8,

To-day a motor-car belonging to Mr. H. Giraud was knocked over by an Italian motor-lorry when three of the occupants, two ladies and a gentlemen were severely injured.

## CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 19.

**Oppressive Heat.**

Intense heat has prevailed, especially on the coast, where the damp is most oppressive. All who can afford to do so are rushing to the hills. Hotels at Platres are filled, and all available houses in the higher villages within reach of Troodos are being taken. Amongst the many picturesque spots on the North Side of Troodos is the village of Kakopetria. Here the Greek Archbishop has sold a plot of land of about 50 donums (about 14 acres) to the villagers, who will construct cottages and bungalows for summer visitors on the site. About 450 persons from Egypt arrived by the last mail steamer.

A new Greek Consul, M. Z. N. Hajjivasiliou, has arrived at Larnaca

The Commissioner of Nicosia, Major Bayley, has convened a meeting of Greeks for Sunday, July 24, to ascertain whether an application to the Loan Commissioners for a loan of £12,000 for school buildings is supported by a majority of the community as required by the law.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

*The columns of "The Near East" are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of "The Near East."*
*Letters must be written on one side of the paper only.*

## GT. BRITAIN AND TURKEY.

*To the Editor of The Near East.*

Sir:—Your Constantinople Correspondent, in his letter published in the issue of "The Near East" of July 7, seems to suggest the basis of a Near Eastern policy. He is of opinion that mercy should be substituted for justice, and expediency for International Law in dealing with Turkey. I really don't think there is much novelty in the suggestion. If the word mercy is made to mean blind fanaticism and hatred, this has been exactly the policy followed in the Near East by the British authorities since the day of the Armistice. Your Correspondent gives in his letter a good illustration of the prejudiced spirit behind it. The main results of this policy have been the following:—

1.—Turkey was in her agony after the war. The best efforts of a friend would not have been sufficient to make her return to life. The blind hostility displayed, the horrors committed in the name of the Allies, coupled with the Greek invasion, have achieved this miracle.

2.—The great British prestige and the passionate love and respect for everything British, the most solid tradition in the Turkish public life since the Crimean War, which had been able to withstand many a crisis, have been systematically destroyed since the Armistice by the English themselves. They have taken pains to prove to the Turks that they were not what the Turks believed them to be.

3.—An unprecedented hatred was stirred up among the different elements of the population, and the Christian minorities were potentially deprived of many excellent opportunities actually within their reach.

4.—The elements of trouble and destruction have been given, literally, by force, a valuable involuntary ally.

If instead of the policy of fanaticism and "expediency," justice and International Law had been upheld, Great Britain would easily have made a tool of Turkey to pacify a large section of the world; much military expenditure would have been saved; and Turkey with her accumulated needs during the war would have become an excellent market for British goods, the basis of a real harmony would have been laid among the different elements of population in the East.

These would have been, from a British and from a world point of view, fine results at a low cost. For Turkey herself the case would be rather different, because there would inevitably be created a situation of dependency for her. She has much more profited by the blunders committed, and the crusading spirit displayed. Although many of us have suffered from it personally, we cannot but feel grateful from a patriotic point of view, to those who are responsible for the blunders. They forced the Turkish nation to overcome the fatigue and apathy of the war, to become for the first time a politically compact nation, to believe in itself, and to create a state of affairs favourable to a real development of the country and the people. The large mass of the educated Turks who never dared to leave Constantinople and to come in touch with the people, have been obliged to do so by the terrors exercised in Constantinople. If our educated class have better qualities of leadership in future, the country will have to feel obliged for it to its would-be executioners.

Your Correspondent speaks of the Malta prisoners. I might tell a different story in this regard. Although formally released on March 27, I am still here in the situation of a political prisoner. So, whatever I say will not be taken as an impartial statement of facts. I only hope that the British public will take interest some day in this matter. After an enquiry, it will be amazed at the character of irresponsible acts committed in its name. *The Near East* has repeatedly alluded, in an indirect way, to this situation by speaking of the wrong done to Rahmi Bey, former Governor of Smyrna.

I think the time has come when a free discussion of the existing facts would be beneficial to every side. Therefore, I should feel grateful, if these lines receive some hospitality in your columns.

I am, etc.,
AHMED EMIN
(Editor of the daily *Vakit*, Constantinople).

Malta, July 17th, 1921.

(Many of the writer's statements and opinions will not stand investigation, but we share his belief in the advantages of open discussion. We are unable to check his statement regarding the circumstances connected with his release, but the trouble is probably due to the failure of the Angora authorities to observe their pledges in regard to the release of British prisoners. The fact that his letter reached us through the ordinary post would seem to indicate that his confinement is not very strict. ED.

## ENGLISH BOYS IN INDIA.

*To the Editor of The Near East.*

Sir,—Would you kindly allow me to call attention to the existence of English boys educated in India. If the inhabitants of any given town or village in England were to be planted down in India only a limited number would be able to afford to send their boys home for education. But boys in India will have to meet Indians in open competition and unless they are as well educated they will go to the wall. It is open to them to go to any of the Indian University Colleges. What they require is an English hostel under English management with as much as possible of the spirit of an English University whilst they are attending Indian University Colleges.

For the last three years I have been raising money in India for such a hostel. There is a representative committee in India including the present and late Vice Chancellors of the Punjab University, and amongst those who have given are Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu. University education is needed for those going to the Engineering College at Roorkee, the Forest College at Dehra Dun, the Medical College at Lahore, the Sydenham College of Commerce at Bombay, and all the Imperial services for which there is now recruiting in India. The hostel is to accommodate a Warden and 25 students. After 3 years' work in India I have raised R.50,000. This together with the Government grant will pay for the site and a small hostel for sixteen students. But there are already 18 students, and 5,000 pounds are urgently needed to complete the scheme and provide for an endowment fund. Times are hard at home, but there is such a thing as the call of blood. At every school and University I have been to at home I am told that the rising generation do not want to go out to India. That in itself will show that boys in India whose parents cannot afford to send them home for education are in a difficult position, and I hope that there will be those who will see to it that these boys more than half of whom are sons of British soldiers do not go to the wall for want of an adequate education.

Donations may be sent either direct to the Younghusband Hostel Fund Account, at the Alliance Bank of Simla, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., or to me at the Church Imperial Club, 75, Victoria Street, London S.W., and will be gratefully acknowledged.

I am, etc.,
OSWALD YOUNGHUSBAND.


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## EGYPT AS A WINTER RESORT.

*The Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—I have read with great interest your Cairo Correspondent's references, in his letter published in "*The Near East*" of the 30th ult., to the resumption of propaganda work on behalf of Egypt by my Association is fully alive to the necessity of organising the campaign on what he calls "general lines." Unfortunately, however, the country has not yet been sufficiently educated in the matter of advertising to realise the vital necessity of this in these times of competition by rival resorts. The work of the Association was, as you are aware, interrupted by the outbreak of war; but now that it has got going again, it may be hoped that it will receive the hearty support of the interests involved. At present the amount of money available for advertising is relatively small; but steps are being taken to make the best use of the Association's resources.

The Egypt Promotion Association is greatly obliged to your Correspondent for his friendly hint in regard to hotel rates in Egypt. This, I may say, is a matter which is receiving their careful attention. A good deal has been said and written as to the charges made by hotels in Egypt; but whilst I hold no brief for the hotels, it is only fair to state that the vast majority of visitors to Egypt prefer the palatial "hotels de luxe," and are prepared to pay for the privilege. Some countries are benefiting to a large extent in respect of prices owing to the rates of exchange, but it is manifestly unfair to compare the rates at a palatial hotel in one country with tha fates of the far less pretentious but nevertheless comfortable hotels which abound in Europe.

I am not in a position to state what the hotel charges will be next season, but can assure you that the Egypt Promotion Association will do all in its power to see that visitors to this country do not go away with the impression that it is a place for millionaires only.

I might add that there are also in Egypt a few less pretentious hotels which the visitors is perfectly free to patronise if he wishes to do so.

I am, etc.,
For the Egypt Promotion Association,
W. R. TODD,
Acting Secretary.

Egypt Promotion Association,
Cairo, July 19.

# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### Persia.

Upon Lord Curzon's rec ent announcement that the British Government intends to leave Persia to her fate. the *Saturday Review* of July 30, says :—

It means the temporary ruin of the country and to that extent favours the spread of Bolshevist propaganda, whidh is far more formidable than Bolshevist arms, in the direction of Afghanistan and India. No one can predict what the outcome of that may be, but the decision to withdraw from those parts of Persia that are not vital to British interests, to concentrate our strength in the region of the Gulf, and to trust to time and the inevitable collapse of Bolshevism in Russia to evolve a more favourable opportunity for regaining, if we ever wish to regain, what we are now wisely yielding, is a sound decision. Better Persia Bolshevist than Britain bankrupt is still as rational a counsel as when Mr. Lloyd George first uttered it. Our business is to be strong at home and to realise that a Fabian policy in our present circumstances, however great the temptation to adventures of the old "Forward" school, is one of the essentials of recovery. We can afford to wait; the Lenin regime, whether in Russia or in Persia, cannot.

### The Straits of Constantinople.

The *Manchester Guardian* of August 4, in an article which makes an examination of "Constantinople and the Straits," declares that the custody of these places is one of the "most neglected questions left us by the war." It proceeds to state how important a settlement of this problem is, and dismisses as intolerable the contemplated march of the Greeks upon Constantinople. Then it discusses a possible solution :—

Any settlement which is to hold out a prospect of permanence must, we believe, rest first on a reasonable peace with Turkey, recognising her full right to existence as an independent Power within her agreed boundaries, and secondly on the recognition of the fact that the freedom of the Straits is an international interest and that the custody of the Straits ought therefore to possess an international character. So far there has been no approach to the acceptance by the Powers in possession of either of these principles. What we hold we hold simply as conquerors in the war. Great Britain, France, and Italy hold it jointly, and America—Japan also, for that matter—has just as good a right, if she chose to assert it, to share in the control. The abortive Treaty of Sévres simply continued the ultimate military authoritity of the three Powers, though it established an International Commission to deal with the technical control of the Straits, lighting, buoying, regulation of traffic, collection of dues, and the like. Now obviously this is not a permanent solution. To begin with it must almost necessarily lead to jealousies and possible disputes between the protecting Powers, and if at any time they should chance to be at war with one another the situation would be impossible. But beyond that the arrangement takes no account of the interests of other Powers—of Germany, for instance, and the other Danube Powers, who are vitally interested in the outlet for their trade from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, or of Russia, whose interest is greater than that of all the other Powers put together, which has fought two great wars for the assertion of this interest and which, undoubtedly, will one day assert it again. When first, after the conclusion of the war, this matter was discussed it was generally assumed that the international solution would be adopted and that a sufficiently wide area on either side of the Straits would be neutralised. This would suffice, of course, to prevent the establishment of permanent fortifications commanding the Straits, such as those by which our own ships were held up in the war, but it would not prevent a sudden rush, and the plunging fire of the modern howitzer, which can be quickly moved, can be quite as deadly as that of guns on permanent emplacements. But it is contended that the presence of troops and the military possession of the critical positions by some established Power is necessary for safety.

And it concludes with an assertion that "it is wrong in principle as it is dangerous in practice to leave the guardianship of a great international waterway to the sole control of a single Power."

The freedom of the Straits would, we are convinced, be far safer under the protection of an international body, such as that which for many years has controlled the navigation of the mouth of the Danube, even though only some modest international force were present to defend it. It would be a grave matter indeed for Turkey, still more for Bulgaria or Greece, to attempt an attack, and if, later, a recovered and reconstituted Russia should be tempted to seize the object of her secular ambition she could do so only at the risk of war with almost every other European Power, and Greece certainly could not prevent her. As for Turkey, the first necessity is to give her a life to live within her own proper boundaries and an assured outlet for her trade, such as every great inland country should possess, to the sea. When we have done this and relieved her of the intolerable burdens and shackles proposed in the Treaty of Sèvres—from the Commission which was to supervise her army, from the Commission which was to control her finance, from the yet other Commission which was to take over her railways—when we have given her a chance of peace and prosperity and a settled order, then we shall have given her something to lose, and she will think many times before she risks all once more in an attempt to regain possession of the Straits. Even Turkey must have learnt something from the lessons of the war.

### Great Britain and Turkey.

The *Saturday Review* of July 30 in an article called "Sanity and the Near East" pleads for a *rapprochement* between Britain and Turkey. On the result of the present campaign of the Greeks against the Turks it does not commit itself :—

We are far from assuming, however, that victory, whether real or factitious, will go to Greece in this futile and ruinous prolongation of the Great War in the Near East. The course which circumstances appear to us to prescribe for British statesmanship is not dependent upon the issue of this conflict, though the difficulty of pursuing it would be increased by the appearance of a triumphant Constantine demanding the spoils of war. Fortunately, our hands are not tied. It was in defiance of our wishes and representations that Athens insisted upon this campaign; we have no commitment contrary to our supreme interest—the securing of a stable peace in the Near East. We abandoned, at the London Conference five months ago, all pretence of standing by the letter of the unratified Treaty of Sèvres. Modifications were then proposed which had for their object the conciliation of Turkish national feeling. We recognised, and rightly, that good relations with Turkey—no longer a despotic overlord of subject peoples, but a self-contained national State—should be the first care of our Eastern diplomacy.

It thinks that the Turkish claims, so far as they are consistent with national right, ought to be admitted; and it concludes :—

It is not only our interests in the Near and Middle East that are jeopardized by the existence of bad blood between us and the strongest of the Moslem peoples. In India we have seen, and we see to-day, the hitherto unimaginable spectacle of a political alliance between Hindu and Mohammedan against the British rule. Its permanence may be doubtful, but it can unquestionably be ruinous to us as long as it lasts. A just settlement in the Near East, accepted by Turkey, would cut at the root of that combination. Cannot the pursuit of which Mr. Churchill speaks be conducted with more energy and sense of direction? Whatever the obstacles in the path, we have no interest so urgent or so plain as the re-establishment of good relations with the Turkish people. We may not admire their type of civilization, or their political record; but are we, in this world, to be on peaceful terms only with those whom we can conscientiously regard as angels?

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

### The Jewish Musical Association.

I have received from Lvoff, Poland, particulars of the formation of a "Jewish Musical Association" there, and of a scheme to further interest in Jewish music. Last year I commented upon the possibilities of the recently formed Anglo-Jewish Musical Association, an organisation the activities of which are, I believe, limited to this country. But the "Jewish Musical Association" has wider aims. Formed in the autumn of 1919 it already has a mixed choir of a hundred and fifty voices and a symphony orchestra of eighty instrumentalists. This association performs all kinds of music, but its main purpose is to assist in the enriching of the Jewish musical literature, and with this intent it has inaugurated a competition for "the best musical composition on Jewish popular songs in combination for chorus of men or mixed voices *a capella* or with the accompaniment of the piano," as the circular puts it. Money prizes, the first of which is 3,000 Polish marks, are being offered for the best composition, which must be sent before October 1, 1921, to the President of the Association, Mr. Alfred Plohn, Lvoff, Poland, Legionoff 5.

Further details I have no space for, but I shall be pleased to give them to anyone who cares to write to me. The scheme is undoubtedly an excellent one, for not only is the fact of the prize a real stimulus to the needy composer, but, if successful, he will get his work both performed and published by the Association—factors which are growing increasingly important to composers. There is untold wealth in Jewish melodies, which more than any other folk-tunes needs exploring and amassing. Among the Jews in the Near East alone there must be hundreds of unpublished songs, and I hope that some of them will be rescued by this worthy plan of the Jewish Musical Association. The Jewish composer who can take his place among the world's greatest has yet to arise, but when he does, he will almost certainly build upon the melodies of his race.

### London's Musical Prospects.

The concert season in London is now dead, and, apart from Sir Henry Wood's "Promenades," which begin in August and end in October, will not re-commence until October. Then we are to have what we lacked all through the past year—opera. A way out of the financial difficulty which has persistently beset British performances of opera has been found, so that London is now from every point of view equipped to be what it certainly is becoming—the musical centre of the world. In this revolution—for it is no less—nothing has been of more importance than the extraordinary creative activity of our composers; but in addition to this the interpretative standard demanded of artists is becoming higher and higher here, so that a London reputation is worth more than any other. This is not mere journalist's talk, it is the sober reflection of the views of musicians, all of whom are agreed that, owing to a variety of reasons, some aesthetic, others economic, London for the next five years will be the first capital to attract the world's best music.

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## PERSONAL & GENERAL.

August 11 (New Style).
July 29 (Old Style).
Julhijja 7, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 7, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Vali Ahd, brother of the Shah of Persia, sailed for England from Bombay on July 31.

Madame Mamartcheff, the wife of M. Mamartcheff, Secretary ot the Bulgarian Legation, left London last week for Sofia.

Fathollah Khan Noury, First Secretary to the Persian Legation, has returned to London from the Continent, after several weeks' absence.

M. Alexandre Cretziano, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, has left London for the South of France, on leave.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania honoured the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Radu Djuvara, with his presence at luncheon on August 4, at the Traveller's Club.

M. Nicolas Michel Vladesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Bucharest. He will be away about two months.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (July 31):—Colonel Repington, special foreign correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* has been visiting Sofia. He has been received by King Boris, and has called upon M. Stambolisky.

It is authoritatively stated that the Prince of Wales will arrive in Malta between October 26, and November 1, on his way to India. The Prince will remain two days.

Bulgaria will be represented at the Assembly of the League of Nations by the President of the Council of Ministers, M. Stambolisky, and by the Bulgarian Minsiter at Belgrade, M. Theodoroff.

An engagement is announced between Mr. C. L. Seton-Browne, the Leicestershire Regiment, the surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Seton-Browne, of Dunfermline, Grenada, B.W.I., and Marjorie, elder daughter of Colonel R. Heard, I.M.S.

In view of the coming into operation of self-government at Malta, the Imperial Government are appointing an arbitrator to adjudicate on such questions as water supply and roads. Field-Marshal Lord Plumer's leave has been extended to September 15. Upon his return to resume the governorship, writs will be issued for the first Maltese Parliamentary elections.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (July 27):—The Royal Family left to-day for Paris, where they intend to stay for a few days. The King will afterwards go to Bagnolles de l'Orne to take the waters, and the Queen and Princess Marioara to St. Brieuc.

General Averescu, the Prime Minister, has left for Kissingen where he intends staying thirty-five days to take the waters; during his absence the Cabinet will be presided over by M. Také Jonescu.

Sir Willoughby Dickenson, the Vice President of the "Union of the League of Nations Society" arrived here a few days ago, his visit is in connection with the task he has been entrusted with by this Society to study on the spot the situation of the ethnic Minorities in the Near East; he has already visited for this purpose Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia. Sir Willoughby was received by the King and entertained to luncheon with his wife and daughter.

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As the British Government is not in favour of General Townshend's proposed visit to Turkey, the general has decided not to go.

The Bulgarian Minister of Finance, M. Tourlakoff, who has arrived in London on a short visit with M. Stoyanoff, Director of the Public Debt, was received last week by Sir Robert Horne and Sir Eyre Crowe, and has had interviews with several leading British financiers.

The marriage between Mr. R. W. Bullard, C.I.E., and Miss Miriam Catherine Smith will take place at St. Aidan's Church, Bamburgh, Northumberland, on Thursday, August 18.

Lord and Lady Barrymore left London last week for Marbury Hall, Northwich, Cheshire.

Lord Allenby passed through Marsielles on August 7 on his way from Cairo to London. He is accompanied by Mr. Keown-Boyd, Eastern Secretary, and several officers.

The engagement is announced between Gerald Bruce Crole, Sudan C.S., only son of Mr. G. L. Crole, K.C., Sheriff of the Lothians and Peebles, and Mrs. Crole, 1, Royal-circus, Edinburgh, and Katherine Margaret, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. House, 4, The College, Malvern. The marriage will take place at Malvern on September 14.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant-Colonel George Cecil Hodgson, D.S.O., 2-23rd Sikh Pioneers, second son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Hodgson, Bombay Staff Corps, and of Mrs. Hodgson, of Bexhill, and Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Morten, late of Hampton Court, and niece of the Rev. Michael Graves, B.D., Rural Dean of Wycombe, of Tilecotes, Marlow.

A number of French papers have recently reported as impending the marriage of M. Venizelos, the ex-Greek Prime Minister, and Mme. Schilizzi, a wealthy Greek widow, who had lived for many years in Paris. The *Excelsior* now states that it is in a position to confirm this report, and adds that M. Venizelos and his *finance* are at the present time both at Aix-les-Bains. M. Venizelos, who is a widower with several children, is 57 years of age, and Mme. Schilizzi is 45.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Rear-Admiral Aubrey Clare Hugh Smith, C.B., M.V.O., has been appointed to be lent to the Greek Navy as head of the British Naval Mission to Greece, in succession to Captain William A. H. Kelby, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O., the appointment to date October 15. The British Naval Mission is composed of eleven British naval officers, the head of the Mission ranking as a Vice-Admiral in the Royal Hellenic Navy.

M. de Beaufort, the Netherlands Ambassador in Washington, is to be appointed Ambassador in Athens.

The High Commissioner for India has, with the concurrence of the Government of India, nominated Mr. T. Ryan, C.I.E., of the Indian Finance Department (P.W.D. Accounts) to succeed Sir George Collier, C.I.E. as Director-General of Stars, Offices of the High Commissioner for India, when the latter retires after more than 45 years of meritorious service. Mr. Ryan will assume charge on the conclusion of his present duties as Secretary to the Railway Committee.

Mr. Thomas Beaumont Hohler, C.B., C.M.G., has been appointed to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary, and Minister Plenipotentiary to the State of Hungary. He has served, among other places, in Cairo, Abyssinia, and Constantinople.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Lord Reay, a former Governor of Bombay. For this Governorship he was chosen by Mr. Gladstone in 1885. After leaving India in 1890 he became Under Secretary for India in the Rosebery Ministry, 1894-5, and later devoted his energies to various interests, among which was the Royal Asiatic Society of which he was President.

The death has occurred of Brigade Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Bowen Richards Myers. He served in the Suakim Expedition of 1885, receiving the British and Egyptian medals, and retired from the Army in 1891. He was the author of "Life with the Hamram Arabs,"—an account of a sporting tour of some officers of the Guards in the Sudan during the winter of 1874-5.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

A serious outbreak of fire in the Sourakhanah district of Azerbaijan is reported, the oilfields there being ablaze.

Mr. Churchill has expressed his willingness to take a suitable opportunity of receiving the deputation which the Indian community of the Kenya Colony is sending to England to see the members of the Government regarding the status of the community in the Colony.

Strikes, attributed to the activities of non-co-operators have occurred in four tea gardens in the Darjeeling and Kurseong subdivisions. In one garden 42 strikers were arrested on a charge of rioting.

The Bulgarian National Council has appointed a deputation to plead for the intervention of the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury to secure the proper application of the minority clauses of the Treaties of Peace.

The Bombay Legislative Council, after a long debate, has passed a resolution by 52 votes to 25 in favour of the enfranchisement of women.

Following the arrival of the Commissar Stalin in Georgia a number of public men have been arrested and the policy of repression and Russification is reported to be more vigorously pursued.

According to a message from Melbourne, it is reported that Commonwealth steamers will inaugurate a fast four-weekly service to India and Suez about the end of this year.

Byrout Municipality has presented General Gouraud's soldier-chauffeur, Fernand Boeuf, with a gold cigarette case, set with diamonds, forh is courage and coolness in saving the General's life when the attempt was made against him on June 23, on the road from Damascus to Kuneitra.

M. Steeg, French Senator, has been appointed Governor-General of Algeria.

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## RUMOURS AND FACTS IN THE BALKANS.

The rumours that have been current of late regarding Bulgaria's anti-Entente attitude are, no doubt, a reflexion of the troubling of her own political waters as well as a definite attempt by a third party to divert attention from other parts of the Near East. Although they bore on the face of them the stamp of improbability, and have been categorically denied, these rumours may serve as a starting point for an examination of present-day conditions in Bulgaria, for the reason that these conditions, no less than the attitude towards the relatively powerless Bulgaria of her neighbours, are a factor in the question of peace in the Near East. First, then, as to the political situation in Bulgaria. Apart from the natural desire of an Opposition to assume office, there have been other causes for a fluttering in the dovecots of the ten parties that have a common bond in political hostility to M. Stambolisky and his followers. The Zemledeltchesko, or Agrarian Party, now in power, is divided into two distinct sections, one of which acknowledges M. Draghieff as its chief, while the other is under the leadership of the Prime Minister. Although M. Draghieff withdrew his parliamentary candidature at the last elections, on the ground that he did not approve of the party's programme, the Agrarians have so far presented a united front for all practical purposes. There has, however, been trouble in their ranks, which has found expression in certain Ministerial changes. M. Dimitroff, Minister for War, has incurred the antagonism of a number of Agrarians; his standing in the party has been too strong for the malcontents to secure his resignation, but it is noticeable that M. Stambolisky has thought it prudent not to appoint him, in spite of his being the obvious candidate for the post, Acting Prime Minister during his own absence abroad. A further cause for the raising of the Opposition's hopes is to be found in the fact that the present Government was gradually getting out of its depth in connection with its legislative experiments. So long as domestic issues alone were concerned the Opposition realized that it was merely being done by as it would have itself done to the others; but it saw, it is to be feared with no little satisfaction, that, as a result of M. Stambolisky's legislation, Bulgaria was creating trouble with the Entente Powers. It has been counting, therefore, on the latter taking such action as would inevitably lead to M. Stambolisky's downfall.

Of all the Entente Powers Great Britain is the least likely to concern herself with Bulgaria's domestic politics or to wish to have any part in political intrigues. She has satisfied herself of the correctness of M. Stambolisky's attitude, and for this reason cannot fail to wish him well. A new Government could hardly adopt a more correct foreign policy; it might possibly be more successful in its handling of domestic affairs, and so conduce to a more stable condition of things in Bulgaria. British interest, therefore, in the rivalries of Bulgarian political parties is confined to their bearing on the country's future welfare and the maintenance of peace in the Balkans. Under M. Stambolisky there has been less foreign intrigue in Bulgaria than at any time in her short history. One result has been to make the foreign elements that have battened on Balkan intrigue in the past turn to the Opposition parties in the hope of finding a state of affairs more to their liking; and the Bulgarian Opposition, or at least certain sections of it, have felt encouraged to revive the old order of intrigue in their endeavour to displace the Agrarian Party. If, therefore, the Entente Powers had to choose—as fortunately they have not to do—between Bulgarian parties, they would have to decide whether a Government that indulged in embarrassing and sometimes disastrous legislative experiments, while maintaining a sound foreign policy was not to be preferred to a Ministry which allowed internal affairs to run along the usual ruts and at the same time gave rein to the old intrigues that proved Bulgaria's undoing in the past and has always been a fruitful source of unrest in the Balkans. It is one of the misfortunes of Balkan politics that political parties in power are inclined to legislate against the interests of their opponents rather than in the interests of the country as a whole. Much of the legislation of the present Bulgarian Government has been coloured by the desire to "get even" with the authors of Bulgaria's misfortunes; and it is to be feared that a new Ministry will feel obliged to spend a lot of its time and ingenuity in "getting its own back" from the Agrarians. In this unedifying duel the country has little chance of prospering.

It is a matter for regret, therefore, that any Entente Power should be associated, whether officially or unofficially, with Bulgarian political intrigues. The Entente, as already stated, have proved the correctness of the present Government's foreign policy; they have every reason to expect a similar correctness on the part of a Ministry associated with such men as M.M. Malinoff Gueshoff, Liaptcheff, or Madjaroff. But just as they have taken exception to recent Bulgarian legislation which, directed originally against rival parties, has impinged upon foreign interests, so they ought not to lend colour to the idea that they will welcome relief for foreign interests from commercial disabilities at the expense of Bulgaria's freedom from international intrigue. The danger arising from the latter is likely far to outweigh any benefits accruing from the removal of embargoes on commerce and finance. France or Italy may think that they stand to gain by the advent to power of this or that *protégé*, but a more probable result of intrigue in Bulgaria's internal affairs would be the setting in motion of forces which will bring loss both to Bulgaria and the Entente. The strongest political party after the Zemledeltchesko is the Communist, which derives support from the discontent existing in the towns as a result of the high cost of living and from the traditional relationship between Russia and Bulgaria. Even if Bolshevism has not proved successful as a panacea for economic crises, there is bound to be a number of Bulgarians ready to believe that the country's salvation is still linked up with Russia, and the more so, when the ills they resent most are the work of the Entente, and they note that it is against the Entente that the Soviets set out to wage war to the death. The Communist Party in Bulgaria belongs to the Opposition; but it has little or nothing else in common with the other Opposition groups. Its support, however, would be welcome in any scheme for the overthrow of the Government in the present state of parties, and, if it were given, would entail a *quid pro quo*. In thus sketching the political position in Bulgaria as we read it to-day, we have no wish to weigh the scales in favour of or against any party, but we believe that a true understanding of the situation is the best remedy against possible intrigue. It has to be remembered that however much the Bulgarians differ among themselves they are united in their resolve to work for the liberation of their nationals from foreign jurisdiction. They can so work without disturbing the peace of the Balkans, but there will always be that element of political unrest which impedes the march of progress and prosperity. To-day the country is most concerned with the absence of real access to the Aegean Sea. Anyone acquainted with the Balkans is aware that the use of a foreign railway on foreign territory is valueless for practical commercial purposes, and in the case of the Dedeagatch line no steps have been taken,

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in spite of the paper recommendations of the Supreme Council, to make the concession of any value. The knowledge in certain quarters that on this point as on many others the Paris Conference allowed itself to be hoodwinked by ignorance of Balkan conditions may account for the spread of false reports about the warlike intentions of five million Bulgarians against their thirty-five million neighbours.

## BOLSHEVIST RULE IN CENTRAL ASIA.

### II. Bokhara.

*By Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah.*

Those who seek to confound the apostles of Russian Communism, and who are searching for a particularly damning illustration of their theories, will find themselves amply rewarded by a consideration of the circumstances of Bolshevist rule in Bokhara, where they will encounter the pattern Soviet state in all its unloveliness. Bokhara is "free," it has its own soviet, its own communistic machinery. Yet its population is sunk in the depths of a slavery more sordid, a helotage more vexatious, than any Oriental conqueror ever imposed upon a fallen foe. With my own eyes I have witnessed the degradation of the once manly and dignified Bokharians. I have seen them driven to the coal-mines and the oil-wells of Ferghana and Samarkand, the bond-slaves of a brutal avarice masquerading as the enemy of capitalism. I have seen them searched for bread by the ruthless Jadidi, or Bolshevist Police. And as I gazed with pity upon the plight of those wretched people, I thought with amazement of the situation in the island I know so well, where a large section of the workers, and especially the coal-miners, were anxious to naturalize the evil thing that had brought ruin to Bokhara. Let those men go to Bokhara and inspect the mines there. Let them have an opportunity of seeing the actual working of the machine for which they profess such an admiration: and when they return, they will go down on their knees and thank Providence that, through no action of theirs this country has been spared from the hideous nightmare of Leninist rule.

The New Russia has seized upon Bokhara in much the same spirit as the buccaneers of the seventeenth century descended upon the rich Antilles. To the 'Reds' it is a mine of raw material to be speedily exhausted, an orange to be sucked dry, not a colony to be cultivated and built up. Of one of its divisions, Ferghana, this is only partly true, for there the 'Reds' are laying the foundations of a great military commissariat to serve for the requirements of the Bolshevist army which one day will attempt the invasion of India. But the remainder of the country can only be described as a ruin, the skeleton of a once prosperous land. The cotton-growing area has shrunk to one-fifth of its former proportions, and the yield per acre to one-half. The peasant proprietor, or what is left of him, must give 90 per cent. of his crop to his Bolshevist taskmasters, and convey it to the depot at his own charges. The miserable people who toil in the mines and on the land are paid in kind, that is, they receive a scanty ration of bread and a dangle of rags by way of sustenance and clothing. Thousands, rather than suffer these conditions, have fled to the desert of Kazil-kum, or wander on the steppe, where, for the most part, they perish miserably. Those who remain must face conscription, either military or proletarian. Such leisure as they have is haunted by spies, the treacherous Ispolkoms, who swarm in every village, and who, upon the least expression of opinion derogatory to Leninism, betray him who dares to utter it to immediate death. Mir Burhanuddin, the chief Qazi of Bokhara chanced to say that in his opinion, the ethics of Bolshevism conflicted with those of the Koran: he was at once dragged before a court martial and shot. Mir Nizamuddin, the Premier, who showed a natural interest in the affairs of his exiled master, the Khan of Bokhara, had to flee for his life, and died suddenly and under suspicious circumstances at Dushambeh. The old spirit of the people has been utterly quenched. They have become a nation of slaves.

And side by side with all this misery the mockery of an intensive propaganda is carried on. The wretched Bokharians and Uzbeks must, forsooth, be instructed in the philosophy of that which has crushed them: the deer must be shown the reason why it should become the prey of the tiger. In order that the sorry burlesque of "enlightenment" may proceed, propaganda trains are run throughout Turkestan and the khanates. These are equipped with the most modern appliances, so that the unsophisticated Uzbeks shall regard with awe the resources of the power which has them in its toils. The printing press, the cinematograph, and wireless telegraphy are all requisitioned for the benefit of the half-starved compulsory students of Leninism. The visit of one propaganda train to an Uzbek village especially remains in my memory. I had great difficulty in getting a seat in a slow-moving train from Bokhara to Turmez. Gradually we crept along until we reached a place called Kershi, half-way between these points. Here all the passengers were obliged to alight, as the line had been cleared for the propaganda train, which would not arrive until the afternoon of the following day. Betaking myself to the *caravan sarayai*, or local inn, I found that the only accomodation to be had was in the courtyard. The pack animals of a caravan which had halted there for the night were noisy neighbours; the place swarmed with noxious insects; and to crown our misery, rain began to fall heavily. The caravan resumed its journey at 5 a.m., and after the usual devotions, I went out to see the village. It was a mere shell. All habitable houses had disappeared, and nothing but huts and dug-outs remained. The place was the husk of what it had been, ruined and deserted, and even the avenues of mulberry trees had been cut down for fuel. I strolled to the railway station, where even at that early hour, hundreds of people had gathered to await the propaganda train. They were a sullen crowd, beaten up by the local commissar, who had told them that they must come to be "educated." Intense heat made the tin-covered station like an oven, and at noon, pillau, a mess of rice, was served out in large portions, as an inducement to the hungry people to remain. From conversations going on around me, I gathered that most of them had come there merely for the sake of allaying their hunger. At three p.m. the train steamed in. It was "decorated" with pictures in glaring colours depicting the atrocities of capitalism, and gilded mottoes in which the equality of all men was insisted upon. The side of one of the carriages opened out and formed a kind of platform, from which a young Uzbek lecturer in the pay of the 'Reds' harangued the weary audience upon the blessings of the Communist state. After he had spoken for nearly a quarter of an hour another took his place, upholding the doctrines of Leninism with fanatical ardour. News bulletins were then distributed. These consisted of a sheet of foolscap paper printed on both sides in Turki and Persian. On one side was what purported to be the latest news, set out in three parallel columns, while the reverse was occupied with a *résumé* of Bolshevist doctrine. Under the heading "Good News" I read a brief description of the coal strike in Great Britain, which lost nothing in the telling, and which assured the reader that Bolshevist envoys were sedulously working for the downfall of capitalism in that benighted land. When it grew darker the cinematograph was brought into play, and a film depicting the evils of capitalism was released. It came to an abrupt ending at an interesting moment, and an announcement was made that the story would be continued on the next visit of the train, which then steamed off in the direction of Turmez. On its departure the crowd for a moment displayed something like enthusiasm The unaccustomed food, the harangues of the speakers, and the excitement of the "pictures" had undoubtedly worked upon their feelings, and many were the expressions of satisfaction and even of pleasure. So does

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Leninism sport with its victims. I must admit that I was not a little impressed by the efficiency displayed in the conduct of the whole performance. How much more, then, must the poor people who surrounded me have been affected? They are told that in working as they must do they are helping to free the rest of humanity from the curse of slavery, and this many of them actually seem to credit. Or is it that they dare hold no other opinion?

## NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*July* 25.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Raper that the British Government undertook to transmit as an act of courtesy and humanity £48,000 supplied by the Turkish Government to the Japanese Government, to enable the latter to repatriate Turkish prisoners of war from Siberia. No British funds were involved.

Mr. Edward Wood informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that a report had been received that some of the followers of Ibn Saud, not of the Emir of Hail, meditated an attack on Kheibar, a place some distance to the north of Medina. As a result of inquiries by the High Commissioner for Mesopotamia, a telegram has been received stating that Ibn Saud's agent in Baghdad had heard nothing of this report and entirely discredited it. There was on reason to believe that there was any understanding between the Emirs of Hail and Nejd.

Mr. Wood informed Sir William Joynson Hicks that the British Government are now engaged in formulating a scheme with the object of admitting local elements to such a degree of participation in the Government of Palestine as is compatible with the Balfour declaration.

Sir William Seager asked whether the British mercantile community in Turkey, whose stocks in trade both before and after the outbreak of hostilities with Turkey were requisitioned, were forcibly occupied and damaged and their homes pillaged, have filed claims against the Turkish Government without response, and what steps the British Government will take to force the Turkish Government to pay the necessary indemnities. Mr. Harmsworth replied that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. H. M. Government are most anxious to expedite the pacification of Asia Minor and the entry into force of a treaty of peace with Turkey, but it was impossible to anticipate the latter event so far as the payment of indemnities of this kind was concerned.

Mr. Wood informed Mr. Mills that he was aware that various complaints against the Palestine police had been made by the Jewish section of the population. He wished, however, to remove the impression that the Palestine police was an Arab force. It was a Palestinian force and there was nothing to prevent Jews as well as Arabs enlisting in it. Hitherto comparatively few Jews had come forward. The whole question was engaging the earnest attention of the High Commissioner and steps were being taken to raise the standard of discipline and efficiency.

*July* 27.—Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. Lyle that the Powers had all along been willing to seize the earliest possible moment for the final conclusion of peace in the Near East, and they made united effort in this direction at the conference held in London in the spring; but while the two principal parties (Greece and Turkey) were actively engaged in fighting the moment did not appear to be favourable for the attempt.

Mr. Churchill informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that the High Commissioner for Mesopotamia and the Council of State were taking steps to ascertain the views of the population of Mesopotamia on the subject of the Emirate, but the date of the referendum had not yet been reported.

Mr. Churchill stated that he hoped to lay further papers in connection with Mesopotamia in the near future.

Replying to Mr. Swann, Mr. Harmsworth said that he did not think this would be a suitable moment to hold an election in Egypt, in view of the fact that the principal members of the Egyptian Government are engaged in negotiations with H. M. Government in this country.

Mr. Harmsworth also informed Mr. Swann that no incident occurred on the day when the Egyptian Delegation left Alexandria. The Delegation drove to the quay unescorted, and held a reception there. Several hundred representative persons from all parts of Egypt having assembled to bid them good-bye.

*July* 28.—The Prime Minister informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that four meetings with the Egyptian Delegation had already taken place at the Foreign Office. The negotiations were pursuing their normal course but it was not anticipated that they would be rapid. It was proposed to adjourn the meetings shortly and to resume them after a short holiday. It was hoped that the negotiations would be concluded before the next Session of Parliament.

The Prime Minister stated that the official date of the termination of the War, as regards Turkey, would be September 1, 1921.

Lord Eustace Percy asked whether agreements defining the obligations of His Majesty's Government in Mesopotamia and Kurdistan are now under negotiation with the Government of Irak, or with the representatives of the Kurds, and whether he could give an assurance that no contractual obligations of any kind would be assumed by H. M. Government in Irak or in Kurdistan until such agreements had been approved by the House of Commons. Mr. Churchill replied that the only definitions of the obligations of His Majesty's Government in Mesopotamia and Kurdistan are to be found in the Treaty of Sevres and the draft mandate for Mesopotamia. He could assure the House that no new obligations would be incurred until Parliament had had an opportunity of expressing its opinion.

### The Emir Faisal.

A statement from the Colonial Office says that the latest advices from Mesopotamia indicate an increasing demonstration of popular opinion in favour of the Emir Faisal as a candidate for the rulership of the new State of Irak-el Arabi. Recently a series of functions were held in the Dulaim Liwah on the occasion of a visit by the Emir. Bodies of tribesmen gathered on the desert road from outside Felujah to Ramadi, and galloped for several miles beside his car, while at the Euphrates bridgehead the paramount chief awaited him with the standard of the Anizeh, horsemen and camel-riders. At Ramadi the Emir was received by Sheikh Ali Suleiman, the chieftain of the Dulaim, with the standard and fighting force of his people.

Later at a great tribal gathering in the Arab Darbar tent, on the banks of the Euphrates, the Emir addressed the tribesmen calling on them to live in harmony with one another, and promising if elected to the rulership of Irak, to respect their rights as his subjects. Sheikh Ali Suleiman and Fahad Bey, the paramount chief of the Amarat Anizah, then swore allegience to Faisal as the friend and ally of the British Government, and all the leaders of the Dulaim laid their hands on his hand in token of their fealty.

## CAMEL CORPS MEMORIAL.

General Sir Philip Chetwode unveiled on July 22 the Imperial Camel Corps War Memorial in the Victoria Embankment gardens almost opposite Cleopatra's Needle. The Camel Corps, which was commanded by Brigadier-General C. Leslie Smith, V.C., Major C. Brown, is surmounted by a yeoman, mounted on a camel in full marching order. The two reliefs represent an Australian officer, dismounted opposite his camel; and dismounted infantry going into action. On the other two sides are the names of the British, Australian, New Zealand, and Indian soldiers who lost their lives in the war; and the inscription on the base is as follows:—"To the glorious and immortal memory of the Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of the Imperial Camel Corps—British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian—who fell in action or died of wounds and disease in Egypt, Sinai and Palestine, 1916-17-18."

M. Gouanbatielos, the well-known sportsman, has given £10,000 to the "Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres" for necessitous families of French seamen who were killed during the events in Athens on December 1, 1916.

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E.C. 2,

**The Danube Shipping Award.**

Satisfaction will be generally felt that Mr. Hines has at last been able to make his award on the complicated question of the Danube shipping. What the world wants, in particular the Near East, is to be able to devote its attention whole-heartedly to the problems of reconstruction; and obviously the sooner all questions of this kind are settled once and for all and put out of the way the better. The countries concerned are not going to reap any immediate benefit out of the award, for, as pointed out elsewhere in these columns, Yugoslavia and Roumania have been utilising the shipping they seized, and it will certainly be some time before the passenger ships that Austria has to give to these countries, and the shipping that is allocated to Czechoslovakia is available, and the ships will probably be in great need of repair.

**Role of the Danube.**

There is no question at all that the peace settlement has given a significance to the Danube that it never before possessed. In pre-war days it was little more than a fairly important trade channel, and its potentialities were obscured by the misuse of their powers by countries commanding certain sections of the river. It was so easy to impose restrictions on commerce in order to bring a fact forcibly home to a neighbour! Apart from this policy of pin pricks the trend of trade was from south to north. Now for the time being at any rate the Central Powers—or rather should I say the former Central Powers—no longer count, and the trend of trade is to Western Europe, and this for many reasons will immensely enlarge the utility of the Danube, if only the various countries concerned realise the advantage they will gain by doing everything possible to promote the flow of trade on that river.

**The Indian Loan.**

The result of the Indian Rupee Loan may fairly be described as startling. Before the war, the Government counted on raising thirty, or at most forty, millions of rupees in a season when the country was prosperous. This last season has been thoroughly bad, and famine-conditions have been wide-spread, though fortunately not intense, yet, after including conversions and subscriptions made in England, the cash actually offered in India has amounted to 370 millions of rupees, or ten times the normal figure of a few years back. Only a small part of the increase can be attributed to the effects of monetary inflation, and the bulk of it must be due to the spread of the investment habit, which economists have so long urged as one of India's greatest needs. With this evidence before them, the Government need have no hesitation in pressing forward the policy of productive development by means of railways and irrigation works to the full extent of the requirements of the country.

**The Roumanian Outlook—**

I had an interview this week with a prominent business man who has not long returned from Roumania, and what he had to say about the prospects there should prove of interest to those business men who still persist in saying that there is no scope for them in the Near East markets. He has paid several visits to the country since the war, and on each occasion previously he had been somewhat reserved in his opinions. This time there were no qualifications. "I was never more impressed in my life," he told me "than by what I saw in Roumania this time. The possibilities of the country are almost unlimited. As a granary, as an oil producer, Roumania has at her disposal all the wealth she requires".

**—and the Exchange.**

I pointed out that what British business men particularly desired to know was what was going to happen to the exchange. His remarks on this point are of special interest. "You ask me" he said "when the Roumanian exchange will reach a reasonable level, and you tell me that by that you mean about 75 to sterling. 75! The exchange would touch parity next year, yes actually 25, if only the country's administration was on a satisfactory footing. Unfortunately it is very far from being that, and the financial position is bad, as indeed it is almost everywhere else." As our columns show, the Roumanian Government is making great efforts—and on right lines—to put things on the satisfactory footing to which the speaker referred, and I hope soon to see the situation he depicts materialize.

**Egypt's Position.**

Dealing with the outlook in Egypt in his speech at the general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Sir William Garstin pointed out that there were already indications of improvement in the situation. The prices of food crops had fallen considerably, although the cost of production had not yet fallen in the same ratio, but even this showed a downward tendency. It might be some time yet he added, before the cost of production, and the cost of the product fell into such a relation as would enable the producer to realise a profit, but this relation must inevitably arise. Sir William emphasised his conviction that Egypt has a prosperous future before her provided political difficulties do not arise.

**Commentator.**

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## DANUBE SHIPPING.

### Arbitrator's Decision.

It was generally recognised that Mr. W. D. Hines, the American arbitrator on international river shipping questions arising in connection with the Peace Treaties, was faced with an exceptionally difficult task in dealing with the problem of Danube shipping, and the fact that his decision should have been considerably delayed will in the circumstances occasion no surprise. From the nature of the case it followed that lengthy investigations would have to be pursued seeing that so many nations were concerned and so many different interests had to be considered. The award now made follows the expected lines. When the war ended Serbia, Roumania, and France made large seizures of vessels on the river, altogether 1,595 vessels being taken including 609,000 tons of barges and tugs totalling 48,000 h.p. The disposition of these vessels provided one of the principal problems that Mr. Hines had to decide, the issue being whether the vessels were to be regarded as private property, and as such immune from confiscation, or whether they could be looked upon as war material. Nearly all the vessels it was proved had been employed by Austria-Hungary for military purposes, and came consequently under the heading of war material, so Mr. Hines has declared the confiscation to be valid with the exception of a few vessels which were utilised for private purposes. The vessels in question have been regularly utilised by the countries concerned since they were taken over, and no one will cavil at an award which gives to Roumania and Yugoslavia some definite compensation for their sufferings in the Allied cause and one to which their greater concern in Danube navigation justly entitles them. The case of France is different, and it is difficult not to feel that here again our Ally has allowed her zeal to run away with her. Except as regards the development of private enterprise France is no more interested in the Danube than Great Britain. When the war ended this country was in a position to acquire the bulk of the shipping in question, but naturally no such steps were taken, and it is to be regretted that our Ally should have seen fit to follow a course which by no stretch of reasoning can be defended.

An even more difficult question that Mr. Hines was called upon to solve was the amount of shipping, if any, that should be allocated to the other Danube Powers by Germany, Austria, and Hungary. It naturally involved passing in review the whole of the Danube shipping, and the consideration of the normal traffic from the point of view of the extended territories of the countries concerned. Mr. Hines has decided that the vessels confiscated have satisfied the legitimate needs of Roumania and Yugoslavia as regards freight, but that Austria must give these countries certain passenger vessels, while Germany, Austria, and Hungary must give Czechoslovakia 70,000 tons of barges, and 4,450 h.p. of tugs. Time alone will determine how far Mr. Hines has been successful in making allowance for post-war conditions. In the Balkans as elsewhere a state of flux still obtains in commercial matters. Old trade routes are losing ground to new ones, and keen competition is going on in respect to the future paths of commerce. It may be, therefore, that the statistics of the year to come will prove Mr. Hines' award to be in some respects inadequate.

But with that possibility we are not now concerned. In any question of human affairs it is almost impossible to give a decision which will meet with the approval of all parties. There are always some who will find reason to complain, and no doubt Mr. Hines will not lack criticism though he certainly does not deserve it. Faced with a very thankless task in the solution of this difficult problem he has done his work both wisely and well. The delay, as we have pointed out, was inevitable, and the fact that there is at last a settlement will go far to compensate for other considerations. The Rivera in States now know where they are, and will be free to go ahead with their plans for meeting the expansion of Danube traffic that is to be anticipated free from any fear that their proposed measures may be rendered nugatory for the time being by the fact that they have overestimated their resources. It can only be hoped that they will order their policy in the future on sound lines, bearing in mind the fact that the common good is essential to the welfare of each individual country. The Danube now promises to be the great trade artery of the Near East, the main channel in fact of reconstruction. If it is to fulfil the future for which it is so eminently fitted, particularly at a time when other means of communication are either lacking or insufficient, it follows that trade must be as free as possible, that there must be no hampering and unnecessary restrictions, and that each country must do everything to facilitate the commerce of its neighbours. How far will it be possible to reach this position of perfection? In view of what happened before the war there is naturally bound to be anxiety on this point. Then States did not hesitate from time to time to place handicaps in commerce to gain their ends. Any reversion to this state of things would effectually prevent the adequate utilisation of the Danube as a commercial channel, and would also, which is more important, sow the seeds of fresh complications for the future. But any doubt that may be felt in this head will be very largely mitigated by the knowledge that the various states are coming more and more to realize that their interests are not confined to the limits of their own frontiers.

## BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

### IV Yugoslavia

*(Concluded).*

Obviously, the factors influenced the normal course of trade during the year. For example, the principal ultimate consumer of goods, the private individual, took a considerable time to become accustomed to the payment of the high prices resulting from the depreciated value of the currency. Again, the enormous boom in British manufactures and the consequent rise in selling prices to greatly inflated figures militated against actual sales, especially in view of the practicability of acquiring German, Austrian or Czechoslovakian goods, not necessarily of the same quality but answering the same purpose, at much cheaper rates. To some extent this competition was nullified by importers of British goods and British houses themselves covering for sterling requirements when the dinar or kroner rates were exceptionally low (June-July), but local merchants were not and are not provided with so much capital as to enable them to lock up considerable amounts in this manner. Selling for actual sterling payments or against sterling equivalent in local currency was the policy adopted by some merchants with highly successful results, until the dinar depreciated to 120 or worse.

Towards the end of the year there was a rush on the part of British, German, Austrian and Czechoslovak merchants to dispose of their goods on practically any basis. Consignment

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terms, credit terms, special delivery facilities, etc., all were offered, but they were not very successful. The Serbian merchant is at all times very conservative, and has been for years accustomed to paying cash for goods bought; and the sudden and unexpected opportunity of securing goods on a much easier basis rendered him suspicious, or at least doubtful, of the firm offering.

**The Trade Position.**

There are many other interesting points affecting trade generally, viz. :—(1) The Fiume question, which is of the greatest importance to Yugoslavia; (2) The first general election held in Yugoslavia, and its after effects; (3) The uncertainty of the political position until the elections were completed and the definite wishes of all the people of Yugoslavia ascertained; (4) The attitude of certain sections in Croatia; (5) The disinclination on the part of many merchants to part with their actual cash or notes to banks, and the resultant shortage of cash at their banks before, during, and after the election period; (6) The formation or rejuvenation of the many Serbian co-operative societies which buy direct from the manufacturer or importer, such as the Railway Servants' Co-operative Society, Bank Clerks, Officers Teachers, Tramway Employees, etc. All these associations represent factors to be considered, not so much in regard to 1920 as for the future. Rail transport difficulties have already been mentioned. They were caused by shortage of coal, lack of engines, or lack of repairing facilities, strikes caused by increased living expenses and inadequate wages, inefficient rolling stock (despite the multitude of wagons available), inexperience of the additional Serbian railway staffs which replaced the old Austrian staffs in Croatia and Slovenia; and various other factors. All these troubles are now being overcome, and rail transport has materially improved. Losses during transport are now considerably less than early in 1920. This fact alone indicates better supervision and management. Strangely enough, however, the improved rail transport caused an even equal trouble, viz., delay in customs clearance at the big cities and towns such as Belgrade and Zagreb, where the Customs premises, sheds and methods were antiquated and not fitted to cope with the increased goods traffic. In October and November for example, the many miles of sidings at Belgrade were so congested with wagons that the emptied wagons could not be cleared and days of shunting full wagons and the withdrawal of hundreds of them for several miles out of Belgrade was required to relieve the congestion. Several merchants and houses have obtained permission, temporarily, to have their own lock-up premises used as customs clearance depots, thus alleviating the congestion to a minor extent. The anticipated prohibition of luxury articles took place and was the cause of considerable annoyance to importers and merchants. Moreover, the detention in Customs for lengthy periods of such articles, despite the fact that they were ordered and perhaps shipped prior to the date of the prohibition, was very harmful. Many protests were made, and now importation is permitted, subject to the payment of additional imposts and taxes. Speaking generally, the shops and warehouses are stocked with manufactured goods of low quality, but for which extremely high prices are charged, the latter being due to the heavy freightage rates, customs and other dues. The general public are content to buy these inferior goods, mainly because they are accustomed to them, and know no other. This being the case, the shopkeeper and merchant have no need to sell anything better, for such goods bring an excellent profit, and can be comparatively readily obtained from Austria, Czechoslovakia, etc.

**Entering the Market.**

For many reasons the best way for British firms to enter Yugoslavia's market is for them to have branches in the country and carry stocks; by this method they can ensure their merchandise being ready for the season's trade for which it is intended (Yugoslavia has a climate remarkable for its great extremes of heat and cold); and the local merchants, by purchasing goods of which they can take immediate delivery, can obviate the risk of loss from exchange fluctuations which must be taken when ordering goods from abroad, the period occupied by the transit of goods to this country being so uncertain. Where this is not possible, the best way is to have a British representative living in the country, who will get to know his customers thoroughly, the personal element being a great factor in business here; or a representative who would visit Yugoslavia periodically. The necessity for British merchants interested to get to know the country, its people and methods, by personal contact, cannot be too strongly emphasised.

# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER COTTON.

*(From our own Correspondent.)*

Manchester, Friday.

We have experienced another featureless week and throughout the market there has been an absence of initiative on the part of buyers. There has been nothing in the market to stimulate shippers to greater activity and generally speaking conditions have been very quiet. With regard to finance the home position is gradually becoming much better, but at the same time many houses still feel the tightness of money. As the week progressed more and more machinery is being restarted throughout Lancashire and the unemployment figures particularly in the weaving towns are gradually being reduced. No big cloth business has been reported for the outlets of the Near East, and generally speaking, only a quiet trade has been done. Cables from Egypt have reported better conditions out there, but shippers to that outlet have not been disposed to purchase very freely. Still, here and there a variety of sales have occurred. In connection with the Levant and Constantinople only a few transactions have been entered upon but traders generally hold optimistic views as to future business. With regard to Egyptian yarns, the business has been on a very restricted scale, and spinners have lost a little more ground. Users have only bought sparingly and prices have been rather irregular. The cloth inquiry for India has not developed and only a few sales have been registered in shirtings and sheetings. Of course, the Gandhi agitation to boycott Lancashire piece goods is having its effects upon trade but, as has been stated before, the boycott will not have any permanent success. The Monsoon news has been very favourable The best of the outlets has been China and some encouraging sales in greys and whites have been put through and more trade is expected in the near future. Buyers for Java and Singapore have not been altogether idle but South America still lags behind. Quotations for American counts have not fluctuated to any great extent but it has been possible to purchase on slightly easier rates. For home use the offtake has been patchy. Yarns for export have met with a good request and quite a big trade has been done during the past week or ten days for India.

## CZECHOSLOVAK DUTIES ON MOTORS.

The Parliament of Czechoslovakia will shortly discuss a legislatice scheme concerning the increase of import duty on automobiles and parts of automobiles. According to this bill, the import duty will be augmented, for countries to which the general tariff applies, by 90 per cent. of the invoice prices; for countries to which a special tariff applies, 65 per cent. of the invoice price.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97¼ | 97¼ |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 65.00-65.50 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 152-162 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 15-75d |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 282-285 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 15.75d |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 550-570 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.67¼ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 46.49 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 282-287 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 85-84 |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 425-475 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 3250-3450 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 7,000-7,200 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**The Profit Possibilities of the Italian Lire.**

Under this title our Expert on Foreign Exchanges has completed Article No. 5 in his series "Dealings in Foreign Exchanges from the English Investors point of View." The Article shows — ITALY'S FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES—THE POSITION OF THE SILK INDUSTRY—ITALY'S REVENUE FROM TOURISTS,—etc. The Article explains the PROFIT POSSIBILITIES BY PURCHASING ITALIAN LIRE—ITALIAN 3½% GOVERNMENT LOAN, etc. This Article will be sent free of charge on appiication to—

**Foreign Exchange Department,**
**THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,**
**Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.**

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 22.

**Opposition to New Taxes.**

The Senate passed this week the second part of M. Titulescu's financial project, and in completion of the same passed the luxury tax of 10-15 per cent., and the 1 per cent. tax on turnover. While the financial scheme has thus become law, a section of taxpayers have not ceased expressing their discontentment about it. A meeting, composed of representatives of bankers, merchants, industrialists, landlords, tradesmen, etc. held at the Chamber of Commerce, under the auspices of this corporation, protested against the high taxes and especially those on capital and turnover denouncing them as confiscatory, and therefore anti-constitutional, and foretelling a serious economic disturbance when they are put in application.

**The Reshitza Company.**

The Lower House offered this week the spectacle of a most agitated sitting in connexion with the discussion on the decree-law of last autumn, regarding the Reshitza Company. This concern is believed to be the third largest of its kind in Central Europe; it possesses iron foundries, factories for the manufacture of steel, ammunition, locomotives, railway cars, agricultural machinery etc.; it owns a large tract of arable and forestal land, mines and "metan gas." During the war it supplied a large amount of ammunition to the Central Powers. As it is situated in the new provinces, according to the stipulations of the Peace Treaty Roumania could not proceed to its liquidation, although the management and the board of directors were residing in Vienna, and the whole property belonged to the former enemies.

But in order to nationalise it is far as possible the Government arranged for this concern to be transformed into a Roumanian company with a capital of 125 million lei—although its real worth far exceeds this amount—of which 50 millions were subscribed by Roumanians, and 16 out of 22 seats on the board of directors were reserved for Roumanians. The Government arranged further that a fresh increase of capital for 50 millions, which will be made shortly, should be allotted exclusively to Roumanians, the shares to be untransferable, thus securing preponderence in capital and management for Roumania. Moreover, the 10,000 pastures of arable land will be expropriated under the Law for Agrarian Reform for the new provinces, and only a portion of the land with "metan gas" will be put at the disposal of the company for the manufacture of tubes for the oil companies and for the production of the necessary electric current for the neighbouring towns. All these statements were brought forward by the Cabinet to emphasize the advantages which Roumania has derived from the arrangement with the Reshitza concern.

The Opposition, consisting this time of the Liberals and the different groups of the Federationists, maintained, however, that this company even in its present formation, represents a menace to the security of the State, and insisted that it should at all costs be entirely nationalised, as the manufacturing of the necessary ammunition for the defence of the country could not be left in the hands of former enemies.

Finally the Bill was passed amid the greatest excitement. The Opposition, which abstained from voting, left the House in a body, and marched in procession to the Palace, where they chose from among themselves a delegation of 12 former Cabinet Ministers, who drafted a memorial for the King, declaring that they do not acknowledge the vote, condemning the activity of the Cabinet and its parliamentary majority, and asking for the dissolution of this Parliament, stating that they will no longer attend its sittings.

Despite the Premier's endeavour to smooth matters over at the following sitting, each group of the Opposition read a declaration notifying their withdrawal from Parliament, and ennumerating their reasons. The Premier also made a declaration, stating that when he took over the reins of Government, the first point of his programme was to establish the responsibility for the mismanagement of public affairs—administrative military, economic, and financial—of the different cabinets since the war and up to the formation of his own, and to apply adequate "sanctions," but in the interest of the dispatch of the important reforms the country needed, he did not carry out his intention. But in view of the behaviour of the Opposition he considers this tacit armistice as denounced, and will therefore proceed to the execution of his initial design. The House forthwith decided on the formation of a Commission to this effect.

The Parliamentary Session was closed to-day; during the last few days, three sittings a day were held, in order to pass numerous Bills, including the "Budget" and the "Agrarian Reforms for the New Provinces."

**General News.**

A group of French financiers together with the Credit Foncier d'Algérie et de Tunisie have resolved to found a bank in Bucharest for the expansion of commercial relations between the two countries; the new bank will start with a capital of 50 million francs.

A mixed Commission has been instituted to combat the bovine plague now raging on the Roumanian-Hungarian frontier.

The export of Transylvanian cattle to Italy is being carried on a large scale through Yugoslavia. About 50,000 head of cattle have already been despatched, and a large number are following.

150 more locomotives have recently been ordered in Germany. Delivery will begin without delay, and the first payment on account has already been effected.

The commission tax on imported cotton has been lowered from 2 lei to 0.50 per cent.

In consequence of cholera raging in Russia and the Ukriania, Roumania has taken the necessary measures to restrict the importation of foodstuffs, etc., and to apply the sanitary precautions regarding passenger traffic.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, July 27.

**Miscellaneous.**

The harvest is now almost ripe and from reports received, 1921 promises to be a good year; although in certain places the hail has done a good deal of damage.

The internal loan is to be issued in September, and meanwhile the conditions of the loan will be made known to the public.

The settlement of pre-war debts between Bulgaria and England is no further advanced, and there would seem to be no indications on our part of the abolition of the Clearing House or on the part of the Bulgarians of paying their debts. The continuance of this situation can do no good to anyone, and it is to be hoped that in the near future a definite line of policy will be taken up by both parties.

The news that Paris and Constantinople are to be linked up by an air service, which will pass through Milan, Triesto and Salonika is disappointing to Sofiates as it will mean that all aerial flights from here will be to Berlin by means of the Dutch-German Company, which is being formed.

Sofia, July 31.

**Bulgaria's Debts.**

It is not without interest to quote the opinions of a few Englishmen who hold that Bulgarian merchants

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should be made to pay their debts in full at once. Their reason for this is that after the Armistice all Bulgarians had ample opportunities for acquiring sterling at a favourable rate of exchange in order to settle their debts. The rate did not rise above 100 to the £1 until about the month of April, 1919, and during the closing months of 1918 it was between 35 and 60 to the £1. For a certain period Bulgarians were forbidden to send money abroad, but they were never hindered from buying foreign money. However, very few merchants did pay their debts, and now the rate is round about 440, and a decision as to the method of paying will speedily have to be come to. There are at least five methods; firstly to pay the debts in instalments, secondly to pay at the rate of 75 or 100 levas to the £1, allowing the money to lie in a local bank, drawing interest which goes to the creditor, thirdly to postpone the payments, fourthly to allow the firms concerned to arrange matters between themselves, and lastly to follow the ruling laid down in the Peace Treaty. At present it seems as if the first method stands the most chance of success.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, July 19.

**General News.**

The Ministerial Council has decided to abolish the restrictions upon dealings in foreign currency and exchange, and the Centrale des Devises will be abolished and transactions in exchange will be quite free. The restrictions on the export of bullion remain in force, however, and no one may take more than 2,000 dinars in paper money out of the country.

Statistics recently issued from the Banat show that in the Yugoslav portion of that district there are 200,000 Serbs, 100,000 Germans, 90,000 Hungarians, 60,000 Roumanians, and 15,000 of other nationalities, mostly Jews and gypsies.

The Ministry of Agrarian Reform announces that in the Voivodina large estates to the extent of 772,000 *jutara* have been broken up and 247,000 distributed among small holders, and in Croatia and Slavonia 200,000 *jutara* have been broken up. A *jutro*, which means as much land as a man can plough in a morning (*jutro* means morning), is a little over a third of a hectare or a little less than an acre.

Credits to the extent of 100 million dinars for loans to industries and craftsmen, and of 50 millions for the feeding of the "passive" districts, have been cancelled.

Reports from Southern Serbia tell of a better harvest than can be hoped for in the north. The wheat is said to be good, as in the Banat; only the straw is short, owing to the drought, but the quality is good.

## ALBANIA.

Tirana, July 28.

**Tobacco Concession.**

The Albanian Parliament has just voted a concession for the manufacture of cigarettes, and the rights of export and cultivation of tobacco to the Sepheriades Tobacco Company of London, for 21 years.

**Poor Communications.**

The length of the roads fit for traffic in Albania is not very great. The Turks never constructed roads, and the Austrian troops in the course of their retreat used all the old bridges dating back for several centuries.

There are at the present time the following roads with a regular traffic of motors and lorries (the distances representing kilometres):—Durazzo - Tirana, 37; Durazzo - Kavaja, 18; Tirana - Kroja - Milot - Alessio-Scutari, 142; Valona - Fier, 37; Valona - Himera - Saranda, 94; Valona - Argjirokastro - Delvino - Saranda 148; Tepelena - Permat - Leskovik - Korcha - Pogradec, 190; Argjirokastro - Tepelena, 30; total 695 kilometres. In addition 264 kilometres of roads are being constructed the routes being Kavaja - Ebasan - Pogradec; Kavaja-Lushnia - Kuch - Libofsha - Fier; Kuch - Beret - Klisura - Permet.

The narrow gange railway (in kilometres) are:—Durazzo - Kavaja, 18; Durazzo - Tirana, 37; Tirana - Milot, 42; total, 97 kilometres.

## CYPRUS.

Cyprus, July 19.

**General News.**

Mr. C. Dixon, mining engineer and expert, and Mr. Fritz Behr, have inspected the asbestos mines on Mt. Troodos, on behalf of the English company which contemplates purchasing them, and a report will be submitted in due course.

Major Williams, who has been visiting Cyprus, and who will report on the railway and connected matters, has left for England.

**New Monetary System.**

The proposed change in the Monetary System is likely to come into effect in April, 1922. The Receiver General, Mr. Bowring, has recently conferred with the managers of banks. The proposal is to adopt subdivisions of the pound similar to those in Egypt. The £ sterling will equal 1,000 milliemes, the shilling 50; one millieme 8 paras. The bronze piastres and 3 piastre (4d.) silver pieces will be withdrawn and replaced by nickel coins.

## ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, July 19.

The s.s. "Castilian" has just landed in Smyrna complete material for a well equipped field hospital, including "X-rays" and all modern accessories. This equipment has been supplied by Messrs. Watson, of London, and has been landed in Smyrna by Mr. Jackson, an employee of the said firm.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W. 1.)*

**Tenders are invited for the following contracts and must be made by the dates mentioned:—**

**Egypt.**

Cement.—The Director-General of the Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 100 tons of cement. August 29 (D.O.T.)

**India.**

Springs, etc—The South Indian Railway Co. Ltd, invite Tenders for the supply of:—(1) Laminated, Volute and Helical Springs. (2) Brushes. (3) Rivets, Nuts, and Springs. (4) Copper Plates for Locomotive Fireboxes. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1. August 31.

Springs, etc—The East Indian Railway Co. invites Tenders for the Supply and Delivery of Helical and volute springs and Steel boiler and flue tubes. August 24.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended July 10, amounted to £E8,926; total for year £E89,066. For the corresponding period of last year the receipts amounted to £E12,793, making the total for the year £E116,173.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

### Huge Motor Ships.

The growth and development of motor ships, both as regards size and power, is well indicated by the fact that there is now in service an oil-engine tanker with a dead weight capacity of no less than 15,750 tons, being the largest vessel of her class yet built. Some idea of her equipment may be gained from the fact that her engines, which are of the usual type for large motor ships, will develop nearly 5,000 horse power. I understand that she is able to maintain an average speed of 10 knots on a fuel consumption of only about 14 tons of oil per day. A steam driven vessel, with oil fired boilers would require about 200 per cent. more fuel to keep up this rate.

Possibly the advocates of the motor ship are premature in speaking of the doom of the steamers which is the title of an editorial in the *Motor Ship*. In times of great prosperity it is true that there is little difficulty in making profits, and from this the paper deduces that it is when trade is at a low point, as it is to-day, that true values emerge. It quotes a cable as follows: "One of Sweden's largest shipping companies, the Johnson line, has requested Government authorzation to sell abroad four of its liners with an aggregate tonnage of 24,000, stating that its present steamship activity brings nothing but loss and that it intends, therefore, to purchase and use motor ships exclusively."

### A Boom Coming.

The above announcement, received from Stockholm during July is, one would think sufficient indication of the company's intentions and predilections. It, however, becomes even more remarkable in the light of further explanation. The Johnson line, with a fleet of over 20 vessels, owns about an equal number of steamers and motor ships, the tonnage of the latter being rather in excess of that of the former. It was the second shipowning firm in the world to adopt oil engine propulsion, the first vessel, named the Suecia, being built in 1912, and followed closely on the pioneer motor ship, the famous Selandia. Since the Suecia was put into commission the Johnson line has added 10 motor ships to its fleet, whilst not a single steamer has been built. In these circumstances it cannot be said that the owners have arrived at their present decision without a vast amount of experience, for they have operated steam and motor ships under competitive conditions within the widest limits of market fluctuations from inconceivably high rates to the present record depression.

It may be recalled that a few years ago the East Asiatic Company adopted an exactly similar policy, and as a result of their experience extending over a number of years, they decided to sell all their steamers and to become a purely motor owning company. At the present time they own more motor vessels than any other organisation, the Johnson and the Glen lines having fleets which are slightly fewer as regards component vessels.

We thus arrive at this very noteworthy fact: That the two shipowning companies which have the widest experience of the comparative value of steam and motor vessels under all conditions, and each of which owns more ships of the latter class than any other shipping firms, have decided as a result of that experience, not only that their new vessels shall be exclusively motor ships, but that they will dispose of their existing steamers as speedily as possible in order to build and put into commission more motor ships.

In face of these facts the journal considers it not unreasonable to insist that when shipowners commence to order new tonnage, the very force of economic circumstances, and the indisputable evidence of the advantages of motor ships will render it necessary for them to build only vessels of the latter class, except for the time being, when the largest trans-Atlantic passenger liners are in question. Obviously no excuse can be found for building ships which have already been proved to be a source of nothing but loss. Shipbuilding costs have fallen considerably during the past six months owing to the remarkable reduction in the price of steel and the lower labour charges, so that at any moment a revival in shipbuilding may take place when those who have foreseen the march of events will reap their reward.

### Price Reduction.

It is interesting to note that Messrs. Rolls-Royce, Ltd., will now be able to supply the Rolls-Royce Eagle, 360 h.p. aero engine, at the round figure of £1,000, this price including all up-to-date improvements. The Rolls Royce Eagle is certainly one of the best known engines of its type in the world, and carries a wonderful record for reliability over long distances. To its credit must be placed the direct flight across the Atlantic which was one of the most outstanding of recent engineering feats, the flights from England to Australia, the England to South Africa flight, and the record flight from England to India. The Rolls-Royce engine is built throughout of the very finest materials, and is assembled with scrupulous care. Indeed it is the use of highest grade materials, and the extraordinary skill of their work people that have placed the firm in the foremost rank of the world's engineers.

### Motor Development.

In a sense the development and progress of the Automobile Association mark the development of the British industry, and it is pleasing to gather, at the annual dinner of that organisation, that the membership has now reached a total of over 160,000 motorists, and that its annual income is now just about a quarter of a million sterling. In moving the adoption of the annual report Sir William Joynson-Hicks, who has been indefatigable in promoting the interests of the private motorist in the House of Commons said that during the past two years the A.A. has tried to get back to pre-war conditions of service to motorists, and has done its utmost to develop the road service and the road patrols. "To-day, instead of trundling themselves along on push cycles, as they had to prior to the war, the patrols were nearly all now provided with motor bicycles, and were therefore able to cover a very much larger extent of country and be much more useful to members than they were prior to the war. They had also introduced a mechanical first-aid system, which was on its trial, and was in course of development. It had been very useful to members who had broken down, either from the point of view of their cars, or though accidents to themselves. Another post-war provision had been the extension of the A.A. roadside telephone service. They were now able to arrange, by giving members keys to the roadside telephone boxes, that any member in trouble could go at once to a telephone box, even after the hour when the A.A. patrol had left, and get in touch with any part of the Kingdom."

Last year he was able to announce the opening of one roadside fuel supply station at Aldermaston, on the Bath road. To-day there are eight in existence situated at points where where it is generally very very difficult to obtain petrol. With regard to road signs, nearly 17,000 of these have been put up by the Association, but now in accordance with the principles under which we live in these days, the Ministry of Transport in conjunction with their Advisory Committee have undertaken this work, and are supporting the adoption of a signpost which has really been designed by this private motorists' association. The A.A., however, are to keep a very close watch upon the public and local authorities to see that this sign-posting work is properly done, since they would be unable to endure seeing the work which they in the past have carried out so well, fall into neglect simply because public bodies do not carry out their full duties in this direction.

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# NEAR EAST MARKETS.

## London Produce Report.

Dried Fruit.—Little activity is to be noticed in this market. Sultanas are a firm spot, and rates are very steady. A number of transactions have taken place in figs. Currants have been rather neglected.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good demand at the revised rates. London granulated has been done at 35s. 6d., while West Indian crystallised has come to business at 45s. to 53s. American is 60s., and Czecho Slovakian 32s.

Coffee.—The market has ruled quiet with generally a steady tone.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed has been done at 24s. 6d., while La Plata is 21s. 3d. Rapeseed has been quiet with Toria at 22s. 6d., and bold Ferozepore at 21s. 9d. Cottonseed closed steady, Egyptian Black being 14s. 6d., and Sakellarides, 14s. 3d.

Oils.—Linseed oil is easier at 38s. 9d. Rape oil is firm with crude at 54s., and refined at 62s., Cotton oil is steady. Refined common edible is 50s., Egyptian crude 43s. 6d., and deodorized 58s. Turpentine was dull at 70s.

## ROUMANIAN CROPS.

Messrs. Watson and Youell have forwarded the following translation of a report published in the Bucharest newspaper *Dimineata* of July 22 :—

General situation according to reports received by the Ministry of Agriculture :—In Muntonia the harvesting of wheat, barley, and oats has terminated and threshing is in full swing. The second hoeing of the maize is being proceeded with. In Moldavia and Transylvania the harvesting takes place a little later owing to the difference in land and climate. Maize in general is doing very well indeed. Wheat has suffered slightly owing to rain. Vineyards are excellent. Hay is good but somewhat thin. In the Dobruja yields are not so good owing to drought but in the district of Caliacra reports are excellent. In some districts inundations and hail have caused damage especially in the district of Jalomitza, the Communes of Lupshanii, Independentza, Ulmi, Gaunoshi, and Rosetti being mentioned, but the whole area is reported to be 4980 hectares. In general both autumn and spring sowings are good. Vineyards are excellent the second sprinkling is about finished ; there is a slight blight in some places. In Ardeal (Transylvania) intermittent rains have done a lot of good to the autumn and spring sowings. Harvesting of wheat, barley and oats has commenced. Maize is growing very vigoriously. Forage crops are doing very well indeed ; lucerne and trefoil have been cut for the second time. In Bukovina insufficient rains have fallen. Wheat and rye give good promise. Barley is good with a few exceptions where it has been attacked by rust. Maize is good except in places where it has been attacked by slugs.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes :—The Ministry of Domains in its last report about the crops, states that the cutting of the wheat, barley, and oats is terminated and that threshing has started almost everywhere. The yield of all cereals promises to be very satisfactory, and the maize plant is in an excellent condition, as it has had so far the necessary quantity of rain.

## THE EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

Statistics are now available relating to the Egyptian cotton season for the twelve months ended July 31st. The crop amounted to 4,700,000 kantars, against 5,643,000, kantars in the previous year, and 4,866,900 kantars in 1918-19. A feature of the past season has been the marked decline in exports from Alexandria, the shipments to all parts during the twelve months being only 398,000 bales, against 827,000 bales in the previous year. The amount sent to Great Britain during the past twelve months totals to 203,000 bales, as compared with 398,000 bales in the previous year. There has also been a distinct falling off in takings of the United States the figures being 48,000 bales against 289,000 bales. On the other hand shipments to the Continent amount to 128,000 bales, as compared with 124,000 bales in 1919-20.

## BUKOVINA CATERPILLAR PLAGUE.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, July 22.

A new species of caterpillar has made its appearance in one district of Bukovina causing great damage to vegetables, trefoil, and the maize-plant. All means employed to destroy this plague have so far proved inefficacious.

## ROUMANIAN WHEAT EXPORT MONOPOLY.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, July 22.

At a recent council the Cabinet decided that the exportation of wheat should be carried out exclusively by the State, thus creating a monopoly. No decision has yet been taken, regarding the exportation of the cereals.

## AGRICULTURE IN CYPRUS.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Cyprus, July 19.

Wine prices have continued to rise, owing chiefly to increased demands from the thirsty land of Egypt. There is no improvement as regards carobs, which have been sold recently at 14s the kantar (180 okes), or about £3 2s. the ton ; which is considerably below the pre-war average. The prospects of the carob harvest, and also of the next vintage are still good, although damage has been done in some districts, by the late severe storms, both to carob trees and vines. Tobacco growers still hope for better results from their enterprise. The Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan, has found it necessary to notify cultivators that the Government is neither buying nor accepting samples of the different kinds of tobacco ; but that sufficient quantities have been sent to the Imperial Institute in London for examination and for an estimate of their value for extraction of nicotine ; regarding which information will be published as soon as possible.

## BULGARIAN CROP OUTLOOK.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Sofia, July 25.

A good crop has already been prophesied, and later reports state that the prospects are very encouraging, especially in the South. The peasants, who are becoming very discontented at the low rate of the leva, and its consequent small purchasing power, should this year show no reluctance in selling their produce. Since the Great War they have been chary of disposing of their cereals as from 1915-1918, so much was forcibly taken from them for the use of the Army, and for export, that they feared a famine. This danger is now over, and it will be to their own advantage to sell all their available cereals, beyond what is necessary for the needs of themselves and their live stock.

## DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., report as follows for the fortnight ended August 2 :—

Currants.—The hopes which were entertained of a better demand on the settlement of the coal strike have so far not materialised, and the month's trading can only be described as disappointing. We fear too much was expected in the way of an immediate resumption of buying activity, and probably lack of coal for household purposes has interfered with cooking arrangements to a greater extent than was anticipated. Until supplies reach normal we must look for restricted trade. Business passing has been chiefly in quarter cases of good small Gulf at 66s., good shade dried Panariti at 75s. and Vostizza, 80s. to 90s. Other growths are most difficult to sell even at concessions in price. Total arrivals from commencement of the season are 24,100 tons. Quotations are :—Pyrgos and Amalias, 47s. to 54s. ; Patras, 57s. to 65s. ; Zante, 55s. to 70s. ; Gulf and Panariti, 60s. to 70s. ; Vostizza, 80s. to 90s. New crop reports are to the effect that owing to continued rain during the month of June, shipments will be delayed and that no arrivals are looked for in this country until October. Growers'

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ideas are high and latest quotations were :—Pyrgos, 55s. c.i.f. ; Zante and Gulf, 65s. c.i.f. ; Vostizza, 75s. c.i.f. ; and if these pretensions are maintained it does not look as if future spot rates will be much below those now ruling.

Valencia raisins.—Stocks cleared.

Sultanas.—The small Smyrna stocks remaining are being cleared at 140s. to 150s., and Greeks at 138s. Afghans moving slowly, red 102s. to 105s. ; and yellow, 137s. 6d. New crop business in good average quality has taken place at 86s. 6d. to 90s. c.i.f., September shipment. Latest reports are that shipments will be very late owing to difficulties of local transport.

Figs.—Supplies cleared.

## THE MONSOON.

The India Office have issued the following communique on the Agricultural situation in India at the end of July : The early monsoon, though irregularly distributed, was inadequate, except in Northern Bombay, Rajputana, Baluchistan, and North Western India, where the prolonged drought caused much anxiety, especially in Gujarat and Kathiawar. Cattle in Rajputana, Baluchistan, and North Western India suffered severely since the middle of July. Copious rain has changed completely the situation in all these tracts, although rain in still insufficient in certain areas, such as the Punjab, Western Bengal, Central Burma, Malabar, and parts of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and the Central Provinces, while floods have caused some damage in parts of Assam, Sind and Eastern Bengal. These areas aggregate only a small proportion of the total, and generally the position may be described as good in Central India, the Deccan and Lower Burma, and satisfactory elsewhere. Germination is reported to be excellent in the Central Provinces. Famine relief continues, but works are being closed gradually in Bombay, Central Provinces, and Hyderabad. There has been some trans-frontier immigration into the N.W. Frontier Province. The area under the jute in Bengal has fallen off by 39 per cent owing to low prices, a large carry over, and a rise in the prices of foodstuffs. Prices of grain are very high ; they have fallen in Bombay, but are steady elsewhere. The price of rice is generally lower than it was at the same time last year, but the price of other grains is much higher, especially in Northern, Western, and Central India.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated August 1 :—July 28.—Bombay monsoon vigorous causing abundant rainfall in Gujarat. Rainfall also abundant in the extreme North. July 29—Monsoon strengthened in Burma. July 30—Storm from Bay moved to the South-East of Rajputana, causing heavy rainfall. Bombay cotton market weak and irregular ; on July 28 fine M.G. Oomras September Rs. 332½. Bombay piece-goods market, July 28—While sale demand still discouraging; prices steady. Monsoon conditions favourable and dealers optimistic regarding future enquiry. 67,895 packages lying in Bombay port trust warehouse June 30, as compared with 72,048 on May 31, and 76,689 on April 30. Stocks steadily declining. Calcutta jute market closed on July 30. On July 29 mills buying Kutcha bales resulted in sharp rise of Rs. 2½ in Bhita Bazar and this kept Pukka bale market steady. Business reported at Rs. 54½ for firsts and Rs. 41 for lightnings. On July 30, Hessians quiet but steady. Heavy goods strong owing to good enquiry for heavy C's and packing twills. Rangoon rice market on July 29 closed at Rs. 581½ for August-September deliveries. On July 30, market closed strong at Rs. 585 to Rs. 590. New crop quoted at Rs. 437 for February-April. Licenses for Colombo renewed to the extent of 15,000 tons for August and 10,000 tons for September. At tea sale on July 26 general demand was good ; Assams excellent, Darjeelings and Dooars good, Cachars and Sylhets useful, Tippy good liquoring kinds firm, poor liquoring medium, brokens weak, but medium leaf and common grades firm. 62,923 packages sold to date at an average price of 8 annas 9 pies per lb. No change in bank rates.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon, 182s. cwt. ; butter, 263s. cwt. ; cheese, 134s. cwt. ; chillies, 145s. cwt. ; eggs, 27s. per 120 ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 0½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 79s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (Costa Rica), 137s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (East India bold), 122s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (Mocha longberry), 104s. cwt. ; (Santos superior), 58s. 6d. cwt. ; lard, 92s. 6d. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 35s. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb. ; pepper (Singapore black), 4½d. lb. ; pepper (Muntok white), 9½d. lb. ; raisins (Valencia), 87s. 6d. cwt. ; raisins (Sultana, Smyrna), 107s. 6d. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 82s. 6d. cwt. ; sugar (granulated) 59s. cwt. ; sugar (No. 1 cubes) 63s. 3d. cwt. ; sugar (White Mauritius) 53s. 3d. cwt. ; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 47s. 6d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour, 15s. 9d. cwt. ; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 22s. cwt. ; rice ( bran Rangoon) £9 2s. 6d. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 1½d. lb. ; tea (Indian common to good common), 7d. lb. ; tea (Ceylon common to good common), 8½d. ; lb. ; tea (Java common to good common), 4½d. lb. ; wheat (Australian), 82s. 4½d. qr. ; wheat (English white), 72s. 6d. qr. ; wheat (La Plata), 83s. 6d. qr. ; barley (malting), 67s. 6d. qr. ; oats (English), 45s. 6d. qr. ; oats (La Plata). 32s. 3d. qr. ; maize (La Plata), 45s. qr. ; flour, 69s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £150 ton ; autimony (English regulus); £39 10s. ton ; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £70 2s. 6d. ton ; copper (electro), £76 ton ; gold bars, 115s. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 137s. 6d. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 162s. 6d. ton ; galvanised sheets (24G), £23 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign). £23 10s. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s. 3d. unit ; molybenite, 45s, unit ; nickel (£190 ton ; platinum, 366s. oz.; plumbago, £19 ton; quicksilver £10 19s. 9d. bottle ; silver bars, 39d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 17s. 6d. ton ; tin (standard), £159 7s. 6d. ton ; wolfram, 12s. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14) 27s. 3d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 71s. cwt. ; oxalic, 9½d. lb. ; citric 2s. 4½d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 5½d. lb. ; ammonia sulphate, £13 11s. 6d. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £42 ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 7d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £17 10s. ton ; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 139s. cwt. ; Potassium : Bi-chromate, 9½d. lb. ; chlorate, 5d. lb. ; caustic, £35 ton ; nitrate, £52 15s. ton ; permanganate, 1s. 3½d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.), £19 ton ; Sodium : crystals, 145s. ton ; bi-carbonate, £12 10s. ton ; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 7s. 6d. ton ; chlorate, 4d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton ; hyposulphite, £19 ton ; prussiate, 7d. lb. ; nitrate, £18 10s. ton ; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £106 ton ; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £120 ton ; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron, 145s ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 5d. lb. ; quinine, 4s. oz. ; red lead, £39 15s. ton ; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton ; white ground lead, £53 ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 9½d. lb. ; 80 to 89lbs., 9½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs. 9½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs 8½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 7½d. lb. (second), 90 lbs. and up, 8d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 8d. lb. 70 to 79 lbs., 8d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 7-5-8d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb. ; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 7d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 7d. lb. ; Cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. ; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb. ; (second), 3½d. lb. ; Kips (first), 6d. lb. ; (second), 5d. lb. ; (third) 3d. ; Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows) : Agras, 8 to 12.8 ; Durbhangas, 6 to 7.8 ; Patnas 5 to 6. Salted cows, 3 to 6. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 7 Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. ; goat, 225 to 250 per 100 pieces

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 8.31d. lb. ; Cotton (Egyptian), 14s. 95d. lb. ; linseed (La Plata), £22 13s. 9d. ton ; rape (Toria), £22 11s. 3d. ; soya beans, £15 15s. ton ; palm kernels, £23 17s. 6d. ton ; oils: linseed, £39 5s. ton ; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton ; palm, £36 10s. ton ; rape (crude), £55 5s. ton ; soya, £41 ton ; petroleum, 1s. 9½d. gallon ; ground nut, £51 10s. ton ; cotton (crude), £41 10s. ton ; shellac (T.N. second orange), 295s. cwt. : shellac (A.C. garnet), 295s. cwt. ; rosin (American), 20s. 6d. cwt. ; turpentine, 80s. 6d. cwt. ; rubber : Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 8½d. lb. ; fine hard Para. 11d. lb.


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Stamboul, July 16.

Some sales made for Anatolia and the consignments to Batoum have imparted a certain movement to the Constantinople market. However the last advance of the Greek armies in Anatolia has stopped business here. On the other hand the rise that has suddenly taken place in the last few days in the foreign exchanges increases the difficulties of importers in withdrawing their goods.

The fall in the prices of manufactures has stopped at Manchester, and a sharp recovery is in fact to be recorded. Here cabots have benefited by a rise of about 10 per cent. as a result of the strong demand for Roumania. Other classes of goods are for the moment stationary. Sales on credit, which had disappeared since the war, are becoming more and more general to facilitate the consumption of stocks.

*Produce.*—Sugar. The strong demand for India has stopped the fall, and prices have undergone a sharp recovery. Here business is good, the demand having been active for Roumania, and notably for Batoum. The arrival simultaneously of two cargoes of sugar however, has brought about a fall in prices. Quotations are :—Java sugar £19-20 per ton, disposable and afloat here £37-38 per ton, and in customs £T31-32 per 100 kilos.

*Coffee.*—Despite the purchases of the Brazilian Government and the export of 200,000 bags of Santos, prices remain stationary. The new crop is reported to be excellent.

*Rice.*—This commodity has risen in producing centres owing to the demand. Quotations are :—Rangoon, shipment for Egypt, £17 per ton. Here Saigon No. 1 Ps 13-14 per oke ; Siam Ps. 17-18 per oke ; American Ps. 10 per oke.

Panderma.

The report for June states :—There is nothing to report during the month, business having been at a standstill. The arrival of new cocoons from the neighbouring districts have alone imparted activity to the market. They are estimated at about 35,000 kilos up to the present, and the price is round about Ps. 70-74 per kilo. It is anticipated that the crop will not exceed 70,000 kilos.

Salonika.

The report for May and June states :—The conditions of the last two months have favoured the crops. The quality should be good and the quantity about the same as that of last year. Quotations are :—Wheat 1.20-1.30 drachmae per oke ; maize 0.80-0.85 drachmae per oke ; barley 0.90-0.92 drachmae per oke..

The old stock of cocoons has not been sold. The new crop is better and more abundant. Prices 30-32 drachmae per oke. There is no demand for opium. Stocks amount to 30,000 okes, and prices range from 100 to 110 drachmae per oke. It is estimated that about two million okes of non-manipulated tobacco are held up by the cultivators. Stocks of manipulated tobacco are estimated at three to four hundred thousand okes. The price is 10-17 drachmae Stocks of cotton are exhausted. Smyrna Adana is 6-6½ drachmae per oke, while American is 6½-7 drachmae.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Tone steady; Business lacking.

*(From our own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday.

The markets have maintained a fairly steady tone during the past week, but business has been unusually restricted even for these times as a result principally of the holiday season. Obviously it is no good expecting anything else for some weeks, but with the autumn, provided no unforeseen factors crop up, there ought to be a great revival of interest in some of the markets

Gilt-edged securities have been fairly firm. War Loan Fives, being 88,1-16, Consols, 49,1-8, and Fundings, 71½.

Industrials have been dull. Iron and steel have rallied somewhat, but here and there weakness has developed. Banks have continued to be very steady.

A rather strong tone has been in evidence in oils as the result of Continental buying. There are not many shares about in this market, and any appreciable revival of buying would be bound to have a marked effect on prices.

The Rubber market has continued to be featureless, and for the moment movements hinge on the future of the restriction scheme.

## GEMSAH OIL REEFS.

A brief report has been issued by the directors of Gemsah Oil Reefs stating that the construction of the jetty and island platform at Gemsah has taken longer than had been anticipated, but the work has now been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The erection of the derrick and rig has also been completed, and a cablegram has been received from the field manager stating that actual drilling has commenced. Progress of drilling operations will be notified from time to time through the Press.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on July 22 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 7-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 5-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2 3-8; Associated Cotton Ginners, 25-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56; Behera Ord., £E 8,9-16; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr., 82 ex.; Building Lands of Egypt, £5-8; Cassi di Sconto, Priv. Fr. 94; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 23; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £15-16; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 780 ex.; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 609; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr. 314; 1903 Oblig., Fr., 223, Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., 223, Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr., 77; Eaux du Caire, Jouissance, Fr. 102, Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord. 27s.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4¼; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £9¼; Gabbari Lands, 7s. 6d.; Immeubles d'Egypte Sor. an des., £5 3-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord. 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2 9-16; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £4 21-32; Kom Ombo Ste, Fondateur, £33 9-6: Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr., 41 1-2; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 270; Nungovich Hotels, £6 5-16; Ramleh Railway, £2¼; Salt and Soda, 29s. 10½d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 42½; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 60; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2¼ ex.; Egypt Hotels, £1 27-32 ex.; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 27-32.

The preliminary accounts of the Bengal and North Western Railway Company for the half-year ended March 31st, show gross earnings, Rs1,32,32,827, increase Rs4,81,123; expenses Rs59,88,304, increase Rs2,20,110: net Rs72,44,523, increase Rs2,61,013; company's share of net earnings after deduction of Indian income-tax and net Indian charges. £250,706, increase £9,359. Adding £145,839 brought forward and £16,771 gain by exchange gives a total of £413,316.

## COMPANY MEETINGS.

### AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION, LTD.

#### Thirty-third Annual Meeting.

Mr. J. H. Batty (chairman of directors) presided over the 33rd Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., which was held on July 28 last in the banqueting hall of the Exchange Station Hotel, Liverpool. There was a full attendance of directors and shareholders.

The chairman in moving the adoption of the accounts and report said there was no doubt in his mind that the potentialities of the Corporation were unique. They might be going through troubled waters, but he believed they could look forward to the future with the utmost confidence. He had no wish to minimise the deplorable condition of trade this year, but was hopeful that there might be some recovery before the year was completed. In arriving at the results for 1920 no credit had been taken for excess profits tax. Whatever sum was recoverable would be brought into the accounts for 1921. Their directors had had a very anxious and trying time. Not only had they to face the extraordinary decline in produce prices but they also had wide fluctuations in the exchange and depreciation in the value of the ordinary trading stock; and last, but not least, the decline in the volume of trade. After taking all these things into account the directors hoped that the shareholders would appreciate the result achieved. It would still take some time for trade to resume its normal flow. There had been a stupendous swing from the height of prosperity to the depth of depression in the period they had just been through. His anxiety was most keenly directed to their national finance, which would give cause for the gravest anxiety in the early months of next year. Unless they had immediate relief from taxation trade would continue to suffer and there would be increased distress throughout the country. They must be allowed to retain the capital in their businesses and a certain percentage of the profits was needed to finance new enterprises. Trade in West Africa had greatly felt the effects of the world-wide slump, and this was reflected by the serious decline of the imports from these colonies.

Mr. Robert B. Miller seconded and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Robert B. Miller, a final dividend of five per cent., less income tax, was declared on the ordinary shares of the company, making with the interim dividend already paid a total dividend of 17½ per cent., less income tax, for the year.

The retiring directors, Messrs. J. H. Batty, E. A. Beazley, A. A. Cowan and Major-General W. H. Grey, C.B., C.M.G., were unanimously re-elected.

The directors' fees were agreed upon and the auditors were re-appointed.

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Until further notice crude petroleum of foreign origin, and products thereof may be exported from Egypt to any destination with which trade is allowed without a specific licence. Crude petroleum of local origin and products thereof (except benzine and kerosene) remain subject to specific licences.


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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## DANUBE TO ADRIATIC.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, July 22.

The Governments of Roumania and Yugoslavia are busily discussing the project for the construction of a new railway line that will connect Roumania with the Adriatic, via Yugoslavia. Should the project materialise a new bridge will be constructed over the Danube.

## SPANISH STEAMER FOUNDERS.

(*From our own Correspondent*).

Bucharest, July 27.

A fresh disaster occurred this week in the Black Sea, the Spanish steamer General Tourner with a cargo of grain and cattle from Galatz to Greece foundered at a short distance off the little port of Caliacra. The cause is ascribed to a stray floating mine. The crew and passengers are reported to have been saved.

## THE DNIESTER NEGOTIATIONS.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, July 22.

The negotiations which are still being carried on in a friendly tone between the Roumanian and Soviet delegations in the Dniester estuary do not show so far any notable result. Roumania has acceded to the Soviet demand to be allowed to fish in the lake Liman also to cut wood in the forests bordering the river provided the Roumanian zone is not encroached upon.

## YUGOSLAV SAILORS' LANGUAGE.

(*From our own Correspondent*).

Zagreb, Undated.

Although the Austro-Hungarian fleet, both naval and mercantile, was chiefly manned by Dalmatians and Croats from the coast, these Yugoslavs were not allowed to use their mother tongues, but had to obey a word of command given in German, Magyar, or even Italian, the latter language, not unnaturally, having had considerable influence on marine life in the Adriatic. Now the Minister of Education has appointed a committee of experts to select a correct terminology in Serbo-Croat which will be officially adopted for the Yugoslav marine, so that in the future these tough sailors may use their own mother tongue when on official duty as well as in their own fishing boats.


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## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Makalla for Port Said, Colombo Madras and Calcutta (London, August 16) ; s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 27) ; s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, August 27) ; s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London September 14).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 17) ; s.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 31).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. General Napier for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 14).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Mackenzie for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 18) ; s.s. Clan Macbride for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 25).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Cypria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 20).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Grodno for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 3).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Benares for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 17) ; s.s. Lorenzo for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, August 23) ; s.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 3).

*Ellerman "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, August 11) ; s.s. Pembrokeshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, August 25) ; s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham Singapore, etc. (London, September 8) ; s.s. Glengyle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, September 22).

*Glynn Line.*—S.s. Ravenspoint for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, August 12).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Politician for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 12 ; s.s. Craftsman for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 27).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Burma for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 24).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Demodocus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, August 12); s.s. Antilochus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, August 12) ; s.s. Peleus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, August 19).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 20) ; s.s. Venice for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool August 27).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Cressado for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, August 13) ; s.s. Trentino for Tangier, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria. (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersyne, Jaffa, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.) (Liverpool, August 23).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, August 12) ; s.s. Soudan for Bombay (London, August 19) ; s.s. Kashgar for Bombay, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, (London, August 26) ; s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London) September 9).

*Prince Line.*—S.s. Glendhu for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, August 12).


**Travellers to the Near East**

Can obtain all information as to the journey from Continental Traffic Department, Victoria Station (S. E. & C. R.), S.W.1:


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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 536—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Allies and Asia Minor.*

The Supreme Council has taken the decision that the present military situation in the Near East does not warrant at the moment any fresh intervention on its part in the Greco-Turkish conflict or offer of mediation. It proclaims its strict neutrality; but while no official assistance is to be given to either belligerent, no embargo is to be placed on the sale by Allied nations to either Greek or Turk of munitions of war. This attitude is at least consistent with the *laissez-faire* policy which the Allies have adopted so far in regard to events in Asia Minor; whether it corresponds with the dignity of a body charged with the directions of a settlement after a world war that was to end war is another matter. If no principles were at stake and if opportunism were the only policy in international affairs that had anything to commend it, there would be much to be said for keeping a ring for the conflict in Asia Minor. The Greeks have the upper hand and their final victory will appeal to the sporting instincts of the nations. Not only did they resume hostilities despite the Allies, but they also dared to match their military intelligence against that of the French General Staff, insisting that the alleged Kemalist strength was a bubble waiting to be pricked. Events so far have proved them right.

### *King Constantine's Opportunity.*

The Turks have been hard hit and are in retreat, both from their military positions, and it would appear, from Angora. From the point of view of the Supreme Council a Turkey broken and acknowledging defeat would offer the easiest way out of existing difficulties. Greece could be confirmed in the possession of Smyrna and Thrace, and the future would be left to take care of itself. Mr. Lloyd George has admitted that the Allies themselves have torn up the Treaty of Sèvres, but this fact would probably not prevent the French and Italians from agreeing to a reimposition of its terms, if they had satisfied themselves that nothing was to be gained for the time being from supporting Turkey. No one, however, will imagine that peace would thereby be secured for the Near East. A chastened, not a demoralised, Turkey is wanted, and the more complete the collapse in Asia Minor, the greater the need for a practical scheme for restoring to the Turks their self-respect and placing the country once more on its feet. It is no disparagement to the Turks to say that this is work which they can never perform; it will have to be undertaken by one of the Great Powers. Unfortunately there is no indication at present that the Supreme Council has given a thought to the necessity of making itself responsible for this work or of entrusting it to one of the Allies. Now, if ever, is King Constantine's opportunity. At one and the same time he can rehabilitate Greece and establish his own reputation for statesmanship, by insisting that Greece's task is finished with the defeat of the Turks, and that the Allies must take charge of the future of the country.

### *The Bulgarian Army.*

Although the prospect of having to disband her conscript army has been hanging over Bulgaria for more than two years, the blow inflicted by the formal order to comply with this particular provision of the Treaty of Neuilly loses none of its severity. There is no reason to doubt the genuinessness of the steps taken to raise a voluntary army within the limitations of a reasonable budget. Pay out of all proportions with pre-war rates has been offered, but the Bulgarians have not responded to the call. The bulk of the population never will, for they are far too wedded to the soil to leave it save under compulsion. If the rates of pay are raised to the present excessive levels of artisan wages, it will be possible to attract the less desirable element of the urban population. But the financial strain will be unfair to Bulgaria and prejudicial to Allied interests. In the circumstances it is not difficult to understand why the order to form a volunteer army has been received with feelings of dismay; but if the Allied Governments are resolved not to pay any attention to Balkan interests, Bulgaria must bow to the inevitable. She will be better advised to have no army at all than to keep an inadequate one at considerable expense. She will have the satisfaction of leading the way in regard to disarmament, and her neighbours will be unable to attribute to her aggressive designs or to complain if she is unable to keep order on her side of the frontier.

### *The Palestine Deputation.*

The deputation of Moslems and Christians from Palestine has not allowed any grass to grow under its feet since its arrival in London. Through the Press it has begun its work of enlightening public opinion in this country regarding the situation in Palestine; and it has already been received by the Primate and by the Secre-

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tary of State for the Colonies. The former reminded his visitors that he was not able to speak on behalf of any Governmental authority, but he admitted that they had helped him to a better understanding of the question —and coming from such a quarter, the admission goes to show that the visit of the deputation was not uncalled for. Mr. Churchill is, of course, more closely concerned than the Archbishop with the points raised by the deputation; for it is to him that both parties in Palestine, to say nothing of the people of Great Britain, will look for a solution of a very difficult problem. He is understood to have promised to do everything in his power to meet the demand of the Arabs; but as he is to receive the deputation again, this week, it is too early to make any attempt to forecast what action he will take.

### *Britain's Responsibilities.*

It must be steadily borne in mind that besides the Zionists on the one hand and the Moslems and Christians of Palestine on the other the position and responsibilities of Great Britain have to be taken into account in this matter. The 'Balfour Declaration' has given rise to such conflicting opinions about its true purport that not a few people regret that it was ever made. But made it was, and any pledges it was intended to convey must be honoured. If unfortunately, such pledges should be found to clash with others, the difficulty should be faced at once and frankly. Procrastination, though it may appeal to a certain type of politician, will do no good in this instance. Mr. Churchill, we hope and believe, will tackle the question boldly, because he recognises its great importance, and because lack of courage cannot be imputed to him.. One way in which the business may affect Great Britain very seriously is indicated in a letter written quite recently by an American gentleman from which we give an extract on another page. The prospect therein adumbrated is not pleasant to contemplate. If we regarded it as purely illusory we would ignore it. As it is, we should like to see the whole problem grappled with boldly.

### *A Strayed Telegram.*

Egypt is now comparatively quiet, waiting to see what comes of the negotiations in progress in London. Both the supporters of Zaghloul Pasha, and, to a less extent perhaps, those who favour the Government still continue to send telegrams to this country supporting the claims of their own side. Among those which we have received lately is one from Tanta which refers to: "The parliamentary questions put forward by you and your friends as well as your criticism of the misdeeds of the hirelings of the Residency" ets., etc.; and, later informs us that "any agreement based on Lord Milner's proposals . . . will never find favour here." It concludes with thanks for the trouble we have taken in championing the senders' "good cause," followed by a list of names which occupies three pages of the telegram. We should like to think that the Tanta notables and others who sent this message really wished us well; but as we have never been privileged to put any 'parliamentary questions,' we fear that there has been a mistake somewhere. Our ignorance of any 'misdeeds' of 'hirelings' of the Residency has moreover prevented our meriting any thanks for exposing them; and, assuredly we do not see eye to eye with the Tanta telegraph-senders in regard to Lord Milner's proposals. It really looks as if some of the Zaghloulists' funds have been thrown away by a bit of carelessness; and that does not argue well for the organization of the 'party.' Such telegrams however, seem to serve a purpose in tickling the vanity of certain Labour M.P.'s.

### *The Situation in Persia.*

Recent reports from Persia, though somewhat meagre, suffice to show that the new all-Persian Persia bears no more resemblance to Utopia than did the old Persia. The British officers and the British advisers have either left or are leaving the country; the Mejliss is sitting at last; and the forerunner of the political millenium, the Bolshevist Minister, is shedding the light of his countenance on Teheran; and yet all is not well with the Land of the Lion and the Sun. It is true that a deputation from Angora has arrived at Resht, for the purpose of negotiating an agreement with Teheran, and that Moscow has given its blessing to the attempt but recent developments in Asia Minor may make the Persians doubtful about the value of any alliance with the Kemalists; and in the meantime the very important province of Khorasan has declared its independence. Unless the affable M. Rothstein takes a hand in the game and provides some 'Red' troops to bring the recalcitrant province to heel, it is difficult to see what the Shah's Government can hope to do in the matter. And the Shah's Government seems to have its hands full in settling quarrels in the Mejliss. A very pretty example of these quarrels took the form of an attempt to unseat Prince Firooz Nusrat ed-Dowleh, the deputy for Kermanshah. This led to a debate which lasted a week and was marked by violent personal attacks all round. When he sees where his latest *coup* has landed Persia. the Sardar Sipah—our old friend Colonel Riza Khan—must be inclined to regret having parted company with Seyyid Zia ed-Din.

### *British Communities Overseas.*

In Constantinople advantage was taken of an official dinner on the occasion of the King's Birthday to discuss the subject of a common meeting ground for the large British community in that town, and a committee has been formed to consider practical steps to that end. Owing to the existence in the city of an international club, which owes its success to British example and initiative, the need of a separate institution for the British community had not been acutely felt in the past. But with the growth of that community, with its tendency to be split up into groups living in Constantinople proper, along the Bosphorus, or on the Asiatic Coast, it is most desirable that there should be an essentially British rallying point. It need not compete with the Constantinople Club, for in a cosmopolitan city an international rendezvous is indispensable. A British Club should be primarily just what the word implies as a social institution, but it would also try to fill an additional role by promoting in a variety of ways, educational as well as recreational, constant touch among British subjects in Constantinople, and a consciousness of a community of instincts as well as of interests. We trust that marked success will attend the Committee's efforts. In Athens a British Club has been evolved with a British Chamber of Commerce, but having a separate existence. Bucharest, which alone of the capitals of that region has a large enough British community for the purpose, is still without a British Club, and it is to be hoped that some one will be found with sufficient energy and organising ability to start one, as the city is so given up to external gaiety

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that it has little time for the more homely type of hospitality.

### *Indians in the Empire.*

It was stated last week with some show of authority that the Indian representatives were well satisfied with the results of their efforts at the Imperial Conference, and certainly we do not think that anything more could have been expected than what was actually accomplished. The conference as a body recognised the desirability of granting rights of citizenship to Indians lawfully domiciled in other parts of the Empire, but South Africa dissented from this decision, and the outcome is that India has a difference of opinion with one Dominion only, whereas a few years ago she had a lively differences with at least three. The position in South Africa is undoubtedly exceptional, and there is much to be said in favour of the suggestion put forward by the Indian representatives that it should be handled by direct negotiation between Delhi and Cape Town; Indian sentiments should be mollified by the decision on the general question, and the way is thus opened for it to accept something less than its entire claim, while South Africa may reasonably be expected to make an advance out of deference to the opinion of the remainder of the Empire. In this connection it is a pleasure to record that Mr. Sastri, one of the Indian delegates, has been invited to visit Australia, a graceful act which shows how much ground has been gained for friendship in the last few years.

### *The Government of Burma.*

The abandonment of the Government of Burma Bill marks a stage in the constitutional development of the joint Committe on Indian affairs. Nothing but a formal notification is necessary to put Burma on an equal footing with the different provinces of India, and the justification for introducing the Bill lay in the fact that last year differences of opinion existed on the question whether Burma should have Indian institutions, or should be equipped with institutions of its own. The Bill having once come into existence, was referred to the joint committee, the committee went into the whole question, found that the differences of opinion had for all practical purposes disappeared, and recommended that the Bill should be passed; but the final result is that the Bill is dropped, because it has served its purpose, and the introduction of Indian institutions, being no longer seriously opposed, will be effected as a matter of routine. The arrangement seems to be quite satisfactory and perhaps the next stage will be to hit on some procedure for referring questions to the Committee without the numerous formalities incidental to the introduction of a Bill.

**THE NEAR EAST IN CYPRUS.**

Messrs. George, Sons, and Co., Nicosia, have been appointed Agents for *The Near East* in Cyprus.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**Ireland.**

De Valera's answer to, and refusal of Mr. Lloyd George's offer has been read, and commented on, with profound regret in practically all quarters. The Government's offer was generous, and it was not anticipated that it would be turned down without further parley, and even before the terms had been submitted to the elected representatives of Sinn Fein. To say the least, this seems bad strategy.

It is noteworthy, however, that many of the Irish papers take the view that, uncompromising as De Valera's answer is to the ordinary reader, it does not entirely close the door on negotiations; and that it is merely his way of asking for further concessions from the Government. It may be so; but if so, the Irish representatives are playing an extremely dangerous game.

From the publication of General Smuts' letter it is evident that in his opinion the Sinn Feiners should have accepted the terms offered, and as a disinterested statesman, his word will carry weight. But reading between the lines of the De Valera reply to Downing Street, it is thought in some quarters that where things have broken down is not so much in the question of independence—as is alleged—as in the refusal of Ulster to submit to Sinn Fein. It is argued that if De Valera had intended to insist on independence, he would have insisted from the start, as otherwise there would have been no point in negotiating at all; for he knew perfectly well that Downing Street would not concede independence, and well-informed Irish politicians were at least under the impression that he would only formally put forward the demand as a basis of argument.

The situation is now both obscure and grave, but the truce has not yet been denounced, and it is hoped that some fresh *via média* may be opened during the week. The next word is with Sinn Fein; if it remains obdurate the prospect is gloomy in the extreme, for nobody in this country, and assuredly very few people in Ireland, can look forward without despair to a resumption of civil war.

**The General Election Again?**

The talk of a general election in the Autumn has revived since it was understood that Mr. Lloyd George was not going to Washington. But the more cautious spirits are hedging with the alternative suggestion that political strategy may dictate an appeal to the country in the early spring—say in February or early March. Accidents may happen of course, but it is in the highest

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degree unlikely that this particular accident will happen. A General Election just before the Budget would be an outrage only to be excused by overwhelming necessity. The prospect of an autumn election—as to which at the moment I would bet five to four against—depends entirely on the Irish negotiations.

It might be good business for the Government to have an election, for there is no doubt it would give them another lease of power; the chief opposition comes from the Tories, who want to see the Parliament Act smashed next year under cover of reforming the House of Lords, and prefer to take no chances. The only danger to the Government comes from the anti-waste people, who are almost abashed at their own popularity; but their bite is nothing like as bad as their bark, and as soon as they are in the House it is very difficult to distinguish them from the ordinary Conservative. I fancy they will do more damage to the Labour Party than to the Government, and Labour detests them accordingly. The Liberals, of course, do not count. There has been some talk lately of disposing of Mr. Asquith, his leadership being so ineffective; but the difficulty is that there is nobody to put in his place.

**Silesia.**

The fiasco of the Supreme Council over Silesia is regretted by all save that little band who are steadfastly anti-French because they are pro-German, but the failure of Mr. Lloyd George and M. Briand to settle the problem was not unexpected. For more than a year past the policies of England and France have differed over Poland. Most of the early differences were bridged over more or less skilfully; but the genius for compromise broke down over the rich coal-fields of Kattowitz. It has seemed to some in England that the aim of France was simply to strengthen Poland as an ally in place of Russia against Germany; and to some in France it has seemed that England was beginning to look at things through German spectacles. There was nothing very dreadful in the attitude we attributed to France, which is merely the old diplomatic maxim of "making friends with your neighbour," and strengthening him as far as possible; but the French suggestion, and still more the fashion in which it was expressed in the Parisian Press, rather hurt our feelings. To be told that we love our enemies is embarassing; it conveys the suggestion that we are better Christians than we are.

The League of Nations, which has once again been used as a dustbin by the Powers, now has the opportunity of tackling Silesia. This should give pleasure to Lord Robert Cecil, who has been denouncing the British Government for its failure to take the League seriously. But the reference of Silesia to the League will give a further opportunity for intrigue and chicane, at Geneva this time instead of Paris, and two other doubts present themselves. Will the decision of the League, whenever it is given, be accepted by the Powers, and if not, how is it going to enforce its decision? These considerations make it evident that the reference to Geneva is simply a means of gaining time. The real lesson of the incident is that these hurried meetings of Prime Ministers at week-ends, who have not had time to digest the situation thoroughly, are bad in principle. When the eye is on the clock throughout the proceedings, the reporters at the keyhole, and the experts under the table, there is little chance of that real statesmanship which looks for permanent and just decisions.

**The Return of Rain.**

The drought broke, as was to be expected, the day before the last Test Match began at the Kennington Oval, and rain has since been general. The holiday-maker's August promises to be wet and unsettled, but few people will regret this change. Certainly the farmers will not, although I doubt whether they have really much to grumble at. Corn has been a bumper crop, and most of the harvest is already in; the roots have suffered, but not beyond recovery; and live stock has stood the heat and drought much better than was expected. But the farmers will continue to grumble for all that.

The Metropolitan Water Board has recently been through a period of anxiety, for the reserves of water for London were getting low, after a deficiency of rain every month for the past eight months; the rain of last week will not of course do much to replenish the springs, but at least it is a sign of hope. The rapid growth of London since the war, by the way, means a further drain on the resources of the Thames and the Lea, and the Londoner may yet regret that he did not adopt the ambitious scheme for bringing his water, like his political oratory, from the Welsh mountains, when the opportunity was offered some years ago. Birmingham, it will be remembered, took the water and refused Mr. Lloyd George.

**The Week's Books.**

Lord Esher's "The Tragedy of Lord Kitchener" (Murray) is a much better book than the official biography by Sir George Arthur so far as the war is concerned. He makes it clear that Lord Kitchener was "no longer the K. of K. of the Sudan and South Africa, and he only as yet was aware of the tragic fact." Had he "been able to divest himself of twenty years, had he been the lithe, wiry horseman of the Sudan, the control and course of the war might have taken a different course."

In a remarkable passage Lord Esher says that "Arabia deserta seems to me to be the key of Lord Kitchener's character and methods. The spirit of the sand, like the spirit of the sea, puts an unconscious constraint upon the nature of a man. Lord Kitchener's aloofness, patience slowness if you will, were the outcome of life lived in solitude, where the passage of time counted for very little. When he thought of war it was after the manner of Darius—slow- moving hordes concentrating slowly upon their objective with fatal method. He took no heed of the lightning stroke of Napoleon."

Once, when told that he had been accused by a Cabinet colleague of "Oriental methods," Kitchener answered humbly "Yes, I suppose it is so, but I am an old man, and I cannot change my methods; it is too late."

Incidentally there is a story of a Cabinet meeting which could not agree. "Please remember," said Mr. Asquith, "that in an hour's time I have to tell the House of Commons what the Cabinet has decided." There was silence, and then Mr. Balfour said "You had better tell them that the Cabinet has decided that it is quite incapable of conducting the business of the country and carrying out the war." No observation having been made on this, the Prime Minister asked, "Am I to say that to the House of Commons?" On which Mr. Balfour retorted, "Well, if you do, you will at any rate be telling them the truth." It was probably about this period that the Cabinet was described as a vestry meeting with a vicar in the chair.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, July 28.*

**The Mecca Pilgrimage.**

The ceremony in connection with the departure of the Holy Carpet to Mecca, for which the Acting Prime Minister and the Ministers came up to Cairo, took place yesterday, and the Caravan will leave Suez to-morrow. Although from the point of view of public security in the Hejaz the pilgrimage should go off very satisfactorily, there appears to be some difficulty over the question of passport and other fees which the Hejaz authorities want to charge. Colonel Lawrence, who has been sent out by the Foreign Office to discuss pilgrimage arrangements with King Hussein, has arrived at Jeddah, and it is to be presumed that the above-mentioned difficulty will be settled. At the same time there is reason to believe that other more important subjects will be dealt with during the next week or so, as various other prominent persons connected with the Arab world have been summoned to Jeddah.

**The War in Asia Minor.**

The developments in Asia Minor have been attracting much attention out here, and a very successful pro-Kemalist campaign has been carried on for the past three months. The news of the capture of Eskishehir has very much depressed the Egyptians, while quite naturally it has caused rejoicing in the large Hellenic colony. Scenes of very great excitement have taken place in Alexandria, and one can only hope that no untoward incidents will result. In this connection it is interesting to note, as showing the ignorance of the masses as well as the pro-Turk sentiments which prevail, that there has been a strong conviction in the country that, whatever happened in London, Mustapha Kemal would succeed in giving Egypt her independence.

**Public Security.**

The effect of the political agitation, which has swept over this country during the past three years and of the acute economic situation during the past year is eloquently demonsfrated by the latest judicial statistics, which reveal a remarkable increase in criminality and ordinary litigation. While crimes during the preceding judicial year were 75 per cent. misdemeanours, 30 per cent., and contraventions 50 per cent. above those registered in 1917-1918, the figures for the first six months of the current judicial year are respectively 4 per cent. above, 11 per cent. below, and 37 per cent. above those of the corresponding period of 1917-1919. On the other hand, on the civil side the number of cases, which during 1919-1920 were 29 per cent. above those of 1918-1919 and about equal to those of 1917-1918, increased during the first half of this judicial year by 55 per cent. as compared with the figure for the corresponding period of the preceding year. The excellent work done by the Courts is evident from the fact that except in the case of the Cantonal Courts the arrears are less than they were at the beginning of the judicial year.

The situation from the public security point of view is sufficiently serious, though it is what was to be expected as a result of the war and of the state of feeling created by the political situation; and it is to be feared that this upward tendency in crime and litigation will continue until a settlement is obtained in the political and a return to relative normal is secured in the economic sphere.

*Cairo, August 4.*

**The High Commissioner.**

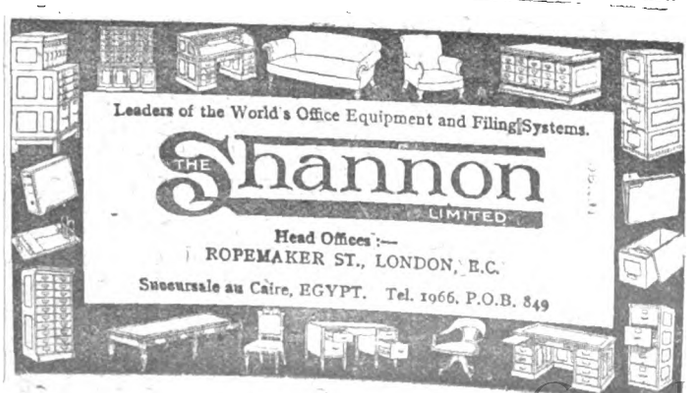
The High Commissioner proceeded on leave for England this week, the Honourable E. S. Scott returning just in time to take over from him. Lord Allenby will be absent about three months, and is expected to return by the last "Government" sailing of the "Caledonia," which has again been chartered this year for the express purpose of bringing back Government officials and residents who are due to return at the time when the demand for accommodation to ports East of Suez is very great. Before his departure His Excellency held an investiture at the Residency at which military and civil recipients of honours and decorations were handed their insignia. In this connection it is very noticeable that Egypt and the Sudan have shone by their absence from the Birthday and New Year's honours lists during the past year. In fact, if my memory serves me right, there has been nothing since January 1919 beyond a very small list of those whose work during the March troubles of that year called for special recognition. There are still quite a number of officials and others whose services during the war have been brought before the attention of the Foreign Office but have had no recognition. It is believed, however, that this matter will be adjusted as soon as a settlement of the political situation has been arrived at.

**The Political Situation.**

Political matters here remain very quiet. Zaghloul Pasha has been ordered to rest by his doctor and has been on his estate near Benha for the past ten days. Public attention is still centred, as is only to be expected, on what is taking place in London, and the vernacular press is spending a small fortune on special messages from their own correspondents, which deal at great length with the negotiations, and in particular are reporting *in extenso* all the questions asked and the answers given in the House. Very great irritation is detectable in all circles in regard to those questions, and in fact in regard to the propaganda which Zaghloul Pasha's emissaries are conducting. There is, indeed, very strong disapproval of this effort to discredit the Official Delegation in London. As many intelligent Egyptians shrewdly point out, such tactics only aggravate the Egyptian case and the sole result is to put further arguments in the hands of those who are opposing any measure of self-government being granted to Egypt. Zaghloul Pasha is bitterly critisised on every hand for his short-sighted policy, which, however, it is generally admitted, is characteristic of the man. At the same time much quiet amusement has been aroused by the flood of telegrams and letters which have come in from various parts of the country repudiating Mr. Swan's imputations that support of the Cabinet was only obtained under pressure, and emphasizing that on the contrary, these expressions of confidence were given voluntarily; for Zaghloul's manoeuvre has thus been turned to the advantage of the man whose downfall he is striving to achieve by all means even at the cost of his country's interests.

**Palestinian News.**

Every effort is being made by the authorities to facilitate traffic between Egypt and Palestine. Recently an agreement was come to between the Customs Administrations of the two countries with regard to the fixing of the fiscal boundaries between them, and it was agreed that the chief customs control of railway traffic should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be at Kantara West. It is now announced that as from August 1 all accompanied baggage booked through from Egypt to Palestine or *vice versa* will be examined at Kantara West, while unaccompanied baggage from Palestine will be allowed to proceed under seal to Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez, no baggage being handed over to consignees by the railways unless the policy has been stamped by the Customs.

Very disquieting news comes from Palestine, where anti-Jewish feeling continues to run very high. Great hopes are reposed by the Arab community in the Palestinian delegation which is now on its way to England in order to lay the Arab case before the British public; and trustworthy travellers, who have come through after a tour of the country, agree in stating that unless some greater satisfaction than has been forthcoming hitherto is given the Arab population there will be very serious trouble when the delegation returns. Outside the chief towns public security does not exist, and there have been several cases of highway robbery, as well as cattle raids, which the authorities have been powerless to punish. The Palestinian Government has decided on the formation of a gendarmerie, but its strength, 500, is considered by those who know the country and the present state of affairs ludicrously inadequate to cope with the present situation.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, August 3*

**Yugoslav Communists.**

The House has accepted the Defence of the Realm Bill which now becomes law. The Privilege Committee promptly handed over the Communist Members to the police, and many are already under arrest. All their elections are declared null and void, so the Government has fifty-eight by-elections in front of it, in which the Democrats, Radicals, Mohammedans and Agriculturists will go to the country as one *bloc*. This group of parties look upon themselves as the national *bloc*, and they all voted for the Defence of the Realm Act, the voting on which was 190 for and 54 against. The minority was naturally largely made up of such Communists as were not yet in gaol, and by the Clericals, Republicans and Socialists, who expressed fears that it would be a powerful weapon in the hands of the Government which might be abused and turned against their political opponents.

Twenty-six Communists at Subotitsa have been put over the border into Hungary, where they will doubtless find friends. A message to the Belgrade *Politika* from the same town reports a meeting of Croatian renegades at Zalaegerszeg, with Hungarian royalists. These Croats are completely hapsburgised, and look upon the union frankly as a disaster. One of the leading spirits is Colonel Lehar, a friend of the ex-Emperor Karl.

Yugoslavs who return from Russia are now looked upon, naturally, with great suspicion, and are subjected to a rigorous quarantine before being admitted. A party of 460 has recently arrived, and it seems that most of these are infected with Communism, and some have held office under the Bolshevists. The leader of the "party" in Belgrade, Dr. Simo Markovitch, is in Moscow, and these returning Yugoslavs report that he made a speech to them before they left, exhorting them to be good Bolshevists. For his services in the cause, he has been promised the post of Chief Commissar for Yugoslavia. So it will be seen that the Communist movement, which has made such a stir in Yugoslavia, is a foreign-inspired disease, encouraged by the enemies of the union for the purposes of their own. Such Yugoslavs as are affected have caught the disease in Russia, or are feeble-minded perverts of the criminal type, easily acted upon by astute and unscrupulous rascals. That Communism should ever take root in this country of sturdy peasant-proprietors is unthinkable. The few dreamers must pay the penalty for their association with the criminal and anarchist types, to whom Communism is a kind of sanctification of their own particular form of vice.

**An International Convention against Bolshevism.**

M. Pashitch has invited the Governments of Czecho-Slovakia, Roumania, and Italy, which States are all suffering from the same danger, to negotiate a convention for mutual assistance and protection against the Bolshevists. The position in Roumania is analogous inasmuch as hostile and jealous neighbours are interested in attacks upon the State. Communist literature was found on many Bulgarian *komitajis* who have been killed or taken prisoner on Serbian territory. Reports from Bitolj refer to such literature in Bulgarian and in Turkish, the latter calling upon the Mohammedans of Macedonia to rise; and this is doubtless the result of Turkish Nationalist activity hoping to create a diversion in the southern Balkans. To deal with the situation in the southern districts, the Government is reinforcing the gendarmes, who have a difficult task in conducting what is a guerilla warfare against Bulgars on the east and against Albanians on the west. This body is strengthened by another three thousand men, of whom five hundred are Russians selected from General Wrangel's army.

**M. Protitch's Position.**

Politically the most interesting problem is what role will be played in the future by M. Stoyan Protitch. He is far too strong a character and too prominent and practised a politician to be content to plough a lonely furrow for long. It seems strange that the strong man of the Salonika Government, the Prime Minister of the Coalition of a year ago, the leader of the Radicals when M. Pashitch was in Paris, should have withdrawn from the party at so critical a moment, have boycotted the Constitution, and retired to the country, there, it is averred by some, to organise an opposition consisting of the Narodny Club, Raditch's Peasants, and other oddments. But the Narodny Club press came out with a startling declaration to the effect that they did not want him. It was admitted that he had shared their policy with regard to the Constitution, because

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his own draft—which had provided for a wide degree of local autonomy to seven provinces—was not accepted, but, the Croats continued, M. Protitch is a Serb, a Serb patriot, and a "Great Serb," whose interests must clash with the purely Croatian policy of the National Club. They fear that his action has been a very crafty move to ensure the control of the Opposition elements; and that M. Protitch is really nothing but M. Pashitch in disguise. Now another interesting suggestion is made: that M. Pashitch is very desirous that his old lieutenant should rejoin him, and accept a portfolio in the reconstituted Cabinet, and that he has made him very attractive proposals. The chief obstacle to this is the personal anomisity which unfortunately exists between him and M. Pribitchevitch, which led to the break-up of the Coalition of 1919, and both are very strong, unyielding men. Some of the papers definitely state that Dr. Liuba Davidovitch has been exercising his influence on M. Pribitchevitch to induce him to let bygones be bygones, and even to cede the portfolio of the Interior to his former antagonist. The revelations of the Bolshevist plot have so profoundly stirred public opinion throughout the country, that it is quite probable that M. Protitch will accept the dangerous, but necessary and difficult post of defending the country against the black forces.

**New Survey.**

A new topographical survey of Serbia is now begun. Owing to a totally inadequate grant of funds, but little work had been done in this respect for many years, although the Director of the State Survey had succeeded in getting together a small staff, including several Russian engineers, and doing some very valuable work under conditions of considerable difficulty. This work will now be expanded and the cadastre reorganised and a new systematic land valuation made.

**A Social Club.**

A welcome addition to the social amenities of Belgrade is the club, which has secured excellent premises in Prince Michael St. Here the visitor who is introduced, or the resident member, will find very comfortable smoking-rooms and reading rooms, with the latest papers from England and France. The card room is always well patronised, there is a good American Bar, and a dining-room where a really excellent dinner is served, probably the best in Belgrade, at a trifling price. The club is, indeed, a boon to the foreign colony in Belgrade, whose thanks are due to the energetic and enterprising pioneers.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, August 3.*

**Political Movements.**

Following the ostentatious withdrawal of the entire Opposition from both Houses, an official notification was addressed to each retiring member, inviting him to state the motives of his absence from the sittings; else, according to regulation, his seat will be declared vacant. The various groups concerned, with the exception of the Liberals, who ignored this intimation, retorted that their withdrawal does not imply their resignation, and reiterated their unwillingness to co-operate further with the present Parliament, demanding its dissolution and also the resignation of the Cabinet. The leaders of these groups have, in turn, been received in audience by the King, to whom they expounded their grievances against Parliament and the Cabinet, urging on him the necessity of dismissing the Cabinet and holding fresh elections.

Public feeling was at first uneasy, but gradually became composed when Parliament calmly continued its work and the Cabinet transacted its daily business as usual. Soon afterwards, when Parliament was closed and the Royal Family and General Averescu went abroad for their health, it became evident that the settlement of dispute has been deferred until after the return of the King. The Opposition however, claims to have scored a success as the "Reshitza Bill," which was the main cause of the trouble, was not sent to the Senate in this session.

The Opposition, this time led by the Liberals, is determined to run a vigorous campaign to overthrow the Cabinet; the Liberals openly claim the power in collaboration with the Transylvanians. They greatly wish to preside at the Coronation festivities, which are fixed for the end of September, considering this as their due because they conducted the war and secured the union with the new provinces.

The other parties and groups are also playing for position, so as to have a connection with the Cabinet to come. The Federationist *bloc* has been dissolved by mutual agreement of the component parts. The Bessarabian party split into two sections, the one, under M. Inculetz, is leaning towards the Liberals; and the other, under M. Stere, may unite with the Peasant Party of the Old Kingdom. The National Transylvanians, under M. Maniu, are treating with the Liberals for a combined formation of the eventual future Cabinet, there is, however, a good number among them who distrust the Liberals. The Nationalist Democrats, under Jorga are holding aloof for the moment; they sympathise, however, with the Transylvanians. The Peasant Party, although against the continuance of the present Cabinet, is even more adverse to the advent to power of the Liberals. The other minor groups carry no weight. The present Cabinet which is formed of elements of the People's League under General Averescu, and Conservative Democrats under M. Take Jonescu, are well prepared to face the intended attack. Some suggest that it may win over the Peasant Party under certain conditions. The near future will show which course these cross-currents will take.

**Miscellaneous.**

The crowns which will serve for the coronation of the Sovereigns will be wrought by a great specialist firm in Paris; the gold and precious stones for their making have already been sent to Paris by a special courier.

Dr. M. Gaster, the well known philologist, in answer to an invitation from London has arrived in Roumania to give a series of lectures in the principal centres of Greater Roumania. He will spend a month in this country.

The Roumanian-Soviet delegations are carrying on their negotiations in the estuary of the Dniester without, so far, any apparent result. Meanwhile well-armed bands of Bolshevists, bent on pillaging, frequently cross the river at points where there are insufficient Roumanian garrisons, damaging the railway line, telegraphic and telephonic wires, also terrorizing and plundering the inhabitants. The military authorities are taking vigorous measures to cope with these outlaws.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, July 31.*

**Present and Future Reforms.**

A definite stage has now been reached in the negotiations between the Government and the Inter-Allied Commission. On the 26th M. Dashkaloff, Minister of Commerce, announced that the proposed law for the tax on capital would be withdrawn, and "Article 4" abrogated when the Sobranje re-assembled; that meantime no more cases will be proceeded with, and that the monopoly hitherto enjoyed by the Grain Consortium would be abolished. The Government is to be heartily congratulated on the decision they have taken anent these matters; and the Inter-Allied Commission on their firm attitude. The reforms, if properly carried out, will enormously enhance the prestige of the Government with all thinking people in the country. There is, however, a lot more to be done and one of the chief grievances that exists in the mind of the average citizen is the strict censorship that prevails, and a second is the "Centrale des Devises." The former is dealt with more fully below.

**A Quiet August.**

Sofia is preparing for a quiet August and more than half the Diplomatic representatives have gone on leave. It is announced that the King will leave Sofia next week for a holiday. He will probably spend some time at the Palace of Euxinograd, near Varna, and at his other

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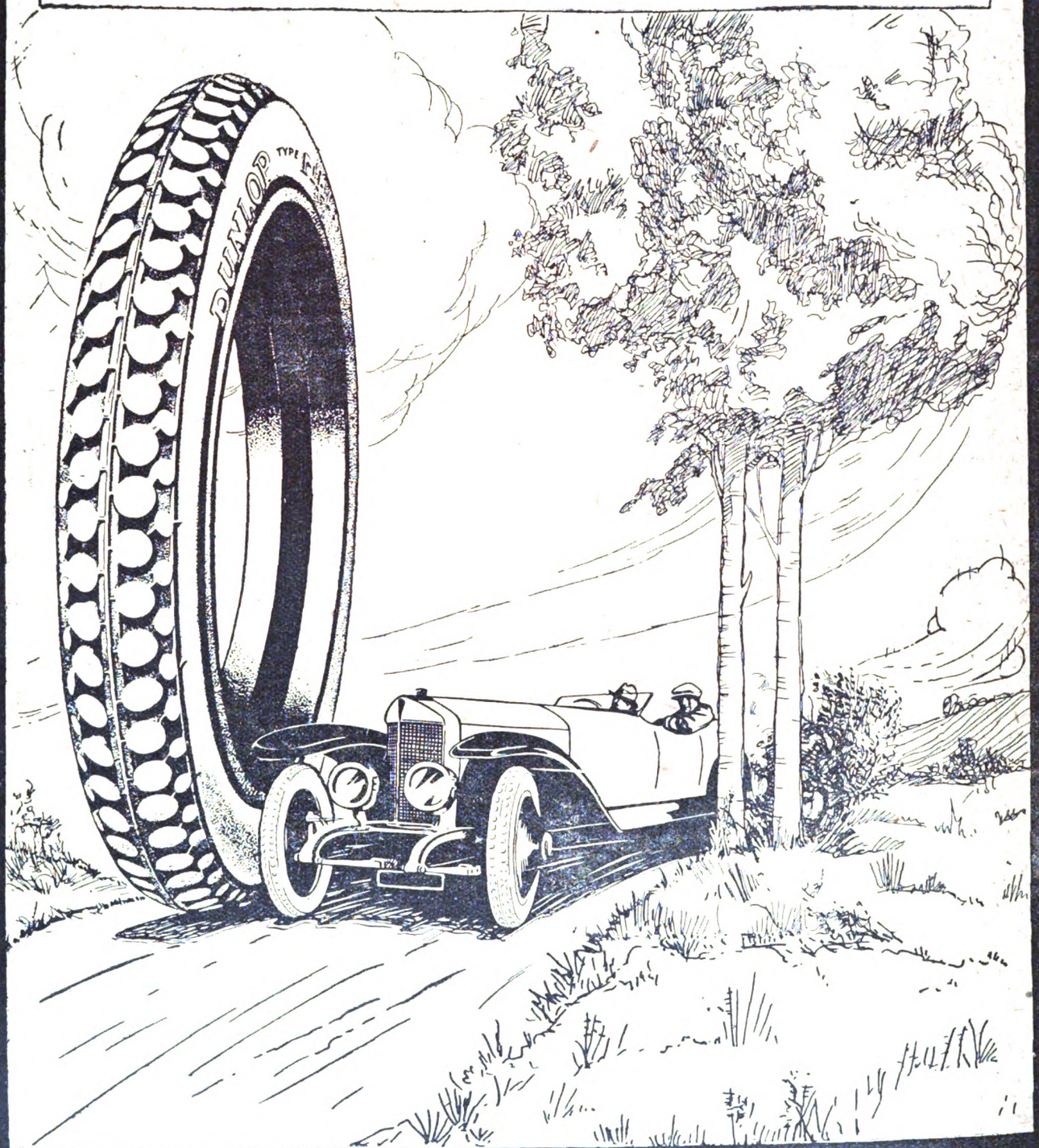


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places in the country. No more has been heard about the visit of the King and M. Stambolisky to the United States in the Autumn ; and in view of the Prime Minister being abroad at present and the numerous matters that will come up for consideration during the Autumn Session of the Sobranje, it seems probable that the visit to America will be at any rate postponed.

A great many Sofiotes have gone off to Varna, and it is reported that the town is so full that no more accommodation is available for visitors. The resorts near Sofia, such as Tchamkorea, Banki, and Gorna-Banya, also have their full quota of visitors, and as the weather is now very hot, the baths at the two latter places are largely patronised.

**The Censorship.**

During the war there was in Bulgaria a censorship exercised by the Military over the news appearing in the Press, on much the same lines as that in England. When the war came to an end, the censorship continued in a somewhat modified form, the object being to prevent any items of news creeping into the papers likely to be regarded as detrimental to the interests of the Allies, whose armies of occupation were then in the country. A little over a year ago the Allied occupation was finished but still the censorship is continued. It exerted a severe control over all news of external and internal interest. M. Dashkaloff, Minister of Commerce, was the Minister charged with the supervision of this work and by the majority of people his control was considered to be moderate and reasonable ; but last January M. Omarchevsky, Minister of Public Instruction, succeeded M. Dashkaloff, and the censorship became much more severe.

Regarding external news there is a good deal to be said for the continuance of a censorship as there are unfortunately some writers, who,if altogether unchecked, might do grave harm to Bulgaria, by unwise and inaccurate statements. But as to internal affairs, there would seem to be no real reason against the freedom of the Press being allowed full play. As the situation is at present no article containing a remark which might be regarded as even slightly damaging to the Governments interests is allowed to appear. Thus, the opposition parties cannot print their opinions, so they circulate them about the country by letter or word of mouth, and the outcome is apt to lead to a very exaggerated idea being taken of various events. If there was no censorship, criticisms would be exhausted all the earlier, and many matters would die a natural death instead of being prolonged for many weary months. It is to be hoped that when the Sobranje meets the question of the continuation of the censorship will be considered as much in the interests of the Government itself as of the country at large.

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*Sofia, August* 5.

**The Question of the Army.**

The expectation that August would be a quiet month has not been fulfilled. At the end of last week a telegram was received by the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control from the Council of Ambassadors, stating that Article 65 of the Peace Treaty, which lays down that the Bulgarian Army must be a voluntary one, must be enforced by October 10. At first sight, the Bulgarian Government would appear to have three alternatives:—they can refuse to comply with the Allies' demands, which is extremely unlikely, as a refusal would only mean the putting into force of " sanctions ; " they can endeavour to carry on without any Army, which is also extremely unlikely, unless they can persuade one or more of the Great Powers to take the country under its protection in a military sense ; or they can try to raise a voluntary army at all costs. As to the first of these alternatives the present Government know well that their neighbours are not inclined to over-friendliness, and that any open and serious breach of the Peace Treaty would be immediately followed by warlike action. Against the armed forces of two or three of the neighbouring powers Bulgaria would to-day stand no chance of success. In fact even to try conclusions would mean complete ruin for her. The second alternative does not offer much greater chances of success. Without an armed force, it is practically impossible for any Government to rule Bulgaria. Order has to be maintained within the country and along the frontiers, and if the Government is not supported by an armed force, there is every chance that the Communists may become strong and gradually assume the upper hand. If a Communistic Government came, into power they would probably overthrow the King and the Constitution, ally Bulgaria with Moscow and Angora, and create internal disturbances in a country that during the last three years has left itself absolutely quiet. There is always the possiblity that the present Government might appeal for protection to the Great Powers ; but it is difficult to see which Power would be willing to send a more or less permanent armed force to Bulgaria.

We thus come to the third and last alternative : the raising at all costs of a voluntary army. At present there are about 300 voluntary recruits and roughly 2,500 officers and N.C.O.'s, who will form part of the new army. In fact, no real progress has been made in the task of recruiting volunteers. The Government claim to have done all that lies in their power to obtain recruits, but without being exceptional regarding their efforts, one feels that more can yet be done in the way of persuasion, advertisment, and the granting of more favourable terms. First of all, the pay must be raised to at least 1,000 levas a month for a private soldier. In addition to this he must be well fed, housed, and clothed. In this connection it is worth noting that about 18 months ago a suggestion was made to the Minister of War by an influential Allied officer, that a party of Bulgarian officers should proceed to England for the purpose of studying the administrative side of our army. Nothing has so far come of this suggestion, but even now it is not too late.

The great difficulty that stands in the way of obtaining voluntary service is undoubtedly Article 72 of the Peace Treaty, which ordains that all N.C.O.'s and men shall sign on for 12 years. In a country such as Bulgaria, where up to now voluntary service has been unheard of, it is not easy to prevail on the citizens and peasants to sign on for such a period. Under the old régime, all males were accustomed to regard 2 years of their life as given up to military service ; but there is a vast difference between two years and twelve years, and besides, this, while service was formerly universal, it now effects only a relatively small proportion of the male population.

**An Inter-Allied View.**

If the Government makes another and more determined effort to recruit a voluntary army, it must be borne in mind, they stand the chance of meeting with opposition from the Commission whose duty it is to see that the indemnity is paid. For it stands to reason that if a vast sum of money is to be expended on the army, there will be less money available for the indemnity. In the circumstances the Bulgarian Government will surely have the right to say : " We are only complying with the orders and wishes of the Allies in creating a voluntary army." Thus we get a vicious circle, and it is not easy to see a way out of it.

Many people are of the opinion that the continuance of a compulsory army of 33,000 inclusive would be a danger to no one, as all the neighbouring States have much bigger armies, and apart altogether from this there are and will continue to be in Bulgaria for the next 10 to 15 years, approximately three-quarters of a million men who are fully trained soldiers, and whom all the Peace Treaties in the world cannot stamp out. As these soldiers really exist, does it matter, whether the 33,000 men actually in the army are conscripts or volunteers ? For there are surely big issues at stake; it cannot be in the interests of the Allies to have yet another European country plunged into disturbances. Before it is too late would it not be possible for a thorough study of the matter to be made on the spot by Allied experts ? The

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reasons for suggesting such a course are strengthened by the knowledge that the majority of the members of the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control in Bulgaria do not see exactly eye to eye with the Council of Ambassadors in this question of the creation of the future Bulgarian Army.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, August 8.*

**Bombastes Furioso.**

During the lull which has followed the battle of Kutahia, it has been possible to obtain a fairly accurate estimate of the net result of the operations that came to a temporary conclusion with the fall of Eskishehir; and whilst there can be no doubt as to the positive victory of the Greek army, it is none the less certain that the reports of the practical annihilation of the Kemalist Army were false and misleading. Far from being destroyed, the Turkish army on the Western front seems to have been able to escape the double enveloping movement of the Greek army with the loss of not more than thirty per cent. of its rifle strength and artillery force. This is, of course, only a rough estimate; but it means that the Kemalist army is still a force to be considered, and that peace is not a whit nearer, in spite of the Greek victory. In the circumstances it is a pity that the Greek Government should permit the circulation of exaggerated information, and put every possible obstacle in the way of the transmission of information tending to correct the erroneous impressions made thereby. Falsehood comes home to roost sooner or later, and the Greeks would gain rather than lose if the Turkish version were allowed to be made known and proved false. Such has been the policy of the Greek Government in this connection, however, that even the muzzled press of Athens has protested. No doubt there will soon be another offensive, and this time the objective will be Angora itself, but there are no signs that the prospect of having to evacuate their capital has daunted the resolution of the Kemalist leaders. There has been no announcement of any modification of the terms of the National Pact, and rumours concerning any secret negotiations between the Greeks and the Kemalists may be regarded as sheer inventions at the present moment. Whether the position will in any way be altered if the Greeks succeed in capturing the Kastamuni-Angora-Konia line remains to be seen, but it is extremely doubtful. In fact, unless the Allies decide to intervene, and succeed in persuading both sides to accept their intervention, there is every prospect of a winter campaign.

**The Central Government.**

One of the principal factors in the failure of Constitutional Government in Turkey has been the complete absence of a virile and honest opposition to the Committee of Union and Progress. The only party that has opposed the Committee, the Entente Libérale, has been regarded as completely futile owing to its having been unable to produce a practical programme which would appeal to any considerable section of the nation. The principal consideration of its members has always been the spoils of office. Once again the party has proved true to its traditions, and the disturbance of public opinion caused by the Greek victory has been seized as an opportunity for the development of intrigues whereby this pasha or that bey may become Ministers. Fortunately, by this time all the Allied High Commissions seem to have taken the measure of the Opposition, and there is little likelihood of a change of Cabinet in such a manner as further to complicate an already too intricate situation.

**Turko-Italian Relations.**

Considerable amusement has been caused by the sudden transformation of the friendly relations between the Italians and the Kemalists into such as exist between the Kemalists and the other Allied Powers. The refusal of the Turkish authorities at Adalia to permit the Italians to arrest a Turk who had shot an Italian subject and the attempt of the Italians to effect the arrest by force were merely indications of the change in the direction of the wind. As a matter of fact there had been a change in Nationalist opinion soon after the fall of the Giolitti Cabinet; and it must be frankly admitted that the Italians have only themselves to blame. Ever since the Armistice Italian policy in the Near East has been of a doubtful nature, and so far as the Turks are concerned it has not hitherto been such as to inspire either awe or respect.

**The Bolshevist "Menace."**

There is still no confirmation whatever of the entry into Antolia of either Bolshevist troops or of Bolshevist generals. Whatever the future may bring forth, it is pretty certain for the time being there is no prospect of the Greeks having to face a Red Army in Anatolia. It is rather curious that whilst it is maintained on the one hand that the Turks are responsible for the raising of the Bolshevist bogey, it is affirmed in some quarters that the Greek Government hopes to escape from its embarassments by involving the Allies in a conflict with the Bolshevists over the Anatolian question. It may be admitted that the Greek Government has little to learn in regard to diplomatic finesse, but the former theory is far the more credible of the two. At the same time, there can be little doubt that without Bolshevist assistance, the Kemalist movement would have collapsed long ago.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia July 26.*

**Greek Rejoicings.**

The Greek victories at Kutahia and Eskishehir have caused enthusiastic manifestations of joy in all Greek quarters. Thanksgiving services have been held in the churches, and a telegram has been dispatched to King Constantine by the Archbishop, congratulating the King and the Army, and espressing hopes that these triumphs will be followed by the liberation of "all enslaved Hellenism" under the King's sceptre. A similar telegram has been sent to the Foreign Minister at Athens. On July 22 a service was held in the Cathedral church of St. John, in memory of the Greek Archbishop Kyprianos and others, both clergy and laity, who were put to death at Nicosia in July 1821, by the Turkish Government for complicity, real or alleged, in connection with the Greek rebellion.

**A Banished "Patriot."**

It may be remembered that the Archbishop and Greek members of the Legislative Council recently sent a petition to the Colonial Secretary, protesting against the expulsion of M. Katalanos from Cyprus. The Acting Chief Secretary has replied, by direction of the High Commissioner, that the Secretary of State has fully satisfied himself that M. Katalanos is "a danger to peace and good order" in Cyprus, and that he cannot be allowed to return. A similar reply has been sent to the Nicosia School Committee, who petitioned for his return. The truth is that this notorious agitator and "patriot" should have been deported 10 or 15 years ago. He has been a very undesirable instructor of budding "politicians" in the island.

**The Summer Season.**

The attractions of Mount Troodos and of Platres, a few miles below the "Camp," continue to bring an increasing number of visitors from Egypt. It must not be imagined that there are not many other attractive heights in other parts of the island. But hotels and houses to let, have not yet been built elsewhere. At present in the East of the island, in the Famagusta district, there is limited accommodation in the mountain range, in which stand the interesting and picturesque ruins of the Kantara Castle that have fascinated so many travellers. Here is one of the most beautiful spots in Cyprus, whence magnificent views are obtained. There is a supply of cold, pure water. A few houses are available, and when additions to these are made in the future, the place should become a very favourite

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one. There has been some more rain. This summer will long be remembered for the torrential and damaging storms of June. The general outlook for carobs and vines continues to be satisfactory.

## ALBANIA.

*Tirana. August 1.*

**Albania and the Ambassadors' Conference.**

So long ago as April the Albanian case for independence was considered by the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris, yet since the commission of experts discussed the question on July 6 practically nothing has been done. For this delay there are various reasons. First, the Conference could not make a unanimous decision: England wishes above all—so at least we are told—to guarantee the absolute independence of Albania, without recognising any special right or privilege in Albania to any foreign power. On the other hand, it is stated that the Marquis della Torreta talks of "the particular interests of Italy" in Albania, at the same time giving his assurances on her indepedence! This pretention is a hollow one, for it is known here that Italy made certain reservations in her decision upon the future of Albania, endeavouring to secure for herself certain rights and privileges not yet determined. And England for her part alluded to a rectification of the Albanian frontier in favour of Serbia and of Greece. It really looks very much as if the Conference of Ambassadors will do nothing towards a solution of the Albanian problem, and it is doubtful whether the Supreme Council concerns itself with the matter.

Political circles and semi-official groups here do not conceal their astonishment. On all hands you may hear it said that the Conference of Ambassadors does not busy itself with either the integrity or the independence of Albania, although these two rights were recognised in 1913. What this country demands at the present moment is the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with other Powers, and the evacuation of her soil by Serbs and Greeks.

It is still considered here that the Conference has no right thus to put the question of Albania in the background and to view the whole matter from the stand-point of the secret treaty of 1915.

**On the Frontier.**

The efforts of the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris seem to encourage the Serbs and the Greeks. The Belgrade authorities persist in their frontier intrigues, terrorising the inhabitants of Louma—a purely Albanian region, but occupied by Yugoslav troops since 1918—and trying to induce them to make common cause with Marko Gjoni. But the mountaineers of Louma, and also those of Mirdita have refused to obey the Serbian threats. Greek marauding bands are reported in the South. In the face of these menaces the possiblity of mobilisation is being discussed.

**Stormy Sittings.**

The Albanian Parliament had decided to telegraph to the British, French, Italian, and American Governments, to draw their attention to the excesses committed daily by the Yugoslav authorities on the Albanians of Kossova. It had also deemed it expedient to draw the attention of the Skupshtina at Belgrade to this point. Here was an opportunity for the two neighbouring nations to establish relationship; but the Skupshtina answered with a denial of the acts complained of, and giving its approval of the civil and military authorities.

Whereupon several Albanian deputies on July 28 spoke at length upon the Serbian excesses; according to some the number of Albanians massacred by the Serbs since the Balkan War of 1913 was 85,767, of whom 12,000 were killed during the last two months. Among the numerous villages destroyed by fire there are seven new ones situated in the districts of Djakova:—Tablamitza, Baoshi, Stonza, Triutch, Decian, Tsernorbrek, Babailutch. The speakers further described a Serb organisation called "Tserna-Ruka" (the Black Hand), the aim of which is the extermination of the Albanian element at Kossova, to replace them by Russians who have just come from Russia.

**Demonstration at Chimara.**

Your readers have already been told of the change which Chimara has suffered and of the loyal union of this district with the rest of Albania, a union which was dictated by political and economic reasons. It appears that patriotic sentiments are growing fast at Chimara, for yesterday a huge meeting was held as a protest against the pretentions of the Greeks.

**Civil and Judicial Administration.**

In connection with the intrigiues of the Mirdite chief, Marko Gjoni, military forces were conveyed to the mountains of his districts; these forces have as yet had to undergo no engagement. The Tirana Government has taken advantage of the occasion to enlarge the civil, military, and judicial organisation in this region; and in conjunction with this the construction of several roads to improve the economic situation of the country is contemplated.

*Tirana, August 2.*

The Serbs are following a crooked policy. They declare that they wish to see an independent Albania, with the frontiers of 1913, yet they intrigue against and attack Albania. Last May M. Pashitch promised the Albanian delegate, M. Ali Riza Kolonia, that Serbia would thenceforth refrain from hostile action against her small neighbour; but the promise is hardly borne out by facts. The other day we had the incident of Marko Gjoni, the blind tool of the Serbs. That manoeuvre having failed, the Serbs have had recourse to force openly: two majors of the Reserve of the Yugoslav Army, with 1,200 *Komitajis*, crossed the frontier on July 31, with the intention of stirring up the Mirdites. But the Mirdites, thankful to be freed from Marko Gjoni, and his intrigues, took up arms and uniting with the Albanian *gendarmerie*, put the invaders to flight. The latter were driven across the frontier, losing fourteen killed and 31 prisoners.

**New Postage Stamps.**

Albania has hitherto used Austrian postage stamps, which have been surcharged. She has now had printed two new series of stamps, one ordinary and one for taxed letters. The ordinary series has a design showing a double-headed eagle, with the head of Skanderbeg in the centre. There are six stamps: Of 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50 centimes, and of 1 franc. The other series shows a view of Durazzo and comprises 4 stamps—of 4, 10, 20 and 50 centimes. Postage on a newspaper for a foreign country is 2 centimes, of a postcard 10, and of a letter 25 centimes.

## ZIONISM, AMERICA, AND GREAT BRITAIN.

In a letter received in England last week the writer, an American whose name is familiar to many readers of *The Near East* in connection with Palestinian affairs, says:—

"Having worked there, I know how dangerous a movement political Zionism is. We have over three and a half million Jews in America; they have been quite deceived by the Zionist leaders and have an absolutely false impression of Palestine and the Palestinians. For example, Dr. Weizmann on his recent visit to America appealed for 50,000 American Jews to emigrate in a year to Palestine. Of course if they went, there would be a tragedy, for the people do not want them and the country could not support them. When the attempt to found a Jewish state in Palestine—the aim of the Zionists—fails, as fail it must, American Jews who are asked to raise eighty million dollars for the movement, will cast all the blame on England. More bitter feeling will then be stirred up between Great Britain and America, and we shall have a body larger, more powerful and more fanatical than Sinn Fein attacking England and trying to embroil our two nations."

## PALESTINE SCHOOLS.

The Government of Palestine has made arrangements to distribute grants-in-aid to non-Government schools, based mainly on the average attendance of pupils; and a central education committee of four Moslems, three Jews, and three Christians has been formed. Since January last 34 new village schools, providing elementary education for 1,360 children, have been opened, while 46 State-aided schools, provided in villages by the inhabitants, have been taken over by the Government. An additional 35 schools will be opened during the current financial year, and measures are being taken for the development of the two training colleges that have been established—one for men and another for women—with the object of providing places for 130 students by September next. Teachers are also being appointed to live among the Bedouin tribes and teach their children.

So comprehensive is the education scheme of the Government that at the present rate of progress the whole country will be covered with schools within a period of four years. Under the arrangements now in force the people of the villages provide the buildings with furniture and keep them in repair, while the Government pays the salaries of the teachers and meets other costs of maintenance.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

**Greece.**

In the *Contemporary Review* of August, Mr. Harold Spender writes on "The Resurrection of Greece." After tracing in vivid detail the story of Greek efforts towards independence up to the Battle of Navarino, he concludes :—

How was it that the peoples of Europe insisted on saving Greece, despite the opposition of the Chanceries and the indifernce of the European Statesmen. What was it in Greece that redeemed her from the squabbles of her leaders and the blunders of her generals? Without doubt, it was the dogged and desperate heroism of the mass of the Greek people. It was the self-sacrifice of the multitiude which glorified the contest. In the wonderful closing episode of the siege of Missolonghi, when a whole population marched to death rather than surrender to the Turk, you have only the most vivid example of this war of self immolation. Above the squalid details of factious strife between the rival Greek chieftains, with which the letters of Stanhope and the memoirs of Trelawney are filled, there emerges always the valour of the Greek sailors and the Greek peasantry both on the mainland and in the islands. Here was a nation of little more than 1,000,000 struggling against an Empire of 20,000,000. Yet such was their defiance of death, such was their splendid disdain of life, that the Turkish hosts proved powerless in face of that spirit. That was the "glory which was Greece." That was the splendour which inflamed Europe with a kindred enthusiasm.

To-day we are face to face with what is essentially the same situation. In front of the stage we see the same factiousness of the Greek parties, the same incurable turbulence of her politicians. But in the background there stands the same wonderful people, remaining under arms long after the rest of Europe has been demobilised, unstinted in sacrifice, unsparing in endurance, and making the same appeal to us as their forefathers made a hundred years ago—the appeal of light against darkness, of the future against the pat, of freedom against slavery.

"We are all Greeks," wrote Shelley, in that magnificent way of his, in the splendid preface to "Hellas," written in the first year of the War of Independence. "We are all Greek, Our laws, our literature, our religion, our arts have their roots in Greece."

That is the unbreakable tie. That is the immortal bond.

**Persia and Mesopotamia.**

The *Christian World* of August 4 pleads for a strong policy in regard to our difficulties in the Middle East. It feels that British action in this region is dictated by daily expediency. On the "mess" that has been made in Persia, and on the fact that the Foreign Secretary could offer no advice or remedy, it says :—

It is not only in North Persia, where Russian influence has always been dominant, that British influences have collapsed, but in the South as well, where a close connection has always been maintained by us with North-West India. There was a corps of South Persian Rifles maintained by British contributions and doing admirable work in policing the caravan routes and curbing the dangerous predatory tribes infesting the trade arteries from India to Seistan. This force is to be disbanded when the British contribution is exhausted, and it is easy to foresee the blow that will fall in consequence on the trade of the South, and on the prestige of the Empire. When this corps disappears all that we have built up in South Persia will be left defenceless. With the gradual decay of our power that of Russia is bound to increase, and is already increasing.

The use which the Bolshevists intend to make of Persia remains to be seen, but it is a fact that recent occurrences have placed Persia more than ever at their mercy. The Bolshevists are well entrenched in Turkestan and Transcaucasia. They have become less aggressive than they were a year ago, but there they are, and wherever they are their presence must always be a menace to settled government. In Teheran there is a Russian Jew acting as Soviet Minister whose attitude towards this country is one of avowed hostility. That this Rothstein will do his utmost to destroy our remaining influence in Persia is certain. He will not succeed in converting the Persians to communism, but the venal Persian officials will be his faithful servants. And what about the esxtension of Rothstein's activities into Afghanistan? Are we taking any steps to see that the undertaking of the Bolshevists to refrain from any attempt to encourage the peoples of Asia in any form of hostile action against British interests or the British Empire is being faithfully carried out? Without being too pessimistic regarding the facts of Persia in the near future, we cannot but feel deeply concerned at the course her Government is pursuing. Hitherto Persia has been a country with which we have had the warmest sympathy, and on which we have spent millions of money. But Persia now appears, as Lord Curzon points out, to be marching of its own accord towards an end which we cannot attempt to forecast, but which cannot possibly be otherwise than unfortunate. The danger of interfering in the affairs of Persia is evident, but now that she has determined to pursue her own courses might it not be well to forsake our attitude of passivity, and to consider whether the Russian Trade Agreement does not give us a means of protecting our interests in the neighbourhood of India? ..

But on Mesopotamia the article is much more cheerful :—

Our task in Mesopotamia, after all, is a very simple one. It has been complicated by the grandiose ambitions of those who would regard us as a triumphant military Supremacy in the Middle East. This we can never be, and no temptation should ever induce us to adopt any such insane policy. Our business is Mesopotamia is simply and alone to aid the people in establishing a good government, under which every man in the land shall feel himself free and prosperous. Our business is to place the ripe experiences we have gained elsewhere, in administration and in the development of neglected lands, at the disposal of the people of Mesopotamia, and to avoid all and everything that our critics and enemies may regard as self-seeking. Our position in Persia is endangered and almost lost because of our reluctance to fulfil our commitments there. What we are doing in Mesopotamia may loom vast and dangerous in the eyes of those who neglect to gauge and weigh the tremendous burden upon us in the Middle East, but with patience, and a clearer understanding of our grave responsibilities there, we shall arrive at those just conclusions of action and conduct which have never failed us in the past.

**Articles to Note.**

"The New Indian Legislatures at Delhi," by Sir George Barnes, K.C.B., K.C.S.I.; and "The Balkans to-day," by Noel Buxton, in the *Nineteenth Century* (August.) "An Adventure with Arabs," in *Blackwood* (August). "The Resurrection of Greece," by Harold Spender; and "Dante and Islam," by Professor Sir T. W. Arnold, C.I.E., Litt. D. in the *Contemporary Review* (August). "Present Conditions in India," by Sir Michael F. O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.T.; "The Palestine Government," by Horace B. Samuel; "The Danube as an International Highway," by H. Charles Woods; and "A Neglected Genius: Sir Richard Burton," by Arthur Symons in the *Fortnightly Review* (August).

## TERROR IN GEORGIA.

The Georgian Information Bureau has sent us the following telegram, received from Constantinople :—"As the result of the arrival in Georgia of the Moscow Commissar, Stalin, repression and the policy of Russification have been more rigorously instituted. The President of the Revolutionary Committee of Georgia, Philip Makharadze, has been replaced by Dudu Mdivani, the Ex-Bolshevist representative at Angora. On July 12, the arrest took place of leading public men, among whom are two very well-known leaders, Sylvester Djibladze (the founder of the Social Democratic Party) and Isidor Ramichvhili, also Dgebauadze (a worker), Chiabrishvhili, Lomtatidze (Vice-President of the Constituent Assembly), and N. Tasintsadze (Assistant Minister for Education), the population is in a state of great indignation; the visit of Stalin to the workers' quarter of Tiflis took place amid great obstruction."

A very interesting article on a "Philistine coin from Lachish," by E. J. Pilcher, and one upon "The Phaestos Disc," by Prof R. A. S. Macalister, are the outstanding features of the current *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The report of the Annual General Meeting is also included.

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MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## THE PERSIAN GULF.

**"Le Golfe Persique." Par R. Vadala.**
(Paris: Rousseau et Cie. 10 Fr.)

It is a wild, rock-girt stretch of water, the Persian Gulf, full of dangers for the incautious navigator, and able, in parts and at times, to give points to the Red Sea in the matter of heat and general discomfort. But it is not without a fascination of its own: Elphinstone's inlet, one of the most wonderful natural harbours in the world, is but one of the places in the Gulf that would make an ideal haunt for the Pirate of Romance, if it were not for its climate, which is a near approach to that of Jehannum; many of the little ports and villages along the coast have an out-of-the-way air that lends them attraction; and the history of the Gulf in the past century, at any rate, is full of interest for Englishmen. For it is due to the British Navy that these waters are safe for peaceful merchantmen even to-day, that slavery has been almost—but *not* quite—suppressed, and that the waters have been charted, and in places, buoyed and lighted. Moreover, if prosperity such as that which it knew in the days when it tempted Albuquerque is ever to return to it, it will surely be chiefly due to our efforts. Our record there is one of which we may well be proud, and in which the littlest of Little Englanders would find it hard to pick holes.

In "Le Golfe Persique" M. R. Vadala gives us much information about this region, which he has studied on the spot, in the service of his country; and the book will be almost as interesting to English readers as to French. Indeed, English readers who know the Gulf may find a new pleasure in seeing it through French spectacles, and they will be grateful to the author for his generous recognition of what Britain has accomplished in these waters. The author's principal aim, it is very evident throughout his book, is to interest his own countrymen in the Gulf and, if possible, to stir them to renewed commercial activities there; but he gives the impression that he has almost lost hope of achieving his purpose, and his frank acknowledgement of our commercial success is therefore all the more generous and pleasing.

To be quite candid, the French never seem to have made any very determined effort to capture the trade of the Gulf, or even to obtain any great share of it. The first representatives of France in that region, according to M. Vadala, were certain Carmelites who were sent out early in the 17th Century, and these were generally Italians; and it was not until the following century that the Compagnie des Indes moved in the matter of the appointment of a lay and purely commercial consul at Busreh. M. Martinville, the first French consul then arrived in June 1739, and seems to have had some trouble to get himself recognised. He died at his post in November, 1741, and was succeeded by an Orientalist of some repute, M. Otter. In those days, when quinine was unknown in the Gulf, the climate and conditions of life played havoc with Europeans, and the early representatives of France's commercial interests came and went at very short intervals. The introduction of the drug has effected a real amelioration in this respect—our author assures us that the natives prefer the quinine of Paris to any other, a fact which we had not observed for ourselves—but our French friends seem never to have taken kindly to the Gulf, and in spite of spasmodic efforts to obtain a larger share of the shipping and trade, they still leave this field very largely alone. M. Vadala believes that it could be made profitable to the Marseilles shipowners and merchants; but these interests evidently think otherwise. An examination of the stastistics given in the book (pp. 52-84) inclines us to share the latter point of view.

What the author has to say regarding the relations between the Persians and the Arabs—who form the bulk of the coastal population— is interesting. He gives us the impression that he prefers the latter, and of the former he remarks that (on the coast) they have done nothing themselves. Their Customs, their posts, their telegraphs, their rare steamboats, are run only under European direction, and their Government takes very little interest in its southern coastal region, from which it is separated by wide regions infested by tribes which do not wish to recognise its authority. If not exhilarating, the picture is a true one. Like every one else who has ever given the subject of the Persian 'Navy' a thought, M. Vadala evidently finds it an amusing one; but he is far more polite about it than some other writers.

At the end of the books there are classified lists of works—historical, geographical, political, etc.—dealing with the Gulf. These are useful, but when they are revised for another edition, M. Vadala should surely include H. J. Whigham's "The Persian Problem," and Colonel S. B. Miles's "The Countries and Tribes of the Persian Gulf." 'Curiously, the reports of the latter and of Major (now Colonel) E. Mockler for 1882 & 1883, are included among the 'Documents Officiels;' but no later reports. The lists are, however, useful, and the book as a whole is very interesting.

## STAGE SET FOR DESERT SCENE.

**"Under Desert Stars." By Kathlyn Rhodes.**
(London: Hutchinson, 8s. 6d. net.)

The million people who have, according to advertisement, bought copies of Miss Rhodes' stories must, one imagines, like to see the authoress pulling the wires to make her little marionettes move on a carpet of yellow desert against a star-sprinkled background, preferring not to run the risk of having their emotions touched by any attempt to represent some "breathing human passion" or to create beings which might at least appear to move of their own accord. Miss Rhodes certainly treats her four chief figures as if they were dummies, and she never fails to make use of them to display some fresh and carefully described arrangement of wearing apparel each time that they are made to re-appear on the scene. The four figures are a heroine, another girl, a hero and a villain. Cynthia, the heroine, has an unfortunate past, as she has on two occasions stolen jewellery, but we are told that this is really to be regarded as an act of filial piety. Certainly an extraordinary succession of coincidences had made her thefts most temptingly easy. Her fiancé is told of this chapter in her past life by the villain—who had acted at the time as her evil genius—and he leaves her in Egypt to fend for herself. She then becomes the paid companion of the other girl, Olga, who has been brought to Egypt by an anxious father, partly for her health and partly in order to nip in the bud a love affair with the villain. The villain follows her out and makes matters very difficult for Cynthia, and for the hero, whose blue eyes, we are repeatedly told, are usually laughing, but whenever we meet him they are very grave, rather naturally in the trying circumstances, as he has a very short respite between the breaking off of Cynthia's first engagement and the discovery that she has been a jewel thief. The villain pursues his wickedness until it brings him to a violent end, Olga learns sense, and Cynthia and her hero are borne away to England and happiness. And we have a satisfactory feeling that the starry back cloth has been rolled up and the puppets carefully packed away in their box.

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## THE CASE OF THE PALESTINE DELEGATION.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

There arrived in England on August 2, a deputation of seven influential Natives of Palestine, who have been delegated by the Moslem and Christian Committee to represent the case of their country to the British people. The Delegation is composed of four Moslem and three Christian gentlemen, who are well fitted to state the case of the Syrian natives of Palestine in England, where, at present, it is hardly known.

Certain facts of elementary justice support their case. The Syrians are the descendants of the ancient Canaanites, who were dispossessed of their land by successive conquests, but were never expelled. Though they are now unquestionably of very mixed blood, they do represent the ancient stock, and are as much the natives of the land as are the Scots, or the Britons, or the Welsh, of theirs. Of the entire population of Palestine, at least 80 per cent. are Moslem Syrians, and 12 per cent. Christians. The Syrians are naturally agriculturists, traders, shop-keepers; in these branches of labour they have been eminently successful wherever they have had a free hand, and these are branches of labour essential to the reconstruction of Palestine to-day. They have proved themselves also in Egypt and the Sudan as exceedingly able seconds in Government positions, and they can be loyal.

The Syrian case is briefly this. During the long years of Turkish tyranny, they, the natives of the land, bore the full brunt of an alien rule; the Turk was a blight upon every place he touched, and to the last he remained a hated stranger in the territories he had seized. The Syrian population (united under British rule as never before in all their long history), whether Christian or Moslem, ask nothing better than that Great Britain should rule Palestine absolutely, garrison it, improve it, control it; and that, under Great Britain, they should be allowed an equal chance to work it. They protest against any preferential treatment of the Jews, whom they regard as foreigners. They protest against the policy which opens their country to invasion by thousands of foreigners from all parts of the world, whose entry is so loosely controlled as to be practically unchecked. They contend that these immigrants, chiefly from Russia and Poland, are foreigners only, speaking the tongue of the country just left and no other; foreigners, who have never seen Palestine before; illiterate, uneducated. It is urged by those responsible for the rush of immigrants that Palestine can easily support a much larger population than it has at present. That is true but *not yet*. The country has been blasted by a rule more devastating than any plague of locusts; it needs care and time before it can support a normal population. The high prices prevailing in Palestine are one proof of its inability as yet to provide for a rise in population which is forced and not natural. There are not buildings to house them, nor fuel to warm them, and the result is suffering and hardship all round. Skilled labour is needed, and capital, evenly expended. A carefully selected and controlled imigration of this type would meet with general welcome.

The Syrians ask for an even chance in Palestine. They realize that their land has been won in open fight, and that conquest entails certain rights to the conquerors; but they ask a fair chance to make good in their own country; a free hand to prove to the world their loyalty to the Power that liberated them, and their ability to work their country under its aegis.

The Delegation, sent by the people of Palestine, believe that they have a sound case and a just plea; and that the apathy of people in England as regards the Syrian cause is simply the result of ignorance about it. They are confident that British justice will give them a fair and free hearing, in the Press and in all ways. Whether they succeed in their highest hopes, time alone can show; but if they can convince the people of this country of the justice of their claim, it *will* be carried — now or later.

## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**TO-DAY.**

August 18 (New Style).
August 5 (Old Style).
Julhijja 14, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab. 14, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord Allenby arrived in London on August 12.

Prince Paul of Serbia, left London last week for Paris.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala has arrived at Carlsbad from London.

The Maharaja of Indore has left London for Paris, and later will go to Switzerland.

On August 10, at 17, Cambridge Square, W.2., a son was born to the wife of Humphrey E. Bowman, Director of Education, Palestine Government.

The marriage arranged between Flying Officer W. G. Nicholl, R.A.F., and Miss Sydney Gedge will take place in India in October.

Sheikh Kidwai, of the Indian Moslem Mission, returned to London last week from Paris, where he has had conferences with the Aga Khan and Bekir Sami Bey.

The marriage of Major A. W. Daldy, I.A., and Marjory Louise, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel F. Fisher, I.A., and second daughter of Mrs. Grantham, Bexhill, will take place on September 1, at All Saints' Church, Knightsbridge.

The Persian Heir Apparent and his consort, who arrived last week at Alexandria on their way to Constantinople, have accepted an invitation to stay for a week at the Antoniadis Villa, in Alexandria, as the guest of the Sultan.

The engagement is announced between Douglas Ashby, second son of the late Silvanus Ashby and Mrs. Ashby, of 37, Vernon-terrace, Brighton, and Irene, third daughter of Mrs. Sills and the late Mr. Francis Sills, of Calonne road, Wimbledon, and Bengal, P.W.D.

The marriage arranged between Captain Herbert Pease, D.S.O., Western Arab Corps, Egyptian Army, and the Hon. Cynthia Chaloner, third daughter of Lord and Lady Gisborough, will take place at Gisborough, Yorkshire, on September 28.

The marriage between Violet, daughter of Sir David and Lady Hughes-Morgan, Penally House, Pem, and Mr. Brian Alexander Spencer-Lewin will take place at the Cathedral, Bombay. Miss Hughes-Morgan is sailing in September, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mathias, of Penally.

### DEATH OF KING PETER.

As we go to press we learn from a *Reuter* message from Belgrade that King Peter, King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, died on Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock. King Peter had been in very indifferent health for a long time, and it will be remembered that in June a report of his death reached this country. We published an appreciation of his person and career in our issue of June 23.

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The marriage between Captain F. A. I. Richardson (late of the Lincolns), second son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Richardson, of Hampstead, and Eileen, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hollis, of Angmering-on-Sea, Sussex, will take place at Colombo on or about October 10.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Bombay late in September, between Flight-Lieutenant David S. Don, Royal Air Force, late R.N., only child of Mrs. Sargant, 40, Park-lane, and Mary Monica, elder daughter of Mrs. MacDermott, 59, Redcliffe-gardens, S.W.10.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly at Dar-es-Salaam, between Captain James Frederic Godman, second surviving son of Percy S. Godman, of Hampsteel, Cowfold, Horsham, and Muntham, Horsham, and the late Mrs. Godman, and Florence May, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bartram, of Fen Ditton, Cambridge.

The engagement is announced of Noel Alexander Hodgkinson, B.A., late Captain 3rd Warwickshire Regiment, son of Alexander Hodgkinson, B.Sc., &c., late of Manchester, and of Mrs. Hodgkinson, Bradshaigh, Farnham, and Carol, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bennet, Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, 22, Buckingham-mansions, N.W.6.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Cairo during the winter, between Lieutenant-Colonel Ronald S. Stafford, D.S.O., M.C., Ministry of Interior, Cairo, son of the late E. Howard Stafford and Mrs. Buckland Cockell, and Mary Everard Bevan, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Dixon, of Watlington, Oxfordshire.

The King has approved that the Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri be sworn a member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. The honour conferred upon Mr. Sastri is a recognition of the work he accomplished in association with the Maharao of Kutch and Mr. Montagu at the Imperial Conference, and follows quickly upon the conferment upon him of the freedom of the City of London.

Sir Arthur Peel, the British Minister at Sofia relinquishes his post an August 23. The British Government has asked whether the appointment of Mr. Erskine, now British Minister at Havana, Cuba, as British Minister at Sofia will be agreeable to the Bulgarian Government. Until the arrival of the new Minister, Mr, Rodd, the Secretary, will be Charge d' Affaires.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place at Constantinople, between Oliver Harwood Matthews, British High Commission, Constantinople, second son of the late Dr. C. E. Matthews, of Tiverton, Devon, and Mrs. Matthews, Weymouth, and Ida Elizabeth Charlotte, elder daughter of Ninian Finlay, W.S., Edinburgh.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., Deputy-Commissioner on the British Delegation of the Inter-Allied Commission of Reparations in Bulgaria, has resigned his post and will be returning to England next month. His place will be taken on the Delegation by Mr. H. J. Bruce. The latter, who joined the Diplomatic Service in 1904, was recently First Secretary at Tangier. He married the famous Russian dancer, Madame Tamara Karsavina.

It is announced that for the future officers of the Royal Marines, who remain seconded for service under the Egyptian Government for more than 10 years will be placed on the retired list at the expiration of that period. Furthermore, the rule whereby Officers of the Royal Marines have been allowed to count service in unhealthy districts as double time for purposes of retired pay or gratuity is abolished in the case of officers seconded for service under the Egyptian Government for the future, but will remain in force in the case of those who are serving at present.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

M. Pavlè Karovitch, Secretary of the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has been appointed Consul-General in New York.

The Simla Correspondent of *The Times* announces that Major Blood, of the Guides, has been appointed head of the special section at Army Headquarters which will deal with the visit of the Prince of Wales. He will be assisted by Staff Captain Kane, of the Dogras.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The King has directed that the appointment of Shakar Khan to be a member of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire shall be cancelled and annulled, and his name erased from the Register of the Order.

It is reported from Athens that a British aeroplane fell into the Sea of Marmora, near Rodosto, but that the aviators were rescued by an English vessel and taken to Constantinople.

A further six inches of rain have fallen in less than twenty-four hours in North-West India. The railway lines are blocked, and the Malir River is again in flood.

A memorandum presented to Lord Curzon setting forth the case for Armenia has been issued in pamphlet form by the British Armenia Committee, of 96, Victoria-street, S.W.

M. Nichol Charitca, a rich Greek, of Alexandria, who died recently, is stated to have made the Greek Treasury residuary legatee of his fortune, of which £30,000 is to be devoted to the requirements of national defence.

Permission has been given for the publication in Cairo of a daily newspaper by the Old Nationalist Party, which is hostile to the present Cabinet.

A postal convention has been concluded between Persia and Afghanistan.

The Royal Naval School of Music at Eastney Barracks has been commanded to furnish a band to accompany the Prince of Wales to India in the Renown, now fitting out at Portsmouth for his Royal Highness's voyage.

Arrangements are being made to transfer 600 Armenian orphans from Cyprus to the vicinity of Constantinople, where they will be under the charge of Dr. W. A. Kennedy, who is superintending the erection of new premises. This work is being undertaken by the Armenian Refugees' (Lord Mayor's) Fund.

Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Mohammed Ali have arrived in Lucknow. The President of the Lucknow Municipality, by his casting vote, negatived a resolution to present an address of welcome to Mr. Gandhi.

Lord Reading, as Chief Scout of India, has issued an appeal in support of the Prince of Wales's Fund for the Boy Scouts' Association.

A decree issued by the Sultan of Turkey restores to the civil list the Crown property confiscated by the Young Turks at the time of the deposition of Abdul Hamid.

Under the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920, the Government of India has constituted University Training Corps at Bombay, Calcutta, Allahabad, Lahore, Madras, and Burma, and Territorial Force infantry formations for the United Provinces, Punjab, Madras, Bengal, Bombay, and Burma. These will be affiliated to Regular regiments.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1921.


## THE INDIAN BOYCOTT.

We have already recorded the decision of the committee of the self-styled Indian National Congress to organisea boycott against all imported cotton goods. The influence of that Committee is less than it once was, but the possible consequences of its action are nevertheless sufficiently serious to justify an examination of the subject in some detail. In order to appreciate the magnitude of the interests involved, it is necessary to realise the extent of the consumption of imported cloth. In the years of comparative stability before the war, India was buying annually about 3,000 million yards of piece-goods; their value was something like forty million sterling, by far the largest single item in the Indian import trade, and the goods themselves represented the ordinary clothing of a majority of the whole population, who, as things now stand, must either wear foreign cloth or go naked as their forefathers did. What possible hope, it may well be asked, can any body of politicians have of bringing to an end a trade of such importance to the people on whose support they depend? The answer to that question must be looked for in the present day mentality of India, or rather of that portion of India which takes an active interest in politics. It is a curious blend just now, of fact and fiction, of noble sentiments, unworthy prejudices, and lofty if not always practical aspirations. Indians believe, and justly, that, at a time when European industry was in its infancy, their country provided clothing for most of Asia from the produce of their own fields, manufactured in their own looms. They have been led to believe further that this great industry was deliberately ruined by the malignant policy of England; they see in the modern import trade the seal of their national degradation; and they aspire to recover their lost markets, not merely as a profitable enterprise, but as a token to the world that their national regeneration has at last been accomplished. It would be easy to question their views of past history, but to do so would be to miss the point; the views themselves are the important fact, and their existence makes it possible to understand why astute politicians, in search of a rallying cry, should single out the trade in piece-goods as the object of attack.

For ourselves, we are not disposed to quarrel with the aspiration to restore India to her former position in the clothing trade of Asia. The object is in itself legitimate and our criticisms relate, not to the end, but to the means by which its attainment is now sought. Much spade-work must be done before India can hope to succeed. The raw material she produces does not attract her prospective customers, and she must arrange to grow much more cotton, the bulk of it of much better quality than now. Many more factories must be built and equipped. Railways, coal-supplies, and hydro-electric installations must all be developed; and in order to keep the factories going, a machine-industry must be established in the great metallurgical district now coming into being around Jamshedpur. Every one of these essential preliminaries is already included in the policy of the present "bureaucratic" and "satanic" administration. The problem of raw material is far on the way to solution; much has been done to facilitate the opening of new factories; the development of the great hydro-electric resources of the country has made a start, Jamshedpur itself owes its existence to the Government almost as much as to its able and enthusiastic promoters. What is wanted now is driving force, and surely the wise policy would be to organise national aspirations to serve this purpose, and to secure their aid in providing capital, increasing technical skill, and employing the resources of the country on the lines already marked out. Such a policy is, however, forbidden to the members of the extremist section by their self-imposed refusal to co-operate with the Government; true to their past record, their personal feelings must count for more than the welfare of their country; and the course adopted by them must be designed to embarrass the authorities as far as possible.

Their measures are simple. Foreign cloths must be discarded, and nothing must be bought or worn that has not been made in India. Since the mills cannot clothe the country, the hand-spindle must be set to work, and since even then there will not be clothes for all, weavers and dealers must be persuaded—perhaps peacefully—not to raise their prices. And these measures are to be taken at a time when, owing to war and bad seasons, India is already short of clothes. In the famine districts, the children are crying out for something to wear: in Bombay, the politicians are making bonfires of serviceable cloth. That is a fair sample of the India which would result from the success of the extremist policy, the masses impoverished and miserable, while the autocrats are pampering their own disordered tastes. What the outcome will be is still uncertain. The influence of the extremists is probably sufficient to affect the cloth market to an appreciable extent, and the success of the boycott will be measurable by the increase in the misery of the people. The leaders will then doubtless endeavour to direct the resulting ill-feeling against the established Government, and for a time they may succeed. The most doubtful factor in the problem is the strength of forces yet undisclosed the fundamental good sense of middle opinion, and the nascent self-consciousness of the masses. It is on those forces that the new India has been founded, and it is possible that, even at this early stage, they may justify the confidence of the builders. The boycott is in essence the challenge of the old India to the new. The ground has been skilfully chosen, and the future of the country will be determined very largely by the way in which the challenge is met.

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## THE POSITION OF ALBANIA.

*By the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P.*

In attempting to analyse the present position of Albania*, and to forecast its future, it is essential to remember its past, and that its history is consecutive and does not start at any abrupt date. Albania is a country of three creeds—the Orthodox Greek Church in the south, the Catholic of the north, and the Mohammedans of the north, centre and south. It was always the interest of the neighbours of Albania to foster the differences that divided the country. The Turks supported the Mohammedans, the Austrians subsidized the Catholics, the Greeks claimed the southern Orthodox. In spite of this, these antagonisms were never very deep. Inter-marriage took place; there was blood-brotherhood between Christians and Mohammedans, and when the people, who are essentially quick-witted, realised that their country was in danger, they adopted, spontaneously and in common, the creed of patriotism. They saw that only by unity could they live, and they achieved unity.

This necessity first became apparent to them in 1908, when the Turkish revolution occurred. The Committee of Union and Progress promised autonomy to the various nationalities of the Ottoman Empire. The Albanians were the first to perceive that this pledge was illusory; and in 1910 they rebelled. After much fighting, during which the Albanians lost heavily at the hands of the Turks, and later at the hands of the Serbs and Greeks, the country was recognised at the Conference of London and the Prince of Wied, in 1913, was given the mandate of governing Albania, not too difficult a task in itself, but impossible in the face of the intrigues of the Great Powers.

In 1914, the Great War broke out, and in April, 1915, Albania was provisionally partitioned by the Allies, between Greece, Serbia, Italy, and Essad Pasha. This treaty has never been fully published; what knowledge the public has of it, it owes to the Bolshevists.

On December 9, 1919, a mandate, with reservations essential to Albania, was given to Italy by President Wilson, Mr. Lloyd George, and M. Clemenceau; but Mr. Wilson went to America; and in February, 1920, the partition of Albania was decided upon by Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau. These two statesmen reversed the policy of that gallant brigand, Robin Hood: it was his habit to take from the rich and to give to the unfortunate; it was their policy to take from the poor and to give to the prosperous. So, Greece received an accretion to her new Empire and the rich kingdom of Yugoslavia was further enriched at the expense of of neutral Albania. But President Wilson had still power to frustrate this chivalrous design. Early in 1920, the trouble between Italy and Albania came to a head. Under General Ferrero, the relations between the two peoples had been excellent, but General Piacentini introduced new methods and a new spirit. Count Sforza finally put an end to an intolerable situation at Rapallo, when Italy disclaimed all intention of interfering with Albania. This may have been due to her reversion to the generous principles of liberalism and nationalism that have so often characterised her policy, or to the fact that Count Sforza saw that, in the end, friendship was essential between the large and the small country, and that the only road to friendship was through an unselfish policy.

In some respects it is possible to compare Italy's interests in Albania with British interests in Egypt. Two things are vital to us—to hold the Suez Canal, and that no Great Power should hold Egypt. It is essential to Italy to control the Adriatic and to see that no Great Power holds the ports of Durazzo or Valona, which point a dagger at her heart.

A few months later, at her own request and on the initiative of Lord Robert Cecil, Albania became a member of the League of Nations. It is difficult to describe the immense relief that the whole country felt at this event. It is not a reprieve from death; it was salvation. The sword of Damocles was taken down; the fears that had haunted the country were banished, and a peaceful people gave thanks in its different Churches for the League of Nations and Lord Robert Cecil. Albania had sailed in rough and heavy seas and there had been none to help her and many fanatical for her destruction, but her own dogged and determined efforts, which had preserved her nationality through the ages, had achieved the unity which made it possible to enter into the fraternity of the peoples. Her ship had come into the harbour at last; but though the independence of the country appeared to be saved, it was still bleeding from many wounds. In the north, one-sixth of her territory was occupied by Yugoslav troops. Thirty thousand refugees from the devastated areas had to be fed, if not housed, by the Government of Tirana. The Greeks, more than once, mobilised on the southern frontier, and a great portion of the population there was still homeless or living in ruins; but the Albanians looked forward to the League of Nations to heal these wounds. The country was no longer like a man tied down under an ant-heap. It was a free man, who had the right and the title to plead his case in open court. This happy state of affairs was not to last for long.

Mr. Lloyd George was soon 'at it' again. The Albanian Government appealed for a decision by the League of Nations on the question of frontiers. Now the frontiers of Albania had been settled, detrimentally to that country, in 1913, with the exception of a small portion of the north-eastern line. The League of Nations had, therefore, considerable guidance to rely upon, but the League of Nations was not allowed to handle the question. It was deftly removed to the secrecy of the Council of Ambassadors in Paris, and the reason for this is obvious. The Greeks had been offered Asia Minor, the goods of a strong man which it is certain that, in the end, they will not be able to hold as a possession. It may, then, ease the situation if they are offered the goods of one who is less well armed and less strong.

Had Essad Pasha been alive, he would, at this juncture, have served the desires of the Supreme Council admirably, but Essad Pasha sold his country once too often and paid the penalty. He is dead, but he is now resurrected and multiplied in the body that is the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris, which executes the commands of the Supreme Council, and the last move of the Supreme Council appears to be successful. They have done their best to break Albanian unity and, with the mighty weapons at their command, it is hardly possible that they can fail. There is a limit to the endurance of men and nations. The Albanians united themselves; their Ulster and Sinn Fein shook hands; they forgave and forgot, and were rewarded by being enfranchised amongst the peoples. But it was all of no avail. The Supreme Council will respect neither their neutrality, their independence nor their unity, but is determined, upon one pretext or another, to break its word and to plunder their country. This is how the

*Written at the end of July

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PURE SCOTCH

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ordinary Albanian sees it, and could one wonder if their fortitude should fail and they should play into the hands of their enemies by abandoning that unity which they knew in the past to be, and which still is, their only hope, and attempt to make the best sectional terms that they can?

It is possible that the League of Nations, at its next Assembly, may hold its own and may rescue the question of the frontiers of Albania from the decisions of the Conference of the Ambassadors. If this is not so, something greater than the cause of Albania will have failed. The League of Nations, no doubt, and its machinery, will continue to exist, but the purpose for which is was created, of seeing justice done and protecting the weak from the unscrupulous and preventing unnecessary wars, will have been destroyed. If the Ambassadors' Conference gives portions of southern Albania—such as Argyrocastro—which were definitely within the Albanian frontier of 1913, to the Greeks, the preparation for a new Balkan war will have been made. Serbia will demand compensation in the north, which Italy will follow by demanding garrisons at Valona and Durazzo. This will, for the moment, be the end of national aspirations of a very tough people, but it will also be the end of this League of Nations for all time.

## NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

### House of Commons.

*August* 8.—Replying to Mr. Aneurin Williams, Mr. Harmsworth said that France had been selected as the mandatory power for Syria by the principal Allies. The provisions of the Syrian Mandate had not yet however, been approved by the Council of the League of Nations. Although the draft mandate presented by the French Government to the Council had not yet been published, he understood that it contained articles similar to Nos. 8 and 10 of the draft mandate for Mesopotamia.

Mr. Rupert Gwynne asked the number of Jewish immigrants into Palestine since our occupation. Mr. Wood replied that the number of Jewish immigrants into Palestine up to September 1920 was approximately 6,500; and from October 1920 till the end of June 1921, the number of immigrants was 8,579.

Mr. Swan asked whether the Foreign Office on July 30 received a telegram from representatives of various governerates and provinces in Egypt, assembled under the Chairmanship of Fathalla Pasha Barakat, protesting that martial law still continued, and that the right of free speech in Egypt is denied to any who hold views in opposition to the present Cabinet, and what reply has been given or is proposed to be given to this telegram. Mr. Harmsworth replied that the telegram referred to was one of many which had recently been received from persons in Egypt. A large number of these telegrams contained protests against the questions which the hon. Member (Mr. Swan) and others had asked in this House, as casting unjustifiable aspersions on the methods of the Egyptian Government. No useful purpose would be served by replying to this or to similar telegrams.

*August* 9.—Mr. Churchill informed Commander Kenworthy that the arms traffic in Arabia is limited by international agreement and by the local law of the various territories adjacent to that country. There was at present with Ibn Saud, Emir of Nejd, no British representative, nor any representative of any other European Government, nor of the King of the Hejaz, so far as he was aware. The subsidy of £5,000 a month paid to the Emir, is paid in gold.

*August* 10.—Mr. Ormsby Gore asked whether Musa Kasim Pasha El Husseni, ex-Mayor of Jerusalem, who is proceeding on behalf of a Moslem committee from Palestine to various capitals of Europe to protest against British and Allied policy in Palestine, has been received in audience of the Pope; whether the British diplomatic representative at the Vatican was present at the interview; and whether this visit to the Pope was authorised by the British Government. Mr. Harmsworth replied that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative, and to the second and third parts in the negative.

Commander Kenworthy asked why the speech of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the estimates for the Middle Eastern Department had been censored out of the Palestine newspapers. Mr. Churchill replied that brief reports of the debate on the estimates which included a *resume* of the speech of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, were in one or two instances not released for publication in Palestine as it was thought that such brief reports were calculated to give a wrong impression. Extended reports were subsequently received and no ban was imposed on their publication in the press.

*August* 11.—Sir John Rees asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he had any information to the effect that Christians from Bethlehem were emigrating to South America owing to their dissatisfaction with the Zionist Government of Palestine. Mr. Churchill replied that the answer was in the negative, and added that the present Government of Palestine should be correctly described as a British Government, and not a Zionist Government; and stated in answer to a further question that the High Commissioner for Palestine is himself under strictures from the ardent section of Zionists.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked the Leader of the House whether his attention had been called to the report of the Prime Minister's speech the previous day at the Supreme Council to the effect that nationals of the Allied Powers are to be allowed to supply arms and ammunitions to the combatant powers Greece and Turkey; if it is not a fact that the Supreme Council is itself responsible for the existing hostilities, and if it is consonant with the theory of the League of Nations to encourage the present war by countenancing the supply of arms to the combatants. Mr. Chamberlain replied that he had received information that the Supreme Council had agreed to continue an attitude of strict neutrality with regard to the Greeks and Turks, it being understood that this in no way infringed rights of private persons to freedom of trade. This is in accordance with the principles of International Law and the traditional practice of this country. The answer to the second part of the question was in the negative. In reply to a supplementary question by Captain Elliot as to the fairness of this country interfering in this case when it had derived so great an advantage from buying arms from private individuals in a neutral country during the war, namely America, Mr. Chamberlain stated that this brought to the mind of the House the habitual practice of this country in this matter. It was not the duty of a neutral to restrain its citizens from supplying arms to belligerents. He did not think that in view of the establishment of the League of Nations that this international law should now be reversed. It would be a very large decision to come to, merely because we had hoped that in the future the League of Nations might prevent many wars if not all wars.

## THE BAIRAM FESTIVAL.

The celebration of Eid-i-Bairam, or Feast of Sacrifice, on August 14, attracted a concourse of Muslims from Turkey, India, Arabia, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, the Federated Malay States, the United States, the British West Indies, France, and Germany to the Mosque, erected 35 years ago, at Woking, by the late Begum of Bhopal. Among the prominent faithful who attended were Reshid Pasha, Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, and his staff; M. M. N. J. Chotani, president of the Indian-Turkish delegation; Mirza Mohammed Ali Khan, Persian Consul-General in London; Lord Headley (President of the British Muslim Society); Sahibzada Afdabahmad, Indian Member of the Council of State for India; and Khwaja Nazin Ahmed.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square.
E.C. 2,

**The Cotton Carrying Controversy.**

The unfortunate dispute that has arisen in connection with the Egyptian cotton carrying contract is the subject of some interesting comments in a letter that has reached me from Cairo this week. The writer points out that the United States Shipping Board was not successful in tendering despite its low quotations because " for one reason both shippers and spinners prefer to continue shipping by the lines which have in the past served them so well, and have special facilities for handling the cotton which the Shipping Board do not possess, and secondly because the small margin between the British rates and the offer made by the Shipping Board would be more than counter-balanced by the higher premium. which British insurance companies would charge on cotton shipped in American bottoms."

**Position Misunderstood.**

That sums the position up, but unfortunately the Americans did not view their failure in that light, and in the words of my correspondent " have not taken their defeat in a friendly spirit," a very mild way of putting it in view of the complaints advanced and the threat to apply the Jones Act. " Investigation of the facts " adds the writer " does not make at all clear in what respect the Liverpool Lines have been guilty of unfair methods, and it looks very much as if the Americans, through misunderstanding the position and attitude of the shippers and the spinners, have been led to assume that the Liverpool Lines have used unfair methods, and so have endeavoured to obtain at any rate the American part of the carrying trade by threatening to enforce the famous Act.

**Position in Roumania.**

The latest of the consular reports to make its appearance is that on Roumania, some extracts from which will be found in another column. It is rendered of special interest, not to say importance, by an exceedingly able survey of the handicaps with which Roumania has been confronted as a result of the war. Mr. Adams does not take an optimistic view of the outlook. Reconstruction, he thinks, must of necessity be a somewhat lengthy process extending over a period of years. In this respect he clashes with those who have recently had an opportunity of seeing the country. But the discrepancy is purely on the surface. Since the report was written notable advances have been made in many directions, and while at the end of 1920 the prospects were far from promising, the latest accounts, one of which I gave last week, are extremely encouraging.

**Openings for Business.**

The greatly improved outlook gives an added importance to what Mr. Adams has to say of Roumania as a market for British goods. As he justly points out the partial elimination of the Central Powers gives this country "a magnificent opportunity to redeem her past neglect of this market and to take her stand as the principal supplier of manufactured goods." Of the particular openings for business I must refer my readers to the report, and will merely say here that their variety and nature should make the market specially attractive to the commercial community here. There are very few lines of goods, indeed, for which there is not a demand, and given favourable conditions a little enterprise should richly repay British firms.

**Labour—The Writing on the Wall.**

Messrs. Yarrow's decision to close down their works temporarily on or about the end of November has provided the sensation of the week. In the notice announcing this intention it is pointed out that the cost of shipbuilding has become excessive owing to repeated strikes, reduction of output, and demarcating disputes in various industries, and that it is further impossible to promise dates of delivery. The chief problem with which shipbuilding firms in this country are confronted is briefly that the present selling price of tonnage is about one-third of its cost price, which of itself would be sufficient to explain this step. In addition the exchanges and more favourable labour conditions in other countries place British firms under a serious handicap in tendering for contracts abroad. Messrs. Yarrow recently made a tender which allowed for no profit, but their tender was much above that of a Belgian firm, which obtained the contract.

**Messrs. Yarrow's Record.**

Messrs. Yarrow have a record for enterprise second to none among British firms. Thus about fifteen years ago when conditions in Poplar became unfavourable they removed to Glasgow, and it may justly be assumed therefore, that a firm which has coped so successfully with crises in the past will have considered every resource before coming to its present far-reaching decision, and that in short, the proposed course has been adopted because it was inevitable. The firm expresses its faith in the future of the shipbuilding and engineering industry in this country, and believes " that prosperity will return when everyone realises that commercial undertakings can only be carried on with success in accordance with economic laws."

**Commentator.**


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## TURKEY.

Constantinople, July 31.

**A Pleasant Change.**

During the last month there has been a slight change for the better in the commercial situation. The change is not yet very important, but it is nevertheless fairly well-defined, and justifies to a certain extent the hope that it marks a turning point in the long period of depression from which the Constantinople market has been suffering. Undoubtedly one of the most important factors in the incipient revival is the recommencement of trade with Batoum. There has been a sharp rise in the price of Manchester goods, which are greatly in demand in the Caucasus, and business is being done for cash, that is non-Bolshevik money, as well as on the basis of an exchange of goods. There is a certain amount of tobacco available for export in Georgia, as well as Astrakhan skins, for which clothing and pharmaceutical products are required in exchange.

In the next place, by dint of resolute selling almost regardless of the loss involved, the huge stocks that had accumulated last year have been reduced by about sixty per cent., and the market has been considerably relieved, although perhaps rather weakened by the process. Cotton goods have risen about 15 per cent. in price, and foodstuffs have followed suit.

**Government Finance.**

The Government has at last come down to the bed rock of those irregular means by which it has hitherto succeeded in more or less making up the deficit of revenue required for the two and a half millions of monthly salaries and expenses. Everything saleable has been sold, and every debt collectable has been collected. The only means left of finding the money for the needs of the top heavy administration is to increase taxation The first tax to be increased will, of course, be the house and property tax, and the next the *temettu*, or income tax, which, it is said, is to be increased by five hundred per cent! On the other hand, the Government finds it impossible to make any further economies on its personnel.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 27.

**The Financial Position.**

Now that Parliament is closed, a section of the Press has been commenting on the rapidity with which the budget has been passed through both Houses, this having been accomplished in two sittings only, owing to the absence of the Opposition. The general budget amounting in round figures, to the aggregate sum of 10½ milliard lei, is divided up into three distinct ones: the ordinary of 7.6 milliards the extra-ordinary for liquidation of 1.4 milliards, and a further extra-ordinary one for reconstruction also of 1.4. milliards; with corresponding revenues for each of them, leaving a balance of 38 million lei for eventual supplementary credits. This is the first budget of Greater Roumania fully covered by sure revenues, which will enable the Exchequer to meet all State requirements, ordinary and extra-ordinary, for the current financial year.

During the discussion M. Titulescu dealt with the financial situation of the country in connection with the financial relations with the Allies. He pointed out that Roumania had had to suffer very much in consequence of the war, her pre-war debt of one milliard lei having risen to 27 milliard lei. The present Cabinet had contributed very little to this increase; the whole responsibility for it fell on the former Governments. One of his constant preoccupations was the regulation of the foreign debt. He also had striven to establish the rights Roumania had to obtain from the Allied and non-Allied States, and to reduce her Treasury-Bonds which were in circulation..

M. Titulescu went on to state that the question of the oil wells, which had been set fire to during the war, had been solved. Roumania would indemnify the oil companies, and England would indemnify Roumania in compensation. As regards the Treasury Bonds circulating abroad, some had been cancelled, while those which remained would be duly honoured.

The coupons in arrears which were due to England had been paid since September, 1920; those due to France being more numerous, a series of arrangements had to be made, including a sale of 10,500 waggons of wheat, to be delivered from April 15 to October, 1921, of which 2,000 waggons had already been shipped. All coupons had been paid since July 1, 1920, to those holders who could prove having possessed them since August 1, 1914 The Minister declared that he was not adverse to foreign capital; on the contrary, Roumania would always welcome it, provided it was controlled and utilised for the development of the country's resources.

Bucharest, August 3.

**Miscellaneous.**

Roumania has given a contract to the Czecho-slovak factories at Stadig, Nesseldorf, Snichcy, Krolovo, Pole and Freistadt, for the repair of a number of railway trucks. This work will occpuy these establishments until the end of this year.

The cost for transport of goods on the Roumanian railways has been increased by 10 per cent. as from August 1.

The question of the exportation of gold is still unsettled. The Minister of Finance, replying to a Commission of Directors of the various mines, expressed disapproval of exportation on account of insufficient production.

The Ministry of Domains is making active preparations for the organisation in May, 1922, of a great exhibition of domestic animals of all species.

The Exhibition and Samples Fair now in progress at Cluj, Transylvania, will probably be transferred later on to Bucharest as a part of the similar exhibition which will be opened on September 12.

A group of American financiers intend to erect a factory for woollens at Arad, Transylvania, at a cost of 30 million lei.

The Roumanian Commission sent to Bulgaria for the identification and acquisition of the rolling stock taken during the year, has returned; the Bulgarians refusing to restore the locomotives and trucks.

Large stocks of Roumanian and Czecho-slovak goods are to be stored in Budapest. The establishment of

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this depot has been agreed upon by the respective delegates to serve as a basis for the trade which will be carried on by both countries on Hungarian territory.

A Commission of experts is starting for Bulgaria to receive the cattle the Reparations Commission has allotted to Roumania.

According to statistical data, Roumania possessed in 1920 18 million head of oxen, horses, asses, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and pigs. It is estimated that the number of these animals has since increased by 1½ million head.

The German Government proposed to supply the Roumanian State with locomotives to the value of 450 million lei on account of the Banca Generala notes issued during the German occupation, without prejudice to Roumania with regard to the decisions of the Inter-Allied Reparations Commission. The German Government is willing to commence the despatch of these locomotives forthwith, and also of any other machinery or material required. The German offer has been accepted in principle, and will most probably be carried into effect.

## GREECE.

Athens, July 30.

### General News.

By order of the Minister of Finance, Custom duties will, in future, be paid in gold on a basis of 2.50 drachmae to the golden drachma. It is estimated that this new taxation will bring an extra 400 million drachmae per annum to the State. The additional duty does not apply to cereals and flour.

The Consortium of Banks has issued a circular stating that goods in transit may be re-shipped without previously obtaining the sanction of the Consortium.

The Ministry of Interior has notified that in accordance with its circular dated May 29, 1921, all tins of condensed milk imported into Greece should bear Greek labels as from July 1.

The Consortium of Banks announces that persons leaving Greece are not allowed to be in possession of more than 1,500 francs in foreign moneys. They may take with them as many drachmae as they wish. Persons coming into this country from abroad must not be in possession of more than 500 drachmae. In this case there is no limit as regards foreign currencies. In case of difficulties or trouble with the Customs officials in connexion with the above, travellers should promptly apply to the Consortium of Banks.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, August 9.

### A Loan Desired.

During the recent brief session the Skupshtina approved in principal a foreign loan of 500,000,000 francs The Minister of Finance, Dr. Kumanudi, pointed that the objects of the loan were three-fold. The chief one was to build the railway to connect up Serbia directly with the Adriatic, which is a prime necessity for this country. The second was to cover foreign obligations. At present the Government is constantly buying foreign exchange on the Bourse in order to meet its obligations abroad, and this is doing a great deal of keep the dinar down. With a substantial foreign loan, they could clear many of their war loans obligations, and leave the Bourse open to commerce, which would improve the position of the dinar. The third object was to pay off the debts of the Government to the National Bank. These now amounted to four milliards of dinars, with the result that there was too much paper in circulation, which again kept the dinar down. The moment the Government paid off some of this debt a corresponding amount of paper would be withdrawn, which should react favourably on the rate of the dinar. After some discussion the bill was passed by 157 to 29 votes.

### New Export Tariff.

The new export tariff is expected shortly to become law. The duty on wheat will be 10 dinars per 100 kgs (the export of oats, barley and hay is at present forbidden) on opium, 500 dinars per 100 kgs., cattle and buffaloes, 150 dinars for beasts over 400 kgs., and 100 dinars for those under; for small stock, sheep, pigs, etc, 80 dinars; on fresh meat 50 dinars; pigs below 120 kgs., 80 dinars; for those over 120 kgs., 200 dinars; fresh pork 50 dinars; horses 400 dinars per head; bacon 60 dinars; salt pork 40 dinars; per 100 kgs; lard 60 dinars; wool 250 dinars; eggs 100 dinars; hides of cattle 100 dinars; of calves 200 dinars; of sheep 100 dinars; old iron 100 dinars. The export of timber is free, except oak timbers. The export of coal is subject to license.

### Miscellaneous.

A new *prirez* or additional tax is foreshadowed. This is to be a percentage added to the *porez* or direct tax paid by everybody, and will be cumulative. Thus, on a *porez* of 30-150 dinars, the *prirez* will be 15 per cent; from 151-200 it will be 17 per cent., and so progressively, until the man who pays a *porez* of 200,000 dinars will have a *prirez* of 50 per cent. into the bargain.

The official gazette issues a notice that the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has published a notification permitting the importation of horses, asses and mules from Yugoslavia. The advertisement looks odd when one sees in Serbian dress such expressions as "ponies trained for playing polo." The country is rich in horses, and considerable quantities have been exported this summer. It opens, too, a fresh field of activity for commercial men, and should help the difficulty of exchange.

## BULGARIA.

Sofia, August 14.

### The Rate of Exchange.

In "The Near East" of July 27, reference was made in the "Notes of the Week" to the quick recovery of the leva. It was stated that it had rapidly returned to the rate of 350 levas for a £1. This was of course the rate in London, not in Sofia. Three weeks ago the rate was about 600, the lowest that it has ever been, and during all this period the highest rate that it has reached is 388, which was what £1 could be bought for on the 20th. This serves to show the difference which exists between the London and Sofia rate; of course this difference is not confined to Sofia, but exists in Vienna and Bucharest to name but two European capitals.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97 15-32 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 65.00-66.00 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 145 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 15.75d |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 285-287 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 15.75d |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 545-560 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.66⅛ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 46.87-46.92 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 290-295 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 83⅛-83⅜ |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 400 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 2,950-3,050 |
| Warsaw ..... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 7,200-7,400 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**The Profit Possibilities of the Italian Lire.**

Under this title our Expert on Foreign Exchanges has completed Article No. 5 in his series "Dealings in Foreign Exchanges from the English Investors point of View." The Article shows — ITALY'S FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES—THE POSITION OF THE SILK INDUSTRY—ITALY'S REVENUE FROM TOURISTS,—etc. The Article explains the PROFIT POSSIBILITIES BY PURCHASING ITALIAN LIRE—ITALIAN 3½% GOVERNMENT LOAN, etc. This Article will be sent free of charge on application to—

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## BAKU PETROLEUM CRISIS.

### A Soviet "Triumph."

(*From a Correspondent.*)

The Soviet economists are greatly alarmed at the state of the Baku petroleum industry. "The past four months (January-April) were characterised by increasingly unfavourable conditions," says the *Ekonomicheskaia Zhizn* for June 28, speaking especially of the Baku petroleum industry. The principal cause of the stagnation is the food shortage (as usual). There is no doubt that the failure of the harvest in the Volga provinces and the Northern Caucasus—the very districts from which Baku gets its corn supplies—must fatally affect both the Baku and Grozny oilfields. The same article points out that owing to the exhaustion of the supplies of food, as early as the middle of April the highest bread ration at the Baku oilfields was reduced to 1.35 lb. per diem "with an abrupt deterioration in the quality of the bread." Moreover, it was proposed not to issue the supplementary rations.

"The systematic underfeeding," says the report of the Petroleum Committee, "has caused outbreaks of scurvy among the workmen, which is beginning to deplete their ranks, while the productivity of their labour is steadily declining. Previous reports made mention of absence from work, refusals to do overtime and piece-work, of watchmen leaving their posts and falling asleep on duty, and carelessness frequently bordering on criminal 'sabotage.' All this has become a matter of common occurrence at the works."

"The consequences are now apparent," continues the writer of the article. "In April there was an accident at the works. Owing to the carelessness of a stoker, the water let into four boilers simultaneously rushed into the main and got into the turbines of the electric power station. All the works had to be stopped and the turbines cleaned, owing to which the power of the latter was decreased by 60 per cent." Such was the state of affairs even before the failure of this year's crops.

The inability of the Soviet food organisations to provide bread for the workmen make it impossible to increase the number of the latter from the existing 25,000 to the required 40,000. The petroleum undertakings are suffering especially from the absence of borers and pump-hands, the number of which is decreasing. Owing to the absence of pump-hands it is impossible to exploit all the oil-wells. In March 834 wells were at work, and by April their number had fallen to 799. According to the programme it was proposed to increase the number of working wells every month, up to a maximum of 1,500 at the end of the year. The idle wells are flooded, especially those in the so-called "old areas" (Balakhany, Sabunchi and Romany), where the amount of water in the wells has risen to an alarming extent. In these oilfields, which yield oily naphtha of special value, for the first four months of 1921 the output was 46.5 per cent below that for the corresponding period of 1920.

Boring operations have likewise ceased, owing to the absence of workmen. According to the programme it was proposed to bore 1,400 *sazhens** per month. (Before the war the monthly borings used to be from 4,000 to 5,000 *sazhens*). Nevertheless, the programme had to be considerably reduced. It had been proposed to bore only 320 *sazhens* in April, but the actual borings only reached 170 *sazhens*.

The shortage of labour is especially felt by the auxiliary undertakings, without which the Baku petroleum industry cannot exist. The average number of skilled workmen employed at such works hardly reaches 25 per cent. of the number required, and sometimes falls as low as 10 per cent. Besides the shortage of labour, the oilfields are suffering from a great want of technical appliances. Conditions grew worse in April. "The stocks of materials are steadily decreasing, and in many cases (copper, tin and bricks) are quite exhausted." The following figures will give some idea of the stocks of certain materials. "By, May 1, 1921 the stocks of materials were: Cables—1,310 poods whereas 10,536 poods are required; gas pipes (black)—10,422 poods, as against the 1,600,000 poods required; leather—12 poods, instead of the 400 poods required. The percentage of the requirements fulfilled by the central institutions fluctuates between 0.1 per cent. and 25 per cent."

*One *Sazhen* —7 ft.

This acute shortage of technical materials is partly due to the stoppage or low output of the auxiliary works, and partly to the absence of deliveries of materials from other districts of Russia and from abroad. Such a state of things makes it impossible to raise the productivity of the petroleum industry, in spite of all efforts to do so.

The constantly fluctuating monthly output of petroleum averages about 220,000 tons, and has never once reached the standard fixed by the modest programme of the Soviet Government, i.e., approximately 230,000 tons per month. (In 1912 the monthly output was 648,000 tons). According to the *Ekonomicheskaia Zhizn* 218,000 tons of petroleum were raised in April.

Matters are no better as regards the treatment of petroleum at the oil-works. In April the amount of petroleum treated was less than in March. The programme estimated that 215,000 tons per month would be manufactured. The actual amount treated in March was 190,000 tons, and in April—177,000 tons. As regards the refineries, matters are even worse. The total amount of petroleum refined in April was 71,700 tons, or 27 per cent. less than in March. The programme provided for 220,000 tons being refined per month.

In normal times the output of refined kerosene alone reached 200,000 tons per month. "The fulfilment of the refining programme varies in the case of the different products. The percentage of the actual quantity refined as against the estimates was as follows:—Kerosene—80 per cent.; benzine—58.5 per cent.; machine oil—about 49 per cent.; and cylinder oil—20 per cent. The manufacture of special kinds of oil has not yet been started, and possibly may never be begun." There is no hope of any improvement in the condition of the works. "There is more reason to expect still more negative results."

As has already been mentioned, hitherto the shortage of Baku petroleum has not been felt, as there were old stocks to fall back on. Owing to the disorganisation of transport, where was no possiblity of exporting the whole, but if the productiveness of the oilfields does not increase, by next year the reserves of Baku petroleum will be exhausted. The *Ekonomicheskai Zhizn* gives some information on the output and consumption of Baku petroleum. On February 1, 1921, the Baku stocks of petroleum and its products were 3,600,000 tons. By May 1, 1922 the stocks of petroleum products should amount to 6,400,000 tons. This estimate is based on the supposition that the average monthly output will be 213,000 tons.

The expenditure for the same period will be as follows:—(a) 853,000 tons for Transcausasia and Turkestan; (b) 82,000 tons for exports through Batoum; (c) 2,935,000 tons to be sent to the Volga for Russian home consumption. (Before the war this figure was 6,500,000 tons). The total consumption will amount to 3,870,000 tons. The balance in hand for May 1, 1922, will not exceed 2,530,000 tons i.e., will be considerably less than the quantity which will have to be taken out of the oilfields during the navigation of 1922. Even if the petroleum exports (through Batoum) were omitted from the foregoing estimate, that would make no substantial difference in the matter.

The Soviet Government proposed to use the proceeds of such exports for the purchase abroad of the technical materials required by the petroleum industry. So far the money has had to be spent on purchasing food for the petroleum workers at very high prices in Constantinople. Usually such food was bought in the Terek and Kuban territories, where this year likewise there was grain to be had, but for some reason or other the Soviet food organisations did not transport grain from these districts adjacent to the oilfields. It would be interesting to find out what will be the cost of the petroleum obtained under such conditions.

The whole of the foregoing calculation is based on the supposition that the production of petroleum will be stabilised. As has already been said at the beginning of this article, there is no doubt that the failure of this year's crops in Russia must inevitably affect the work of the Baku petroleum industry. The output of Baku oil must inevitably decline, and the Soviet Government will be unable to supply Russia even with the inconsiderable and far from adequate quantity of petroleum estimated by the programme of production. Taking into consideration that the output of coal and wood-fuel will likewise be below the estimates, it will be seen that the fuel situation will most fatally affect the whole economic life of Soviet Russia, which is already in a state of complete stagnation.

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# BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

## V. Roumania.

We give the following extracts from the report of Mr. Alexander Adams, Commercial Secretary, H.M. Legation, Bucharest, on economic conditions in Roumania in 1920 :—

The economic condition of Roumania at the present moment must be viewed through the veil of the disorder which has come over Europe since 1914. The effects of the war on Roumania are more apparent to the observer in the destruction of material facilities of civilization, but it is undoubted that the psychic destruction has not been less.

**The Import Trade.**

The present partial elimination of Germany and Austria from the circle of suppliers gives the United Kingdom a magnificent opportunity to redeem her past neglect of this market and to take her stand as the principal supplier of manufactured goods. With the advantage of sea transport to the Danube doorstep of Roumania the United Kingdom is able to give quicker deliveries of merchandise to Roumanian importers than are possible to-day from Germany, or even the former Austria-Hungary, which two countries formerly held that advantage. The breakdown of land transport in Central Europe has so far acted as an almost insuperable barrier to the sale of German or Austrian goods in Roumania in any large quantities, and may continue to do so, at any rate, for some years. During this time the British exporter will have every opportunity of making acquaintance with this market and of firmly establishing his goods in the favour of the ultimate consumer, but as the passage of every month brings with it an amelioration in the existing state of transportation, merchants and manufacturers interested in the future wants of this market with eighteen million customers are recommended to take steps as soon as possible to make themselves acquainted with those wants and the best means of supplying them.

In the tables of British exports to Roumania, the large increase in the value of fish is due to the shipments of herrings, more especially, made to the Danube during 1920. Previous to the war Russia was one of the main sources of supply for imports of fish, but the disturbances in that country have allowed of a wider market being now available for British catches of herrings, together with salt and dried fish of other kinds. Sardines in tins from various countries, more especially Italy and France, also form no inconsiderable item of these imports.

During 1920 imports of cotton yarns increased considerably over those for 1919. A large proportion of this cotton yarn is of the quality known as extra hard twist. It is imported principally from about half a dozen Lancashire shippers, some of whom have been in the trade for scores of years.

Cotton goods as a whole show an increase over the previous year's shipments. During 1920 competition in the lower grades of cotton goods was very keen. In the standard article known as "cabot," which is bought by Roumania in large quantities, competition came, not only from America and Italy, which might have been expected, but also from Japan. At one time during the latter half of the year Japanese cabot was cheaper than Italian, whilst Italian in its turn was cheaper than the British material. The fall in the value of the Italian lira undoubtedly gave an artificial support to Italian competition, but the purchases made from a country so far away as Japan are a much more serious matter, for, in order to ship to Roumania at prices and qualities competitive with British goods, the cost of production in Japan must be very low indeed. This attempt on the part of the Japanese manufacturers to enter the market was, however, considered as an isolated one and not likely to be repeated in consequence of the heavy freight on the goods from the Far East.

The demands of the petroleum fields caused an increase in the imports of machinery and belting during the year under review. During the year it became very difficult to sell paints and varnishes owing to the competition of cheaper goods from Vienna and Germany. An additional obstacle is met with in Roumanian manufactured goods of exceedingly low quality it is true, but apparently serving the purpose in times of stress like the present. The sale of high class varnishes sank almost to nothing, as may be deduced from the figure of twenty-six thousand pounds odd which covers this whole class of goods.

**Market for British Goods.**

Roumania offers a market for British goods in very many lines, of which the following seem to be those of most importance :— Electric dynamos and motors; fans, lamps, etc., gas and oil engines, pumps, iron pipes and tubes, razors and cutlery, tinplates, black and galvanised sheets, terneplates (roofing) brass, ironmongery, wire ropes, belting, rubber goods (machinery). *Agricultural*: Binders and reapers, threshing machines, steam ploughs, tractors. Leather goods, boots and shoes, motor tyres, rubber goloshes, coal, coke, tallow, fatty acids, sulphuric acid, sulphate of copper, chemicals, caustic soda, Fuller's earth, ammonia, palm oil, linseed oil, tea, coffee, sugar, fish (salt and cured) tinned provisions, drugs and pharmaceutical preparations, whiskey, rice (from India), paints, varnishes, colours, steam tugs, explosives (to Roumanian Government only), motor cars and lorries, sacks, woollen and worsted goods, cotton yarns and threads, linen goods, binder twine, manilla ropes, perfumery, fancy soaps.

British firms interested in the shipping of produce, such as rice and tea from India, and sugar from the West Indies, could probably develop sales in these goods in Roumania much beyond the point at which they stand at present. Direct shipments of tea and rice, less in amount than a full cargo, could be made from India by transhipment at one of the Suez Canal ports or Alexandria, whence the cargo could be carried by the Roumanian Service Maritime steamers to this country.

By the Peace Treaty the size of this country was more than doubled, so that all calculations based upon pre-war norms are likely to be somewhat beside the mark. Instead of a population of some seven and a half millions, of whom, according to Roumanian official statistics, nearly 85 per cent. were rura inhabitants, there now exists a country of about eighteen million people with a smaller percentage of rural population and several scores of populous and thriving market towns. This large town population is desirous of purchasing similar types of goods to those sold in Western Europe, and under its influence the spread of Western European modes of living is being fostered; until to-day even the peasant classes are touched by it. All the thousand and one small articles which make up the material

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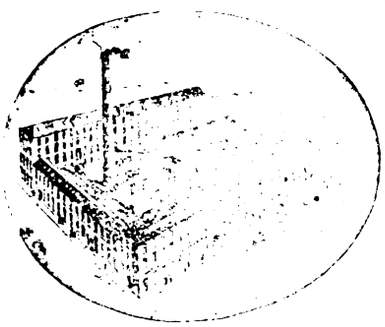
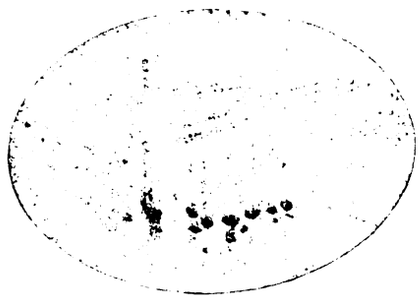
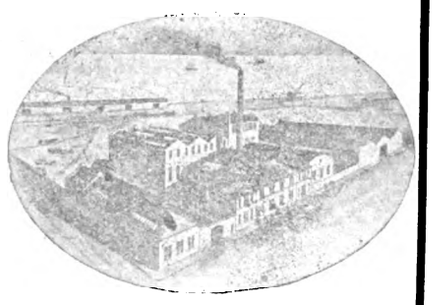

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side of Western civilisation are coming into the hands of large masses of the Roumanian population, and this movement is gathering force every year, with the consequence that the market for all these goods is rapidly being extended. This point should be considered by British export houses wishing to open up trade with Roumania. The figures of imports into the country for the ten or fifteen years before the war show an increasing vitality, and from those of United Kingdom exports given in this report for 1920, compared with 1913, it will be seen that British goods are more than holding their own, notwithstanding deductions to be made because of the rise in prices since 1913.

**Danube Navigation.**

The number of lighters at the present time suitable for river navigation is 469, which is a reduction of 199 lighters from the pre-war number. There were 110 lighters destroyed or sunk in the Danube, and 89 were sold or taken abroad during the war period. This marked reduction on pre-war space is not only an absolute reduction as compared with the total tonnage, but also a relative reduction in the carrying capacity per year by the same lighter, as tugs and handling facilities have also decreased in number. In addition a large amount of warehouse space at Braila and other river ports has been destroyed, and until quite recently a number of lighters were in use for the pontoon bridge which was in operation across the Danube at Cernavoda. The shortage of space is therefore much greater relatively than would be presumed from the number of lighters still left.

Before the war about 60 per cent. of the grain shipments of the Danube was loaded at Sulina into sea-going steamers, but during 1920 most of the loading was done at Braila, to which port the floating elevators formerly stationed at Sulina had been brought. This course was taken to save the great expense of lightering cereals down to Sulina, notwithstanding the fact that its adoption means ordering the sea-going steamer to ascend the river to Braila. The depth of the river being insufficient for fully laden steamers of the usual type employed in the Danube trade, cargoes have to be completed at Sulina or at Constantza. The number of tugs on the river in Roumania is stated to be 58, which is a reduction of 22 tugs from pre-war times. Of these 14 were captured in 1916, and 8 were sunk during the war. The number of floating elevators employed on the river in the loading ports is 34.

Not only does the available tonnage of river craft show an absolute reduction and a relative reduction in carrying capacity per year, but at the same time the area covered by Roumanian river operations has been greatly increased by the navigable rivers of the new territory, especially the Pruth and the Dniester, whilst the river Sireth also demands lighters and tugs. This increased demand for water transport is made in face of an absolute decrease of over 30 per cent. of the pre-war capacity in lighters.

There seems to be an opportunity here for the employment of many more river craft, and although at the present moment there would probably be difficulty in selling such craft to Roumanian purchasers, yet British builders could perhaps make arrangements either to extend credit on terms, or to take an interest in navigation companies to be formed for the purpose of supplying some of the deficiency in transport.

## CZECHOSLOVAK MACHINERY EXPORTS.

M. Kolovrat, Vice-President of the Federation of Machinery Manufacturers, publishes in the Czech paper *Tribuna* the following information regarding the export of Czechoslovak machinery to Russia:—At the beginning of 1921 the chief Czechoslovak machine factories, the firms of which are Skoda, Ruston, Czech-Moravian, Laurin-Klement Kolben, Tichterle, Bacher, and Melichar amalgamated in a union for the Czechoslovak machine industry with a view to the exportation of Czechoslovak machinery to Russia. As it is impossible for the moment to contemplate extensive commercial relations with Russia, the union is concentrating its activity on the Baltic countries, Bessarabia and Volhynia. In the principal centres of these regions the Union has its representatives and agents. Excellent results have been achieved hitherto, if it is considered that these beginnings are of comparatively restricted character and the purchasing capacity of the regions in question not very extensive. There has been a specially large demand for agricultural machinery, installations for distilleries, motor pumps, etc. The Czechoslovak machine industry has thus acquired new outlets in the Baltic countries in spite of the very active competition on the part of German industry which has recently made considerable reductions in its prices.

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned a survey for a broad-gauge railway between Kurla and Bombay.

Of the three detachments of horses which Germany has to hand over to Yugoslavia, 3,299 have so far been delivered. These, together with others on the road make up the figure of 6,300 horses, which is the first contingent.


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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

## A New Welding Machine.

For some time past a series of exhaustive investigations have been made by a firm of electrical manufacturers into the conditions obtaining in connection with the welding of comparatively small metal articles, made from light sheet metal either by stamping or spinning. As a result they have now been able to place on the market a machine for seam welding the bodies of stamped kettles and similar goods, and the chief interest from an engineering standpoint is that the "spot-seam" principle has been adopted, by which is meant that the rollers between which the metal plates pass during welding do not rotate continuously but intermittently, making a series of over-lapping spot welds in rapid succession. Each spot weld is made whilst the roller is stationary, and extra pressure is applied to the roller before it moves forward, and in this way it is claimed that a much stronger weld can be made than is obtained by] use of the average Continental welding machine in which the pressure of the roller is only normal and is maintained through the operation.

One important advantage of the spot seam is that raw and unpickled metal, as ordinary black plate, can be welded without the slightest difficulty, and there appears to be little or no tendency for the scale, should such be present, to attach itself to the rollers. Certainly there is far less likelihood of this occurring than when the rollers are allowed to rotate over the metal at a welding temperature.

An examination of the machine shows that it comprises a low pressure transformer arranged to suit the voltages and frequency of the available electric supply, which should of course be of alternating current. If this is not obtainable a converter should be used, as it is necessary to get the pressure of the energy down to two volts, which is that given by the secondary coil of the transformer mentioned. There is of course no possibility of any shock to the operator at so low a potential. The welding roller or electrodes are connected to the secondary circuit, the upper one being mounted on a pivoted arm, and driven by a rachet mechanism. The lower one is fitted on a slide, and is so mounted that it can be moved from side to side by means of a hand lever. To make a weld the slide, which is locked during the actual work, is released, and the object to be welded placed in position over the lower electrode. A pedal which can be connected, and sets the machine in motion, and the removal of the foot instantly brings the machine to a stop and cuts off the current.

## Big Magnesite Deposits.

During the investigations which are in progress with a view to determining the geological character and estimating the probable mineral wealth of Manchuria, which are being undertaken by Japanese engineers, some new deposits of magnesite have been located, and both these and the known beds have been examined as closely as possible. It is stated that the deposits consist of almost pure magnesite, and that it is necessary to mix a certain percentage of iron ore with it before it can be moulded satisfactorily into bricks. These bricks are used chiefly as refractories in iron and steel furnaces where the basic process is used, and in some electric furnaces.

Already Japanese agents have secured the ownership of practically all the magnesite-bearing area, only a comparatively few square miles being left in Chinese hands. The latest report from Tokio is to the effect that valuable talc deposits run co-incident with the magnesita beds, and that exhaustive tests show this talc to be equal to the best French variety. All the deposits referred to are within a distance of 10 miles from the South Manchuria railway system.

## Power Station Developments.

Whilst much has been written within the past few years upon the desirability of generating electric power on new and more economical lines, progress in that direction has been slow and disappointing. The report which was issued in 1917 by the Coal Conservation subcommittee gave details of a colossal scheme for the supply of cheap electric power throughout the kingdom, but for various reasons which need not be discussed little or nothing of a practical nature has so far been accomplished. There is no doubt that, from the point of saving coal, the policy of erecting large power stations in place of the many small and comparatively uneconomical stations now in existence is sound, provided as the *Engineer* says, that it can be shown that the capital expenditure involved will not place the customer in a worse position than that in which he already finds himself. When the report was issued the possibility of the cost of labour and materials attaining the high level that it has reached apparently was not realised, but so far as London is concerned, at any rate, the wholesale scrapping of plant at this juncture is impracticable. On account of the present high cost of plant and mains as compared with pre-war prices proposals to abolish existing stations, and especially the largest and best managed stations, should be considered with extreme care, for it might easily happen that, although in some ways the generation of current in a small number of super stations would be beneficial, there would be no gain in the direction of supplying current at cheap rates. Instead, therefore, of shutting down all existing stations, and taking current from new capital stations, erected upon suitable sites, as was originally proposed, the tendency appears to be at the present time to retain and develop certain more or less modern stations, and gradually to shut down the remainder and to establish new capital stations as desired and as required. This proposal, it appears, has been put forward in connection with the supply of electricity to London, and the idea seems equally applicable elsewhere.

## The New "Bristol."

The new 10-seater Bristol aeroplane, which is fitted with a 450 Napier "Lion" engine appears to be of greater interest from an engineering point of view than was at first imagined. The span of the machine is 54, and the over-all length, 42 feet, the height being 11ft. As a passenger machine the weight of the machine, empty, but with water is only 3,900 lbs., so that we can easily see the total weight loaded to be under 7,000 lbs. The fuel and oil supply for a distance of 400 miles—the engine at speed will require about one gallon of petrol every four miles—will be 798 lbs., and we can take the weight of the crew as being 130 lbs. each, or 360 lbs. Eight passengers, on the same basis, will weigh 1,280 lbs., and we may estimate 400 lbs. of luggage, making a total of 6,800. As a cargo carrying machine it is estimated that the total weight would be 7,100 lbs. The efficiency of the Napier "Lion" engine is remarkably high, and the machine at full load would be able to attain a speed of 122 miles per hour at the ground level, 112 miles per hour at 5,000 and 114 miles per hour at 10,000 feet. It would only take 9 minutes to climb to 5,000 and 22 minutes to climb to 10,000 feet, a highly meritorious performance for so large an aeroplane.

The chassis is of the four-wheel type, with wheels in tandem, oil as well as elastic shock absorbers being fitted. Brakes are fitted to the rear wheels and are operated by a car type level in the pilot's cockpit. A gate is provided for the brake lever so that the brakes may be operated together or singly as desired, whilst the flying controls are operated by means of a single lever of the wheel type. All the cable pulleys are 5 inches in diameter, and the angle of incidence of the tail planes can be varied by means of a lever and quadrant fixed in a most accessible position, by means of which the machine may be trimmed under all conditions of speed and load distribution.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE MARKET.

Dried Fruit.—Business is showing distinct signs of revival. Currants have been in better request. Reports of the 1921 crop are favourable, and a reduction of rates is therefore looked for. Sultanas have been a firm spot, while Figs have been in strong demand at harder rates.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in active request. West Indian crystallised has been done at 45s. to 52s. 6d. American has come to business at 60s., while white Mauritius has been done round 53s. 6d.

Coffee.—The market has been quiet and steady. Futures are:—September, 44s. 3d., December, 44s. 6d., March, 44s. 10d., May, 45s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed has been done at 24s., while La Plata has come to business at 21s. Rapeseed is steady with Toria at 22s. 6d., bold Ferozepore, at 21s. 9d., and Brown Cawnpore at 20s. 9d. Indian cottonseed is 11s. 9d., while Egyptian Black is 14s. 3d.

Oils.—Linseed oil has come to business at 39s., a rise of 3d. Rape oil is steady with crude at 55s. and refined at 62s. Cotton oil is firm with refined common edible at 53s., Egyptian crude at 43s. 6d., and deodorized at 50s. Turpentine is lower at 68s.

## ROUMANIA'S SURPLUS CEREALS.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, August 3.

The surplus of wheat for export this year is estimated at 500,000 tons. That of barley and oats will be much larger. The maize plant is in need of rain.

## YUGOSLAV CROP PROSPECTS.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Zagreb, August 2.

The tobacco crop promises to be very good this year. It is estimated that the total yield will be about 13 million kilos, of which six millions comes from Macedonia, four from Bosnia and Herzegovina, two from the Voivodina and one from Dalmatia. The home consumption is about 10 millions, so there will be about three million kilos available for reserve and export.

Yugoslavia is suffering from the heat and drought that seems general in Europe. A heavy storm over Belgrade the other day produced big hail stones which damaged the vineyards, but the moisture is a blessing to the important maize crop. In Croatia there had been no rain for a long time; the temperature has been between 33 and 36 degrees C. in the shade for a long time As Zagreb is low-lying in the Save Valley, the climate is moist, and the heat has been almost unendurable in the town, with the result that people have been frequenting public places in all manner of dishabille.

## COTTON INDEX NUMBER.

The Cotton Trade Circular published last week by Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, states that the general average of current cotton prices in the Manchester market is unchanged, compared with a month ago. Taking the range of prices ruling at the end of July 1914 as a basis of 100 the index number is now 174.

During the month American cotton has advanced 9 points from 125 to 134, but cloth and Egyptian yarn have declined 3 points and 6 points to 177 and 191 respectively. American yarn at 179 and Egyptian cotton at 188 remain unaltered. It is of interest to note that at the beginning of this year the general average was 229, whilst twelve months ago the figure was 574.

## LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for June :—

It has been decided that, in future, foreign importers may request that the *ad valorem* duty be applied whenever it is more advantageous than the actual tariff. The *ad valorem* 11 per cent. duty is appllicable to all merchandise of allied or neutra origin which may be imported into Constantinople by Allied subjects, as well as to all merchandise of Allied origin imported by neutral or Ottoman subjects.

The following British manufactures are insufficiently represented here : Brassware, kinema films, cheap cutlery, chinaware, clothing, fishing tackle and nets, glassware, gramophones and accessories, harness and saddlery, imitation jewelry, manures, and window glass.

Imports from the United Kingdom have decreased particularly in the Manchester goods line. Big stocks of flour from America are still coming in and fairly heavy shipments of sugar have arrived from Holland. The traffic with Batoum, consisting of transhipments, is small but fairly regular. There has not been much movement towards Bulgaria and Roumania.

**Produce.**

Flour.—Between 150-160,000 sacks arrived from America and Egypt at prices ranging from £22 to £26 per ton c.i.f. Constantinople. Exports amounted to 20-25,000 sacks to ports on the Sea of Marmora. On and after July 1st, a duty of 95 piastres per 100 kgs. will be placed on wheat flour entering Turkey. Stocks on hand are estimated at 90-100,000 sacks.

Sugar.—About 1,500 tons arrived from Holland and America at prices between £39 and £43 per ton c.i.f. Constantinople. Exports amounted to 800 tons of which 3-400 went to Roumania, the balance going to the Black Sea ports.

Rice.—500 tons arrived from Rangoon at prices between £16-18 c.i.f. Constantinople and 80-100 tons were exported to Bulgaria. During the month there have been no fresh cargoes from America and Blue Rose is very nearly unobtainable on this market. Stocks are getting low.

Coffee.—About 500 sacks were sent to Bulgaria and Thrace. There is nothing of interest to report on this market. Business is very dull. Stocks on hand are fairly heavy.

## INDIAN JUTE AND SILK.

An interesting volume on Indian jute and silk has just been published by Mr. John Murray (price 5s.) in the series of Reports of the Indian Trade Enquiry conducted at the Imperial Institute under the auspices of the Committee for India of the Institute. The first part of the volume deals with the results of an enquiry into the possibility of the increased commercial utilisation of jute and allied Indian fibres and contains three appendixes comprising, respectively, statistical tables, summary of evidence of witnesses, and a copy of a Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association on the subject of trade after the war. India at present has a monopoly in the production of jute, and the recommendations of the Imperial Institute Committee refer chiefly to the question of keeping the trade in the fibre and its utilisation within the Empire and of improving the quality and yield.

The portion of the volume devoted to silk consists of two parts :—(1) a report on the question of the prospects of an increased utilisation of Indian silk within the Empire, and (2) a detailed statement prepared at the Imperial Institute on the silk trade of the world. The production of raw silk in India at present is insufficient to meet local needs, and large quantities of both raw silk and silk yarn are imported for use in the Indian mills. The opinion is expressed, however, that the enhanced value of Indian silk which would result from a radical improvement in its quality and standard of reeling should render it possible for the Indian product to compete successfully with Japanese and Chinese silks. The types of silk, both cultivated and wild, which are most likely to find a market in the United Kingdom are indicated.

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## PROMISING SERBIAN SILK CROP.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Zagreb, August 9.

The silk crop from southern Serbia promises to be a good one. It is anticipated that half a million kilos of cocoons will be available for export, representing a value of seven million dinars.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date August 1.

In the report we issued on September 1, 1920, we estimated the probable result of the sultana yield for last season at 15,000-16,000 tons, and the fig production at 18,000-20,000 tons. With regard to sultanas we have been supplied by the Administration of the Ottoman Public Dept, with the results obtained based on the tithe duty actually encashed, and the yield has proved 289,000 Turkish kintals, say tons 15,890. So far as the production of figs is concerned the supplies that reached our market amounted to 103,000 loads or tons 22,600. These results closely confirm the forecasts we had made.

Shipments to the U. K. during the past season have been as follows :—

| | Boxes Sultanas | Sk/ton C/s & Boxes Figs. | Bags Natural Figs |
|---|---|---|---|
| To London .. .. | 331,904 | 7,382 | 289,328 |
| To Liverpool .. .. | 246,297 | 4,259 | 131,586 |
| Out-ports .. .. | 44,110 | 392 | 26,870 |
| Totals: | 622,311 | 12,033 | 447,784 |
| Equal to about net tons: | 8,000 | 1,800 | 5,600 |

**Crop Prospects.**

Interest now centres on the prospects for the coming season.

The rain-fall during the past winter was below normal, but fortunately, abundant spring rains compensated to a great extent for the lack of moisture in the country, and materially improved the outlook which, for a time, had appeared very unsatisfactory. During the past few weeks dry weather and occasional spells of intense heat have caused some extent of damage to the vineyards. Reports which the Administration of the Ottoman Public Dept. had received from the various centres of production towards the end of May and during the course of June, assessed the likely result of the vineyards at 720,000 kintals or say about 40,000 tons.

Owing to unfavourable atmospheric conditions, in the interval, these earlier estimates have undergone some modification and the latest figures now stand as follows (the totals in brackets representing the actual yield in 1920) :—Vourla, 90,000 kintals (48,000); Chesme, 8,000 (2,500); Sivrissar, 12,000 (6,000); Carabournou, 5,000 (4,000); Smyrna, 50,000 (29,000); Nymphio, 75,000 (59,000); Menemen, 7,000 (4,000); Magnesia, 180,000 (77,000); Cassaba, 65,000 (22,000); Salihli, 12,000 (9,000); Alacheir, 15,000 (6,000); Axar, 15,000 (6,000); Kirkagatch, 10,000 (4,500); Soma, 2,000; Pergamos, 6,000 (4,000); Phocea, 10,000 (4,500); Scalanova, 1,000; Sundry districts, 5000, (3,500).—568,000 kintals (289,000). Say about 31,000 tons, against 15,890 tons.

The above estimates are based on the latest and most conservative figures received from the respective districts. Then yield practically, as a whole, may be reckoned on present showing as likely somewhat to exceed that obtained in the season of 1919 when the final result was slightly over 29,000 tons. Reports from the Meander Valley are favourable, and it is anticipated that at least 100,000 loads, or about 22,000 tons of figs will be available this autumn. All the principal fruit producing areas are situated in the Hermus and Meander valleys, and are now entirely under Greek occupation. Although labour and transport difficulties may, in the earlier stages of the season, retard the flow of supplies, there is no concern about the eventual gathering and drying of all the fruit that will reach maturity. Some rains have been reported since yesterday, and the cold damp weather prevailing is beneficial to both vineyards and fig orchards.

The director of State Monopolies in Yugoslavia has authorized 60 farmers to cultivate tobacco within the Department of Tselye.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 200s. cwt.; bacon (Canadian), 160s. cwt.; bacon (American), 130s. cwt.; butter (Danish), 260s. cwt.; butter (Australian), 230s. cwt.; butter (New Zealand), 260s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 134s. cwt.; cheese (New Zealand), 134s. cwt.; cheese (Australian), 125s. cwt.; lard, 92s. cwt.; chillies, 145s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 28s. per 120; eggs (Syrian), 20s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 77s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 137s. cwt.; coffee (East India bold), 122s. cwt.; coffee (Central American), 117s. cwt.; coffee (Jamaica), 60s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 104s. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 60s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 35s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white,) 9d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 85s. cwt.; raisins (Sultana, Smyrna), 86s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 92s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 61s. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 65s. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 54s. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallized), 48s. cwt.; sugar (centrifugal), 21s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. cwt.; sago flour, 18s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 24s. cwt., rice (bran Rangoon), £9 ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2d. lb.; tea (Indian common to good common), 8d. lb.; (medium to good) 1s. 2d. lb. (fine to finest), 2s. 3d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 8d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 3d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 4d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 77s. cwt.; wheat (English white), 71s. cwt.; wheat (La Plata), 80s. cwt.; barley (malting), 67s. cwt.; oats (English), 46s. cwt.; oats (La Plata), 32s. cwt.; maize (La Plata), 45s. cwt.; maize (American), 42s. cwt.; flour, 60s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £40 ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £70 5s. ton; copper (electro), £75 ton; gold bars, 114s. 2d. lb.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 137s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton; galvanized sheets (24G), £22 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 15s. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 2d. unit; molybdenite, 44s. unit nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton;; quicksilver, £11 bottle; silver bars, 38d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 ton; tin (standard), £159 7s. 6d. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 27s. box; wolfram, 13s. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 9d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 5d. lb; ammonia (sulphate), £13 ton; arsenic (white powdered), £42 ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 8d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £17.ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 136s. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 10d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £35 ton; nitrate, £53 ton; permanganate, 1s. 3d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £19 ton; Sodium: Crystals, 141s. ton; bi-carbonate, £12 10s. ton; bi-chromate, 6d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 12s. ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £20 ton; prussiate, 7d. lb.; nitrate, £18 10s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £106 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £120 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 5d. lb.; quinine, 4s. oz.; red lead, £39 15s. ton; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton; white ground lead, £53 ton; sulphate of copper, £30 ton; sulphate of iron, 45s.on.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 10d lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 10d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 10d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 10d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 8d. lb. (second); 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 9d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs. 9d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 7d. lb. (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; bulls (first), 5d. lb. (second), 4d. lb.; Kips (first), 6d. lb. (second), 5d. lb.; (third), 3d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 8 to 13.8.; Durbhangas, 6 to 7; Patnas, 5 to 6. Salted cows: 3 to 6. Arsenic hides (buffalo): 3 to 7. Skins: Calf 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 250 to 275 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 8.94d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian). 15.00d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £22 ton; rape (Toria), £22 10s. ton; soya beans, £16 12s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £24 ton; Oils: linseed, £39 ton; olive (Levant), £82 ton; palm, £37 10s. ton; rape (crude), £55 10s. ton; soya, £42 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 10d. gallon; turpentine, 80s. 6d. cwt.; ground nut, £46 ton; cotton (crude), £42 10s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £53 5s. ton; shellac (T.N. second orange), 295s. cwt.; shellac (A.C. garnet), 287s. 6d. cwt.; Rubber: Plantation No. 1 crepe, 9d. lb.; smoked sheet, 9d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

It is proposed to form a French Chamber of Commerce in Bombay with a view to the promotion of trade between France and Western India and the Persian Gulf.

It is announced that the personnel at the Varna Custom House is shortly to be increased, with the result that not more than three or four days' delay should elapse for the future in clearing goods.

**Travellers to the Near East**

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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

Manchester, Saturday.

No feature of importance has presented itself in connection with this market during the past week and a very quiet state of affairs has prevailed. Cloth demand from most of the outlets abroad has proved very disappointing, and there has been nothing to stimulate buyers' to operate on a more active scale. There has been no faith in current rates, and many shippers hold the view that lower prices will eventually prevail in the near future. The strength displayed in raw cotton circles has in no way helped business in this market. With regard to cloth inquiry for Egypt not many cables have been received and sales on the whole have only been within a restricted compass. Not much business has been about for Constantinople and the Levant. In the yarn section Egyptian spinnings have been rather irregular in quotation with a tendency to ease somewhat. Buyers for home use have bought sparingly. The cloth demand for India has been very disappointing and only a few minor transactions have occurred. The Gandhi agitation is still causing a great deal of uneasiness. No developments have taken place with regard to China and only small sales in greys and whites have been mentioned with the exception of one fairly large transaction in a well known make of shirtings. South America still lags behind, but the position out there is said to be improving. Prices for American yarns have been a little easier with only a small offtake. There has been a decided falling off in demand for export numbers. Taking the market as a whole the position at the moment is rather gloomy but there are hopes that before very long a period of greater activity will prevail.

**Smaller Lancashire Dividends.**

A table of the stocktaking results declared during the past month by well known Lancashire cotton companies is given in the monthly cotton trade circular issued this week by Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, and an analysis of the announcements confirms the reports of the lean times through which nearly all concerns have recently passed. The review relates to 59 mills where the spinning of cotton yarn only is carried on, and the total paid up ordinary share capital is £7,054,750. For the quarter ended July thirty-nine concerns have not been able to make a distribution to shareholders, two have paid a dividend of 5 per cent annum, ten per cent. per annum, one 13 1-3 per cent. per annum, six 20 per cent. per annum,and one 26 2-3 per cent per annum. The average dividend per company works out at 4.58 per cent. per annum, and for the previous three months trading the same 49 companies made an average distribution of 6.78 per cent. per annum.

## Liverpool Report.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 4 :—In comparison to the prices demanded for similar qualities in Egypt, our market continues to be the more attractive to buyers, and the turnover has been maintained at about the total of recent weeks, the sales amounting to 1,500 bales (including 120 Sudan), against 1,600 in our last report. Prices continue to be irregular, especially in the medium grades of Sakel, of which quality the major portion of the turnover consists, and generally sellers find themselves unable to obtain the benefit of the higher quotations. The demand is not of sufficient weight to absorb the holding of those anxious to liquidate, and at present buyers are well advised to ascertain at what price they can obtain their cotton on the spot here before purchasing overseas, as there are undoubted bargains in certain qualities. Brown cotton has been in slightly better request, and in some cases has been taken by regular buyers of "extra Uppers," which at the moment appear rather prohibitive in price Egypt sends some cheap c.i.f. offers for the medium and lower grades of Uppers. We are rather inclined to the opinion that the present is a favourable opportunity for users in the above to cover themselves, certainly, in comparison to American cotton, the basis appears very reasonable. Quotations for all grades and qualities are raised 50 points in the week.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from August 5 to August 11 amounted to 2,240,000 francs against 3.130,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st May, 1921, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Share Capital..... (300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each). | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund : | |
| Statutory Reserve ..... | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve ..... | 585,000 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts ..... | 12,108,397 |
| Mixed Tribunals ..... | 1,798,235 |
| Egyptian Government..... | 616,718 |
| Bankers Accounts ..... | 760,763 |
| Cheques and Bills payable ..... | 198,961 |
| Sundry other Accounts ..... | 786,521 |
| | £E21,242,095 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government ..... | | 7,805,479 |
| Sundry Securities ..... | | 217,502 |
| Advances on Merchandise ..... | | 1,291,968 |
| Advances on Securities ..... | | 1,873,773 |
| Advances otherwise Secured ..... | | 545,205 |
| Sundry other Advances ..... | | 1,447,721 |
| Bills of Exchange ..... | | 586,085 |
| Local Bills Discounted ..... | | 228,516 |
| Buildings and Furniture..... | | 237,053 |
| Money at call and at short notice ..... | | 667,875 |
| Bankers Accounts ..... | | 865,141 |
| Sudan Government ..... | | 141,352 |
| Sundry other Accounts ..... | | 403,105 |
| Egyptian Government..... | | 3,100,881 |
| Cash : | | |
| Notes ..... | 1,641,208 | |
| Gold ..... | 20,106 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. ..... | 169,125 | 1,830,439 |
| | | £E21,242,095 |

### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Notes Issued ..... | 34,500,000 |
| | £E34,500,000 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Gold ..... | 3,339.573 | |
| *British Treasury Bills ..... | 13,910,427 | |
| | | 17,250,000 |
| Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government..... | 379,473 | |
| British Treasury Bills & National War Bonds ..... | 16,870,527 | 17,250,000 |
| | | £E34,500,000 |

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of 30th October 1916.)


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## TOBACCO HARVEST IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade (Captain F. Murray Harvey) in a report to the Department of Overseas Trade quotes the Belgrade journal *Politika* of August 1 as stating that this year's tobacco crop in Yugoslavia promises to be exceptionally good. Certain regions, Macedonia for example, have suffered from hail but the drought generally experienced has favoured the cultivation of tobacco. It is predicted that this year's crop will be about 13,000,000 kilogrammes, as follows:—Serbia and Macedonia, 6,000,000; Bosnia and Herzegovina, 4,000,000; Vojvodina, 2,000,000; Dalmatia, 1,000,000.

The *Politika* adds that this quantity will not only be able to satisfy the normal consumption of the country, but will enable stocks to be held in reserve as the normal requirements for consumption in Yugoslavia are about 10,000,000 kilos per annum. It will be possible after forming reserves for a considerable quantity to be exported. An improvement of the quality of Yugoslavian tobacco will result from the installation of a large number of storing sheds in Macedonia, thus permitting of the proper sorting of the crop.

## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Mamouret-ul-Aziz.

The report for June states:— A number of local merchants have left for Constantinople to obtain articles for winter. Those of Malatia more numerous, who have not been able to obtain locally all the paper they require have arrived here to purchase by cheque for a total amount of £T100,000, which has temporarily brought about a fall in gold.

Some traders, who went away some time ago, are on their return from Samsoun; but they are unable to purvey their goods because of the lack of means of transport. In winter the cost of transport of one batman (about 7½ kilos) of goods from Samsoun to Mamouret-ul-Aziz is 200 to 240 piastres. It fell to 150, but to-day is 250 with a tendency to rise.

The sales of dry cocoons in the course of the month registered by the Ottoman Public Dept, amount to 3938 kilos at a mean price of Ps. 88 per kilo. The silk is utilised for the manufacture of local stuffs, especially at Diarbekir. The grains produced in the country are sold chiefly to Baghdad and Persia. At present, because of the interrupted communications with these countries local producers are seeking purchasers.

## OIL IN ALBANIA.

Reuter's Athens correspondent in a message dated August 14, states that a telegram from Yanina (Southern Albania) says that explorations for oil springs have given satisfactory results. Eighteen wells have been bored in the region of Dragotza and are yielding a rich oil comparable in quality to the Baku product.

## GREECE'S CHEESE PRODUCTION.

The cheese production of Greece for 1920-21 is 30 per cent. less than for 1919-20 on account of lack of pasture, the winter having been mild and snowfall insufficient (says an American consular report). The production of cheese has been: Casseri cheese, 4,252,250 pounds in 1920, and 2,962,575 pounds in 1921; macaroni cheese, 9,875,250 pounds in 1920, and 6,912,675 pounds in 1921; cheese sliced in brine, 8,464,500 pounds in 1920 and 4,937,625 pounds in 1921.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Markets still Inactive.

*(From our own Correspomdent.)*

London, Monday.

There is little change to record in the markets this week. Business has been very restricted, but there have been no price movements of any great significance.

The gilt-edged group has been rather dull. Consols are 48¼, a decline of 7-8, while Fundings are 1-8 down at 71,3-8. War Loan Fives have continued a firm spot, and are 1-16 up at 88 1-8.

An inactive tone has prevailed in the industrial group. Shipping shares have been rather better, P. and O. Deferred being 350.

Banks have provided one of the best features of the week, a number of the leading descriptions being in strong request. P and O. Banking Corporations went up considerably early in the week, but close below the best at 11 11-16. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 7¾, while National Bank of Egypt are 19 1-8. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are 52, and Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed bonds are 55.

Oil shares have been dull, Anglo-Egyptian being 1 15-32, Roumanian Consolidated 10s. Steaua Romana 12s. 6d., and Burmahs, 5,11-16. Stagnation describes the position in the rubber markets, and there are no indications at the present time of any improvement.

In Near East securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are 68, Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. to 98 and 68, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent 1855 are 69.

In Greek shares the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 43, while the 5 per cent. 1884 is 42. The 5 per cent. 1890 is 41, while Fundings are 40. The 4 per cent. 1910 Loan is 31, while the 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is 33. The 5 per cent 1914 Loan is 43.

In Land shares Beheras are 8¾, while the Preference are 3 1-8. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are 3, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s. 6d. Egyptian Delta Lands are 8s. 3d., Gharbieh Lands are 1¼, New Egyptians are 23s. 6d. Union Foncieres are 2,5-16, while Soudan Plantations are 2¾.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated August 4:—From July 31, to August 21 storm from Bay caused heavy rain in Sind, Gujarat, Rajputana, and Baluchistan. August 2, monsoon also strengthened in Peninsula. August 3, strengthened in Central Provinces. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, to July 29, were 2,748,000 bales, as compared with 3,317,000 during the corresponding period of the last year. Calcutta gunny market for week ending August 2 :—Hessians quiet ; heavy goods very firm with rapid advance in prices for qualities in demand. Market closes firm. Rangoon rice market August 1—Rs. 577½ ; August 2—steady at Rs. 580. Paddy firm at Rs. 235. Government of India has allotted 25,000 tons rice for Ceylon, 15,000 tons for Straits, 10,000 tons for Mauritius, against which Licences will now issue.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended July 30, amounted to £7,257.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended July 20 amounted to £E9,454 ; total for year, £E98,520. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E12,784 ; total for year £E128,921.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on July 29 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, 4½ ; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6¾ ; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½ ; Associated Cotton Ginners, 13-16 ; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 57 ; Behera Ord., £E 8¾ ; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr., 78 ; Building Lands of Egypt, £5-8 ; Cassi di Sconto, Priv. Fr. 94½ ; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 35 ; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 23 ; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1 ; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5 ; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 810 ex. ; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 634 ; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr, 320½ ; 1903 Oblig., Fr.. 223, Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., 226, Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162 ; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130 ; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr., 78. ; Eaux du Caire, Jouissance. Fr. 105, Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord. 28s. ; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, 4,9-16 ; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10,1-32 ; Gabbari Lands, 7s. 6d. ; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5,3-8 ; Kkedivial Mail S.S. Ord. 110s. ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2 9-16 ; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £4 21-32 ; Kom Ombo Ste, Fondateur, £33 9-6 ; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts do Fond, £41 ; Lots Turc, Fr., 41 ; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 270 ; Nungovich Hotels, £6,17-32 ; Ramleh Railway, £2,5-8 ; Salt and Soda, 32s. 9d. ; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 46 ; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 63 ; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2½ ; Egypt Hotels, £1 27-32 ; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

**Bengal-Nagpur Railway.**

The interim report of the Company states that actual returns for the year ended March 31st 1921 have not yet been received but the company's share of surplus profits, Rs6,56,701 has been duly paid to company's credit by the Government of India. Owing to the prevailing rate of exchange the directors have thought it inadvisable to transfer it to England at present. The Board has declared an interim dividend in respect of the half-year at the rate of 15s. per £100 Ordinary stock and bonus of 10 per cent., payable July 1, making together with guaranteed interest £3 per £100 Ordinary stock, tax being deducted from interim dividend and bonus at 4s. 9d. in £ and from guaranteed interest at 6s. in £. Balance of undivided surplus (including accrued interest on investments, but excluding depreciation of securities in excess of £25,000) available on July 1, is estimated at £228 700, after providing for present interim dividend and bonus.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME.

A scheme involving the contruction of a barrage 70 metres in height at Stchovice, near Prague, has been submitted to the Minister of Public Works. This barrage, situated 30 kilometres south of Prague would produce over 250 million kilo-watt-hours a year, and would save Czechoslovakia, 60,000 waggons of coal. The realisation of this scheme would cost from 250 to 300 million crowns. All organisations concerned in Central Bohemia, notably the Chamber of Commerce at Prague, the Agricultural Board, the Federation of Czechoslovak Industries, support the project, which has attracted the attention of many foreign engineers and financiers. The electrification of Central Bohemia and the improvement of the Vitava as a waterway will completely alter the economic situation of that region.

It is reported that all imports into Bulgaria, from whatever country are subject to the " General " rates of Customs and other duties which were brought into force on August 9, until new commercial treaties have been concluded.


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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

A White Paper issued last week gives particulars of the shipping and tonnage passing through the Suez Canal in 1919. The total number of transits was 3,986, and the net tonnage was 16,013,802, 2,679 of the vessels were British, their net tonnage being 11,355, 067. Japan came second with 438 vessels of a net tonnage of 1,449,839, and Holland third with 181 vessels, and a net tonnage of 754,517. Of the total shipping 2,068 were merchant vessels, 1,351 of them being British with a net tonnage of 6,109,721, while Japan, again second, was represented by 283 vessels of a net tonnage of 934,545. The total receipts for the year amounted to 144,983,678 francs. The mean duration of the passage of vessels, after deduction of delays caused by naval and military requirements, was 16 hours 4 minutes.

527,502 passengers went through the canal, 311,406 being outward and 216,096 homeward bound. Of the total 278,530 were British, and of the remainder 102,717 were French. Five hundred and ninety-six vessels made the passage for the first time, of which 95 were under Government charter and 164 belonged to shipping lines, which have sent a traffic of not less than 90,000 tons through the canal during the year.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE DANUBE FLEET.

A communique issued by the Czechoslovak Bureau of Information regarding the arrival of shipping to Czechoslovakia states :—Czechoslovakia will receive 3 passenger vessels, 7 tug boats and 116 cargo boats. The passenger vessels will be delivered by the Danube Navigation Company, the tugs and cargo boats by the South German Navigation Company, the Hungarian Danube Navigation Company and the "Atlantik" Company. The former of these companies will supply Czechoslovakia with 2 passenger vessels of 360 horse-power each (the "Agstein" and "Wachau,") which will ply between Parkany and Bratislava, and a vessel of 710 horse-power (the "Wien"), which hitherto plied between Vienna and Budapest. The South German Navigation Company will supply 5 tug boats (the "Wien" 850 horse-power, "Munchen" 600 horse-power, "Bayern" 500 horse-power, "Irene" 350 horse-power, "Wittelsbach" 500 horse-power). The Hungarian Danube Navigation Company will supply Czechoslovakia with its largest tug boat, the "Magyar Orszag," 1,200 horse-power, while the "Atlantik" Company will supply the tug boat "Beatars," 450 horse-power, this making a total of 5,886 horse-power in place of 4,000 horse-power granted. Out of the 116 cargo boats, the South German Navigation Company will supply 52, the remainder being delivered by the three other companies.

## INFORMATION ON ROUMANIAN PORTS.

The Commercial Attaché of the Roumanian Legation in London has notified the Department of Overseas Trade that the Chambers of Commerce at Braila, Galatz, and Constantza have signified their willingness to supply by letter or cable any kind of information required by British shippers and shipowners as to the conditions at those ports with regard to loading and unloading facilities.


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## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 27); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, August 27); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 8); s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, September 14).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 31).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Mackenzie for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 18); s.s. Clan Macbride for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 25).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Cypria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 20).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Belgravian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 3).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. Lorenzo for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, August 26); s.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 6).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of London for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, August 31).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Pembrokeshire for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, August 25); s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham Singapore, etc. (London, September 22).

*Glynn Line.*—S.s. Ravenspoint for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, August 26).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Craftsman for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 27).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Burma for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 24); s.s. Martaban for Port Said, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 6).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Tydeus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, August 25); s.s. Hector for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, August 25); s.s. Machaon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, September 2).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, August 20); s.s. Venice for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 27).

*Maindy Line.*—S.s. Maindy Tower for Antwerp and Moroccan Ports (London, end of August).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Limoges for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Haifa, Beyrout and Cyprus (Liverpool, August 25); s.s. Assiout for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, (Liverpool, September 3).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Serbino for Tangier, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersina, Jaffa, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.) (Liverpool, August 23).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Soudan for Bombay (London, August 19); s.s. Kashgar for Bombay, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 26); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 9); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, September 9).

*P. and O. British Line.*—S.s. Hatarana for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 3); s.s. Nardana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 3); s.s. Mundra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 17); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 23); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 7).

**Three vessels of the British Danube Flotilla, which has been paying an official visit to Belgrade, arrived at Budapest on July 27, on their way to Vienna. The members of the crews were received by the local officials.**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 537—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Asia Minor War.*

The Greek advance on a semi-circular front, some eighty miles in extent, had reached a point within fifty miles of Angora before encountering any serious resistance. A battle on the River Sakaria is reported to be in progress as we go to press, and on the right wing the Greeks announce an important success. The Turkish centre still holds, but if the battle goes against the Turks Mustapha Kemal's chances of offering any serious defence of his capital must be dwindling. The difficulties of King Constantine's army increase each day, but it is obviously well in its fighting stride, and a swift stroke may bring it valuable booty at the Angora terminus in the form of needed rolling stock. Speculation as to the future course of events is at this stage altogether idle, as it is not known to what extent Mustapha Kemal in defeat will be able to claim to speak for Nationalist Turkey, or whether he will be reduced to be a mere chieftain of guerilla warfare. It would suit both Greece and the Allies better if there remained in Asia Minor some recognised authority capable of entering into negotiations in a chastened and reasonable frame of mind. Mustapha Kemal failed to seize the opportunity offered him, and it is at least problematical whether he will be given a second chance.

### *The Allies and King Constantine.*

Whatever form the ultimate settlement of Asia Minor may take, Greece has gained a priceless possession which we may hope will never be taken away from her again. She has achieved once more national unity under King Constantine. No good purpose can be served by ignoring the facts. M. Venizelos may have stood head and shoulders above his generation ; he saved Greece from herself in 1910 and rendered possible the Balkan victory over Turkey ; his services to his country in the Great War and after the Armistice seemed to make him still more Greece's greatest benefactor, but their immediate result was to divide the whole Hellenic world into two bitterly hostile camps. The price paid for his successes proved too high. A country's interests should always rank above any question of personalities, and in acclaiming the national unity which the Greeks will have regained with their victories in Asia Minor there is no desire to detract from the lustre associated with M. Venizelos's name or to invest King Constantine with merit that does not belong to him. He will probably be the first to realise that such greatness as is his up to this point has been thrust upon him as the outcome of a loyal nation's devotion. His capacity for constructive statesmanship has yet to be shown. But at least he has shamed the Allies out of an attitude which did rank injustice to a whole people in gratification of petty personal spite, and this passive achievement may yet bring more real happiness to Greece than the victories against Mustapha Kemal's forces.

### *Greece's Status.*

By doing nothing at this juncture in regard to the Greco-Turkish question the Supreme Council may be congratulating itself that it follows the line of least resistance, in the knowledge that, as soon as such a policy becomes impossible, it can shuffle off its responsibility on to the Council of the League of Nations, as in the case of Silesia. Each day, however, that sees a decision on the subject shirked brings fresh complications. The British Prime Minister is authority for the statement that the treaty of Sèvres has been torn up by the Allies ; but it is doubtful whether the latter will welcome Greece's intervention in scattering the scraps of the torn treaty to the four winds. The Greeks went to Smyrna on the instructions of the Allies ; they reopened hostilities against the Nationalists on their own authority, and it is on the same authority that they are now extending their administration over all the conquered parts of Asia Minor. As there must be an administrative authority recognised in these regions, the step may be inevitable, but unless it is taken on a clear understanding previously reached, the final liquidation of the position is bound to be rendered more difficult. M. Stratos, probably the shrewdest politician now in Greece, has put the whole issue in a nut-shell by blaming the Greek Government for not obtaining a definite answer from the Entente Powers to the question whether Greece had ceased to be an ally or not. The Supreme Council has been glad enough to burke the question, in order that it might " save the face " of its members by regarding itself as a neutral towards King Constantine, while retaining M. Venizelos, an unofficial Hellene, within the Alliance. The resumption of rational relations with Greece is an indispensable preliminary to a satisfactory settlement of the Greco-Turkish question.

### *Albania's Appeal.*

After being passed on to the Ambassadors' Conference for the settlement of her boundaries, Albania has again appealed as a member of the League of Nations to the Council of that body with regard to alleged aggressions on

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the part of Yugoslavia (or rather the Serbians) on her northern frontier. The subject was referred to in our Albanian correspondence last week, and if a tithe of the Albanian allegations are true, both the Supreme Council and the League of Nations will be incurring a grave risk in postponing a strict investigation of the matter. It would have been thought that the statesmen constituting the former body would have already realized what a poor figure they are likely to cut in the judgment of future generations as a result of their handling of the Near Eastern question as a whole; but their attitude towards Albania has been even more cynical than that which they have adopted towards other details of a complex problem. It is indeed worse than the abandonment of Montenegro, in regard to which they may possibly plead inability in the stress of war and amid a conflict of asseveration to arrive at the true facts. No such plea holds good in regard to Albania. Not the least ominous feature is the alleged reappearance of the Black Hand Society which is said to have played such a prominent part in the crusade, extending over a score of years, against Montenegro. When allegations and counter-allegations are bandied about in the Balkans the wise man takes no sides without sufficient evidence. But in the interests of the general peace of the Peninsula it is imperative that the anomalous state of affairs on the Serbo-Albanian frontier should not be allowed to continue indefinitely.

### *King Feisal*

The overwhelming vote in Mesopotamia (96 per cent. in an electorate of "about one million") in favour of the candidature of the Emir Feisal for the rulership confirms official expectations and incidentally offers a good augury of a comparatively peaceful life for the new monarch. With the ceremony in connection with King Feisal's accession, which took place on August 23, a new Arab State comes into existence. Its designation as a democratic constitutional monarchy introduces a new conception into the Arab world, but events since the Armistice will have familiarised, if not all the dwellers in Mesopotamia, at least a considerable proportion of them with the part they will be expected to play in the Kingdom of Irak. For the rest, King Feisal appears already to have won over the Sheikhs whose attitude until his arrival was problematical, and is apparently more acceptable to the desert tribesmen as a whole than any local candidate would have been. It will be Irak's fault rather than his, in all probability, if his reign is not a success.

### *Turkish Intrigue.*

"A minor outbreak of disorder" is reported in Mesopotamia, and so far there is no ground for challenging this description of the fresh trouble. On July 31, according to the Colonial Office statement, a post of Arab police at Batas (63 miles E. N. E. of Mosul) was suddenly attacked by a body of Kurdish outlaws, stiffened by a number of Turkish soldiers, and surrendered. A few days later a detachment of Turks took possession of Rowanduz, the chief town in the immediate district, on the road from Mosul to Urmiah. Air attacks failed to dislodge the tribesmen, and it has been found necessary to send a column to demonstrate in the unsettled area. Unless the movement spreads, there is no need to dignify the outbreak as a new "revolt." It has been recognised all along, and was insisted upon by Mr. Churchill in his speech to the House of Commons that the tranquillity of Mesopotamia was dependent upon a working agreement with Nationalist Turkey. So long as Nationalists are pleased to consider Great Britain as their arch-enemy they have it in their power to foment disturbances in Mesopotamia. The remedy is not to scuttle from that country, and thereby enable the Turks to extend the sphere of their hostile activities to a region where they would be more dangerous, but to remove the injustices that the Treaty of Sèvres seeks to impose upon Turkish aspirations. It is not to be supposed that the Turks will now be over anxious to meet us half-way in this matter. The difficulties experienced will be the price to be paid for past mistakes.

### *British Representations in the Near East.*

The fact that within three years Great Britain will have had four different representatives at the Legation in Sofia justifies an appeal to the Board responsible for Diplomatic appointments to revise its estimate of Near Eastern posts in the scale of Imperial importance. Such frequent changes anywhere are liable to be prejudicial to British interests; in the Balkans at the present juncture they are particularly so. The time has come when South Eastern Europe should be regarded from the point of view of British interests as a single political entity. Separate representation is required in the various capitals, but if the importance of the Balkan countries as a whole in their relation to the scheme of the British Empire is appreciated, it will be realised how important it is that British representation there should be best available, of a specialist type and correlated. By the latter term we mean that the representatives should be encouraged to regard their work as dovetailing into a compact whole; with a common policy aiming at bringing the different countries together and composing their differences, there is as much need for frequent exchanges of views among themselves as for regular communications to and from Downing Street. The constructive work that British representatives in the Balkans will have it in their power to perform in the coming years will be invaluable to the Empire; but it will not be done, if they are led to suppose that their appointment is merely a matter of routine, to which the rule of "the less heard of you the better" applies still. With the frequent changes at Sofia may be compared the retention at Athens after the restoration of King Constantine of a Minister whose appointment is supposed to have been asked for by M. Venizelos. Better work has never been done in Greece than by Lord Granville, and if official relations with the Court could have been resumed at once, the old closeness of touch between the Palace and the British Legation, which the Earl and Countess Granville could have been relied upon to restore, would have served the interests of both countries. As things are, it must seem in Greece that the British Government has gone beyond subservience to an Ally's pique by indulging in pin-pricks herself.

### *The Indian Cotton Duties.*

Mr. Montagu's reply to the deputation from Lancashire which waited on him last week showed no weakening of his attitude towards the Indian duties on imported cotton-goods. Interference from this side was, he declared, absolutely impossible, and, if Manchester was suffering, the right thing to do was to apply to India for redress, a course which, by the way, has already been accepted in principle by the Manchester

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Chamber of Commerce The Indian Fiscal Commission will be sitting this winter, and it will doubtless be prepared to hear any representations addressed to it on the subject, though this will be rather cold comfort for the manufacturers and operatives who complain of losing business every day, seeing that the Commission has many months of work before it can hope to submit its report; and for practical purposes, it might be better to devote a little effort to counteracting the boycott of which we wrote last week, surely a more imminent danger to the Lancashire industry than even the enhanced duties, whatever the result. The heckling of Mr. Gandhi by a party of trades unionists could scarcely fail to conduce to the enlightenment of both sides.

### *The Indian Munitions Affair—*

The India Government is certainly in a mess over the Calcutta Munitions affair. Hitherto the case has attracted little attention in this country, but India has been talking scandal about munition frauds for some years, and when definite charges were at last brought, there were general anticipations of important and interesting disclosures. These anticipationswere, however, disappointed, for, after the charges had been explained in court, the prosecution was formally withdrawn on the ground that, owing to the financial position of some of the accused persons, their conviction would be disastrous to struggling industries and large numbers of small shareholders. An outcry naturally followed. The quidnuncs were deprived of the expected sustenance; the accused persons complained that, while charges had been publicly made, they had been given no opportunity of making their defence; sticklers for legal and constitutional propriety asked if impunity was to depend on the number of a man's directorships; and all alike turned their invective against the Viceroy on the not unnatural assumption that it was he who had stopped the case.

### *—and Its Consequences.*

Then came a second surprise. The order withdrawing the case turned out to have been given by Members of the Council for Industry, who,we are told,had consulted some of his colleagues, but not the Viceroy or the Council as a whole. Lord Reading in fact learned of it through the newspapers; he was prompt to express his disapproval; and the India Office began to cable supplementary questions, the replies to which have not yet been disclosed. Lord Readings' disapproval seems to cut the ground from under the feet of those who defended the action of his Government on general grounds, but the important question just now is less of the past actions than of the present position of the Government. The times call for an exceptional union of statesmanship and vigour, but the Council is divided on one of those moral issues where compromise is usually impossible and the fact of the division is made obvious to the world at large. The result can hardly fail to be a loss of power, and of prestige, which may produce serious effects in the near future.

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Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Greek papers publish letter in English from Bishop Copleston and others inviting help towards the memorial to Bishop Blyth to be placed in St George's Collegiate Church in Jerusalem. Bishop Blyth often visited Cyprus, where he was much esteemed and respected.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

### Parliament and Ireland.

Parliament has been adjourned till the autumn, after a pretty little squabble between Lords and Commons over the Safeguarding of Industries Bill. In the old days the question whether that particular measure was or was not a Money Bill within the meaning of the Parliament Act would almost have shaken the political heavens; but constitutional points do not rouse the new electorate as they did the old—it is very doubtful whether the cabman's wife of Peckham Rye (who has a vote, "even as you and I") could give a correct definition of a Money Bill to save her life.

Anyway, we are a Protectionist State now. Mr. Harold Cox assures us that we are in a fair way to ruin ourselves and the world by our folly; we read these things in the Sunday papers after church, and take as much notice as the ordinary sinner does of the sermon.

The fact is, Ireland has made us forget everything else in the political field. And things are not going well with the Irish negotiations. It is true that Dublin still professes the utmost confidence, at least in its leading articles. And the London Press, with the exception of the *Morning Post*, still expresses the conviction that the terms, or something like the terms, must be agreed upon; civil war is as "unthinkable" now as was war with the Germans seven years ago, according to the newspapers. But the public is less assured as to the foundation for this optimism. It has read De Valera's speech at the opening of the Sinn Fein Parliament, and anything less like conciliation was never spoken. If De Valera meant to accept the terms, it is argued, he would have spoken very differently. That is perhaps not the whole truth. I believe it to be the fact that a large party, perhaps even the majority of Sinn Fein, wants an honourable compromise, and thinks—as the rest of the world very emphatically does also—that the terms offered by Downing Street as a basis of settlement are not merely adequate, but generous. There is, of course, a considerable irreconcilable fraction, who will be satisfied with nothing but complete separation; but these are apparently not the majority.

The real explanation of De Valera's *intransigeant* attitude, I gather, is not that he altogether disagrees with the terms offered, but that he is angry that Ulster has escaped him; he would sooner carry on the present position without Ulster than arrange a *concordat* which recognises Ulster as a separate unit. In other words, the position is still what it has been for a very long while past—while England is the nominal enemy who must be publicly blackguarded as the tyrant at all costs, Ulster is the real problem. The pose of "England the Enemy," however, has been increasingly ineffective of late years, and since the offer of a Dominion status, which De Valera scoffs at—although it was good enough for General Smuts—foreigners are less than ever likely to believe in the tyranny of the British Government. The real trouble to-day, as for the past thirty years or more, is that Irishmen cannot agree upon which form of Government they want, and they will not show any toleration

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to each other. However, the situation, although critical, is not yet altogether hopeless; and it is possible that the Sinn Fein Parliament will be wiser in secret session than it has so far shown itself in its public exhibitions.

**By-Elections and Anti-Waste.**

There are now four by-elections on, but the contest at Westminster holds the public attention most. In this constituency politics have been reduced to a farce. There are three candidates, one of whom is an anti-vaccinator, anti-vivisectionist and pacifist, and who hardly counts as a serious factor. But all three candidates have labelled themselves anti-waste; and as one is a General, and the other a Colonel, and neither had ever been heard of before outside military circles, the position has become ridiculous. Anti-waste, in fact, was too good a cry. No candidate can do without it, and therefore every candidate, whatever his politics, tacks it on to his banner. Now that this has happened, the Anti-Waste party seem doomed. It is the fate of all parties without fundamental political principle, as had been foreseen; but one had not expected it to be doomed so soon, or in precisely so ludicrous a fashion.

**A Schism in the Church.**

The Broad Church Conference which has just been held at Cambridge is likely to give rise to some serious difficulties. The Broad Church party has for some time been urging that the time has come for a re-interpretation of the fundamental truths of Christianity, and it has secured a considerable following, despite the suspicion and alarm with which both high and low varieties have regarded them; but in its desire to minimise the "miraculous and mythical element" of religion, it seems in a fair way to give up the essentials altogether. A paper by the Dean of Carlisle has received wide publicity, and has been immediately answered by Bishop Gore and Dr. Welldon—the latter of whom makes an effective point by saying that the Broad Churchmen are always telling him what they do not believe, but the time has come for them to say exactly what they do believe.

As the Dean has blamed the reporters for inaccuracy and misrepresentation, and I have not yet seen the full report of his paper, I cannot judge how far he is personally responsible for the controversy. But the revision of the Creed which has been suggested by Dr. White at the Conference shows that the general alarm is not groundless. The proposed new Creed runs as follows: "I believe in God the Father of all, and Jesus Christ the Revealer of God and Saviour of Man; and in the Spirit of Holiness, which is the Spirit of God and of Jesus; by which Spirit man is made Divine. I acknowledge the Communion of all faithful people in beauty, goodness, and truth; and I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the glory of righteousness, the victory of love, and the life eternal."

It will be noticed that there is no allusion here to the divinity of Christ; the Resurrection as well as the Virgin Birth have both disappeared, and the Trinity is refined away to a shadow. This is in fact pure theism; and while Canon Barnes a year ago gave up the fall of man in a celebrated sermon, Dr. White and his colleagues now give up the whole of the Pauline theology founded on that doctrine.

There is, of course, no prospect whatever that the Church of England will adopt this proposal; it would cut itself off from the rest of Christendom if it did, and become practically a Unitarian body. Some indignation is being expressed against the reformers by ardent churchmen, but I think the more general attitude is that while they have a perfect right to hold these views (which are, indeed, very largely held by laymen outside the Church) those who hold them cannot honestly and loyally remain in the Church. The example of Sir Leslie Stephen, who resigned holy orders when he was no longer able to accept the doctrine of the Church, is being recalled in many quarters as an admirable one to follow. It is not likely that this episode will be suffered to die down without a good many resounding echoes.

**The Last Test Match.**

The fifth Test Match ended tamely in a draw. But in cricketing as in clerical circles controversy is afoot. In the last innings of England, when a drawn game was inevitable, Armstrong, the Australian captain, only put on his second-best bowlers, and so far from urging his side to play keenly, lolled about in the outfield himself, and hardly troubled to change his position at the overs. His action has been severely criticised, and it is not in fact easy to defend.

The remedy is obviously to play fewer matches, and to allot four, or , if necessary, five days to Test Matches, as is done in Australia. Our visitors attach less importance to county cricket than we do, and stake everything on the international matches; but they should have arranged their programmes differently in the first instance. Having agreed to the full programme, they should certainly have played up to the last ball. But the fact is, they and we alike are suffering from a surfeit of matches; and cricket, like other sports, has become too much of a business and too little of a game. The takings have been excellent, and the Australians are undefeated—but frankly, other tours have left happier memories.

**London for the Holidays.**

Every seaside town is crowded with Londoners on holiday, but London itself is fuller than ever, and the hotels, unlike the theatres, are turning people away nightly. A large invasion of Americans and country cousins are doing the sights of the Metropolis, from the Houses of Parliament to Madame Tussaud's, and the Tower. Despite the hard times, the visitors seem to be spending money freely, and the shopkeepers are making up something of what they lost earlier in the year. The Londoner can never get over his amazement at anybody coming to London for pleasure, but I saw a countryman on a motor-bus the other day who was enthralled by his first sight of Fleet Street. He informed me reverently that "this is the place where they make the news"—I let it go at that—and told me that he was going on to the Old Bailey, to see if he could get into a murder trial, as he had always wanted to see a judge put on the black cap. It seemed a *macabre* idea for a holiday.

**Books of the Week.**

Two new books that have come my way recently have provided good reading. In the first, "A Philosopher with Nature" (Methuen) the late Mr. Benjamin Kidd, whose name is well known as a sociologist, writes delightfully of birds and other animals. The other is very different. "Reflections of a Financier" (Hodder and Stoughton) by Mr. Otto H. Kahn, shows the great American banker in philosophical and ethical mood. In a very interesting series of essays he emphasises the note of service. The wealthy man "should never forget that the advantages and powers which he enjoys are his on sufferance, so to speak, during good behaviour. My eagerness is not to gain, but to serve. Materially and in other ways I owe a heavy debt to this my adopted country (America), and I am anxious to repay such part as I may, by placing at its disposal my experience and modest capacities for what they may be worth." The modern American school of sociologists has rather unduly stressed the "acquisitive" side of business; it is just as well that Capital should show that it owns, as one might say, a soul among the greenbacks.

The first two volumes of "Mr. Punch's History of Modern England (Cassell)" really require no introduction. They are by Mr. Charles L. Graves, whom I have always thought the most remarkable journalist of our times, since he is on the staff both of the *Spectator* and *Punch*—about as difficult a combination, one imagines, as the *Church Times* and the *Sporting Times*. However, here he traces *Punch* from its beginning as a confessedly Radical organ to a Conservative middle-class paper. It is practically a social history of the mid-Victorian age. I must add that it is written in a style which makes one regret that Mr. Graves has buried so much of his talent in the small print of the *Spectator*, instead of writing books under his own name, where one could identify him.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, August* 11.

**An Act of Remembrance.**

Annually on the anniversary of the entrance of Great Britain into the great war members of the French community have visited the Military cemetery at Hadra and deposited wreaths on the graves of the British soldiers buried there. This year this touching ceremony again took place, and appropriate speeches were made by the Acting High Commissioner and the French Consul, a guard of honour being furnished by the Sherwood Foresters.

**The Political Situation.**

Strenuous efforts are being made to reconstitute the late Mustapha Pasha Kamel's party the "Hisb El Watani," and a conference, which Prince Mohamed Ali attended, was held this week. The question of the reconstitution of the party was debated, and it was decided to start an organ for the foundation of which permission was obtained from the authorities several weeks ago. The new organ will bear the title of *El Lewa El Masri* (the Egyptian Standard), after the former organ of the party, which was so prominent in the early part of the century and was finally suppressed in 1912 for seditious propaganda. At the conference the speakers attacked both Adly Pasha and Zaghloul Pasha, the policy advocated and approved by the assembly being that no negotiations ought to be undertaken with regard to the future status of the country until Great Britain had recognised the independence of Egypt and the Sudan and Ziela, Massawa, and the other former African possessions of Egypt had been restored to her. Since the death of Mustapha Pasha Kamel, and of his successor Mohamed Bey Farid the "Hisb El Watani" has played a very minor part in Egyptian politics. It is true that it has periodically intervened during the present controversy, but it no longer holds the position it formerly had, and it does not appear likely to have much influence over the present situation.

Beyond this the only other item of political interest to report is the message of thanks sent by Zaghloul Pasha, who is still in his Ezba, to the Labour members who signed the memorandum recently published in the *Morning Post*. In this message he informed them that every statement made by them was substantiated by documentary, and in many cases official, evidence, and that martial law was being used in order to further the intimidatory tactics which the present Cabinet was following.

**The Constituent Assembly.**

Steps are being taken to form the committee for the elaboration of the new electoral law which has been rendered necessary by the decision to summon a Constituent Assembly to ratify the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement. The committee will consist of some Government officials, several former leaders of the Native Bar and some of the dissentient members of the "Wafd." An invitation has been extended to Fathalla Pasha Barakat and others of the active supporters of Zaghloul Pasha, but it is not yet known whether they will agree to serve on this committee. The action of the Government in trying to make the committee as representative as possible of all parties is exceedingly wise, for on the one hand it shows that it wishes to have the collaboration, in such an important matter, of even its political opponents, and at the same time it serves to disarm criticism from the latter source.

**The Bomb Discovery.**

The bomb affair recently reported has not developed as was expected. It is believed by the authorities that the whole case was engineered in the hopes that they would be taken in and that when, as was bound to happen, the case failed before a Military Court, discredit would be thrown on them, and thus confirmation would be forthcoming of the accusations made against them by the opposition. Action is however being taken against the informers for giving false information, while the men who had the bombs will be brought before a Military Court for being in possession of bombs. Thus the biters will themselves be bitten. While it is satisfactory that this firm action is being taken against those who formed this alleged "conspiracy," it is distinctly disappointing that the source of these "infernal machines" has not yet been discovered. Whether in this instance there was actually a conspiracy, or whether as is surmised, it was but an endeavour to discredit the authorities and make political capital out of the affair, is really not so important as the fact that the existence of these bombs and their technical examination show that the organization for the manufacture of such weapons, which was known to exist a year ago, is still active and is indeed becoming more scientific in its work. I fully recognize that the police and Public Security are much handicapped at the present juncture, and that they have done remarkable work under most trying conditions; but nevertheless it is high time that the organisation responsible for all the bombs used during the past two years should be run to earth.

**The Cadre Commission Report.**

The report of the Cadre Commission to which reference was made about a month ago has been released for publication, and the Council of Ministers has approved of it in principle, with the exception of the grades for the two higher classes of officials and the provisions made for the extra payment to non-Egyptians in the form of an expatriation allowance. It is calculated that the application of the new grading, when it is in full working, will cost the Government an extra million a year, the bulk of which naturally, and very rightly, will go to the lowest grades. From what one can gather, however, little satisfaction is felt by the service at the result of the work of the Cadre Commission, and considerable opposition is promised from more than one important Department. The Cadre Commission does certainly seem to have failed lamentably in the performance of its main duty, which was to provide wider classes, so as to give better prospects of advancement and do away with overlapping grades and the constantly recurring "special cases," since except in the lowest grades the classes recommended and the margin in each remain practically unchanged. One would like to wager that within five years the Government will be confronted with exactly the same problems as those from which the Cadre Commission was expressly intended to relieve them.

Sub-Commissions are about to sit in order to adjust the anomalies and put each employee and official in his proper grade. With regard to the expatriation allowance to non-Egyptians, the action taken by the Council of Ministers in postponing its decision is quite logical in view of the impending change of regime and the placing on pension of an abnormal number of non-Egyptian officials. The time for the application of this provision will come when non-Egyptian officials are required to work under the "independent regime." However, since all the posts have been fixed at salaries which an Egyptian holding them should receive and the Cadre

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was drawn up on the understanding that non-Egyptian holders of those posts would draw expatriation allowance in addition, it follows that all posts at present held by non-Egyptians will have to be regarded as at a higher figure, so as not to penalise existing non-Egyptians whose actual pay in many cases is higher than the maximum fixed under the new Cadre for their grade. Otherwise the existing European officials will hope to remain in their present Cadre, and the state of affairs will become one degree worse than that which the Cadre Commission was intended to remedy.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, August 9.*

**The Communist Party.**

The Communist Party has ceased to exist. After the voting in the House the other day, a number of dejected and depressed members walked out to find a batch of detectives with a posse of gendarmes waiting for them, and some cabs. They were straightway driven off to the prison and their interrogation began. One or two were exempted, as they had severed their connection with the party directly they saw which way the wind was blowing. After the interrogation, a few were returned to their homes, where they will live under strict police supervision. Most of these, however, are reported to have requested permission to stay longer in Belgrade, till the keenness of the national anger has blown over, as they fear a somewhat warm reception on the part of their friends and neighbours..

One simple old soul, who was among the arrested deputies, was asked why he joined the party. His reply was interesting. He was naturally a supporter of his own class, the labourers, and was surprised when someone came to him and told him to stand for the Skupshtina. He protested that he was too ignorant and was illiterate and quite unfit to be a member; let them chose somebody more suitable. "No, you will do well," they said to him, "All you have to do is to vote as you are told, and to make a noise and howl and whistle when you are told to." As he was to be paid 120 dinars a day for doing this, and could hardly earn more than 30 with his hands, he very naturally accepted, and made much noise in the house for his money whenever he was ordered. And that is about as much as most of the Serbian Communists know about their "policy." The very vocabulary conveys nothing to these simple Slavs, for they do not see any meaning in such words as "communism," "dictatorship of the proletariat" etc. They usually try to twist in some meaning based on their own language. "Proletara" to them, if it means anything, means something to do with "flying through," and one old man was most indignant when somebody explained to him that it meant people who were no good for anything else but producing children. "Bolshevism" would convey to them the idea of "something better," and therefore should be a more attractive word.

An old Croat peasant, a keen "republican," of Raditch, had a fine strapping son, who attracted his officer's eye, with the result that he was selected for the Royal Guard. The old father came hurrying along, as soon as he heard the news, to see the officer, and to thank him. As the officer shook hands, the old man, with tears in his eyes, said: "Ah, now, Gospon," I will no more be a republican." Thus are politics understood in these climes'

**The Albanian Frontier.**

The Albanian hillsmen are being constantly troublesome on the borderlands. On July 31, a party of them attacked a Serbian merchant and a young officer who were quietly travelling to the market at Ipek. The merchant was killed and the young officer severely wounded. On August 4, a band of fifteen of them attacked a family party on the road from Ipek to Mitrovitsa, robbed them to the skin, then butchered them. But a nemesis was in store for at least one powerful band, led by the notorious Azem Galitch, about 150 strong, which was in a village called Yablanica near Jakovica. For some time they had been the terror of the neighbourhood, and the local commandant was delighted to hear of their presence in that village. He collected all the men he could, with a mountain gun and some machine guns, and surrounded the village, about midnight, and waited. At daybreak, the robber band was surprised to find itself enveloped. They attempted to break through, but were met with a devastating fire on all sides. After about an hour, about fifty of them did succeed in breaking their way out, as the gendarmes were not numerous enough to make the cordon absolutely tight, but with dead and wounded, a good hundred of them were left on the ground or prisoners.

**The Trial of Dr. Shufflay.**

The trial of Dr. Shufflay and his fellow-conspirators for high treason, which has been dragging on for a long time in Zagreb, has at last reached an end. Dr. Shufflay has been sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment, Pavao Zena to twelve years, a number of others to various shorter sentences, and a number have been released. It will be remembered that they were accused of intriguing with the Hungarians for the break up of the Union. The Yugoslavs have to be particularly alert against the Magyar danger, for it has been always averred, and is now stated to be proved, that the Hungarian irredentists have been helping and encouraging the Bolshevist and Terrorist activities in the country.

**General News.**

Owing to the drought the chestnuts of Zagreb have withered, and they assumed their autumn tints a long time ago. But one tree has been so misled by the long heat that it thought spring had come back and so has broken into flower a second time.

Now that the ban is removed on the export of money, it is anticipated that an international service of postal money orders will be revived in Yugoslavia.


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Sir Willoughby Dickinson, M.P., representing the League of Nations Society has arrived in Yugoslavia with a view to studying the effects of the clauses in the peace treaty for the protection of religious minorities.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, August* 10.

**Party Politics.**

As had been expected hostilities between the Liberal Party and the Cabinet have already begun. M. Marzescu, former Liberal Minister, has, by order of the Central Committee, fired the first shot by convening his constituency of Jassy to explain the motives of his withdrawal from Parliament and the resignation of his mandate as member of Parliament. In this meeting he reviewed the whole activity of the present Cabinet, criticising and condemning it most violently, and finally declaring it most harmful to the country.

M. Argetoyanu, present Minister of the Interior, was not long in making his answer. Taking advantage of a political function in the provinces at which he presided, he delivered a most cutting speech against the Liberals. After repudiating the insinuations and accusations of the Liberals and bringing into relief the important reforms which the present Cabinet had accomplished, he asserted that the chaotic state in which the country had been plunged, prior to the advent to office of the present Government, was the outcome of the incapable and self-seeking administration of the Liberals; and he further insisted that the reason the Liberals were now striving for power was solely to prevent the carrying out of the fiscal law, which would in the first place strike at them, as they and their followers were those, who, during the neutrality and the war, had scandalously amassed enormous fortunes. The Minister at the conclusion of his speech compared the Liberal Party with the former occult and unscrupulous Italian organization, the "Mafia," declaring that one of the chief points of the Cabinet's programme was to purge the country of this "Mafia," appealing to all conscientious and honest people for due support in this combat.

Some papers construe this appeal as an invitation to the constituent groups of the former Federationist block to a collaboration against the Liberals, in order to thwart a Liberal-Federationist coalition. The Liberal Press is agitating for the immediate revision of the Constitution prior to the Coronation celebration, fixed for September 27, to enable the King to take the oath on the revised Constitution, otherwise, they urge the Coronation will be unconstitutional. The Government Press treats with derision this transparent stratagem aiming at the dissolution of Parliament—as the revision has to be carried out by a "Constituante" emanating from fresh elections. It assures the Liberals that the King need not repeat the oath on each modification of the Constitution, and as to the Coronation festivities, over which the Liberals are so eager to preside, they will presumably be postponed until May next on account of the impossibility of completing this autumn the principal works, especially the decoration of the Cathedral.

**General News.**

The British flotilla on the Danube which arrived on August 5 in Vienna, will stay there until August 12, when it will resume its downward cruise.

On the rumour of an intended attempt on the line where the Royal train had to pass, the Roumanian peasants from Banat, have, on their own initiative, decided to keep watch all along the line from Arad to the frontier. At each 100 metres a neatly dressed peasant armed with a rifle or cudgel was seen guarding the line until after the Royal train had passed. The Royal family was deeply moved by this deed of devotion.

A Transylvanian paper reports that Magyar gendarmes have attacked with machine guns the Roumanian pickets at the frontier along a distance of a few kilometres; there were wounded on both sides. The attack, which lasted a whole night, was repelled after the Roumanians had received reinforcements. The British representative in Budapest has been informed of this assault.

On account of too numerous thefts and assaults perpetuated of late, the police have organized regular nocturnal raids, which have resulted in the arrest of a large number of vagabonds. Everybody, including the floating population, is advised always to carry papers of identification to avoid inconvenience.

## GREECE.

*Salonika, August* 11.

**Salonika To-day.**

Your Sofia Correspondent is paying a short visit to Salonika and is therefore writing to you from there instead of from Sofia. In the first place, he would remark that the weather is hot, abnormally so, even for Salonika. The temperature at mid-day yesterday was 49 Centigrade (120 Fahrenheit) in the sun. Life is hardly bearable until sun-set, and it is only after 6.30 that the town begins to present a more or less animated appearance. At a restaurant such as the "King George," mid-night is, in fact, the opening hour, and the clientèle remain on till the small hours. The town is very full of soldiers, some of them being home wounded from the Anatolian front, but the majority forming part of the large garrison of Macedonia.

This province is now under the orders of M. Alexandropoulos, Minister without Portfolio, who has his headquarters in the old Turkish Court of Justice, situated on the hill behind the burnt area of the town. It is four years on the 17th of this month since the great fire that destroyed upwards of 9,000 houses, took place, and so far very little has been done in the way of reconstruction and re-building. The burnt area indeed presents a blot on the landscape of an otherwise pretty town, and one hopes that when Greece is at peace again, she will set about the work of reconstruction.

There are not many outward signs of the fact that less than three years ago Salonika was the headquarters of a large Allied Army. From the English point of view the most significant thing is the number of ex-Army motor cars, Vauxhalls and Sunbeams principally, that one sees in the streets. Recently in addition to motor cars, a hundred and fifty British Army lorries have been sold to the Greeks.

**The War Spirit.**

Everywhere one goes one meets with an extraordinary pro-Royalist feeling. Blind faith is exhibited in King Constantine and the latter has now become an idol, who can do no wrong. His popularity has indeed become such that his wishes and desires are able to have uncontrolled sway. Naturally enough the Greeks are very proud of the successes of their Army in Asia Minor, and the local papers predict that the second and final stage of the operations is about to begin. Confident is only a mild word with which to describe the feeling, for there is no doubt that the country anticipates a complete victory over the Kemalists. It is no secret that Constantinople is looked upon here as a possible prize, consequent on a victory in Anatolia, and great hopes are entertained that England, and in particular Mr. Lloyd George will support the Greek claims in this

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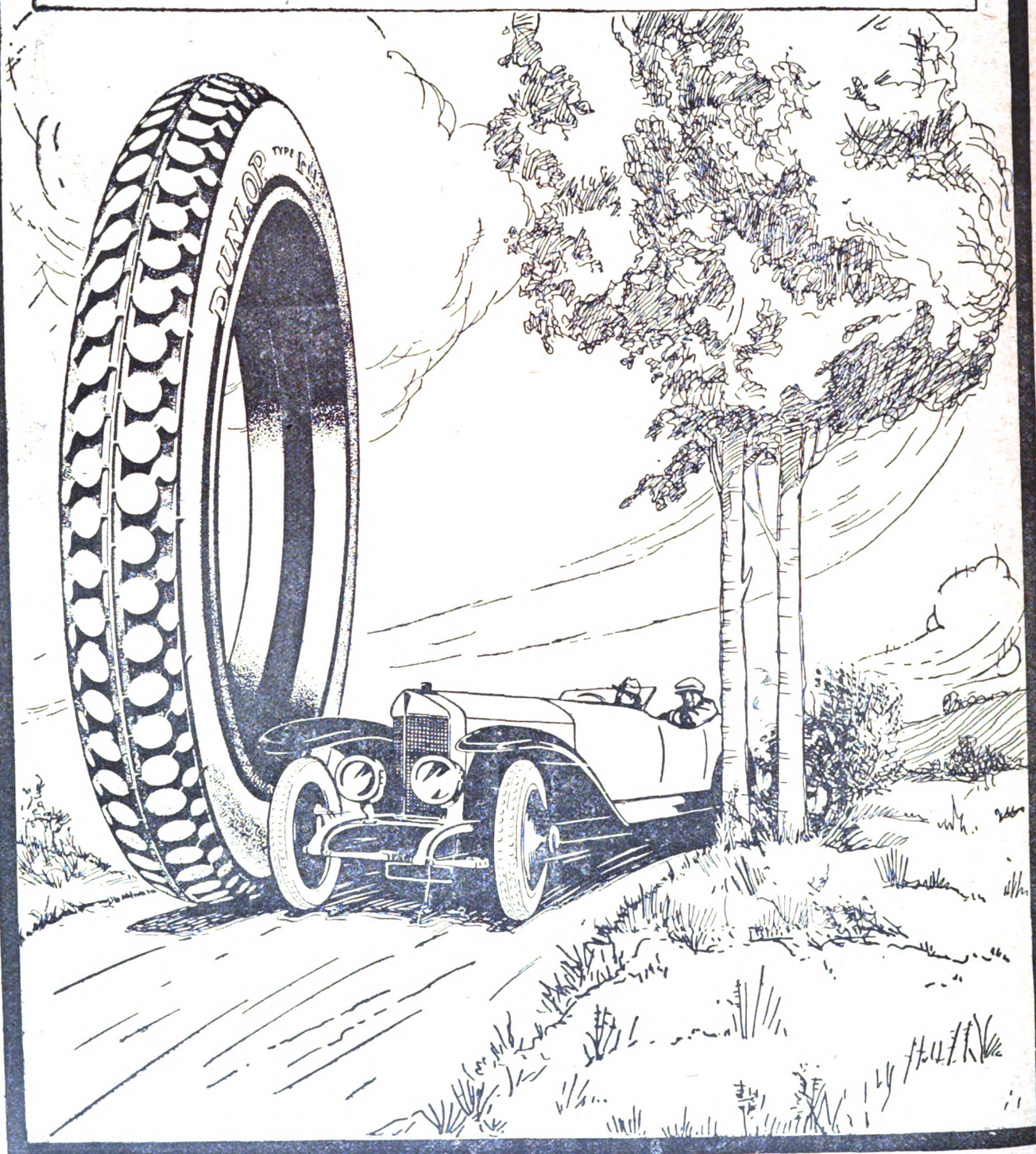


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direction. The only misgivings that one hears expressed concern the question of the financial position, arising out of the vast expenses caused by the present war. If the much talked-of loan from abroad is not secured, the present Government will lose much of its popularity. Strong hopes, however, are entertained that the loan will be obtained, by private, if not by official means.

**Greece and Bulgaria.**

After having heard nothing but one side of the story for some months it is very interesting to come here and hear a totally different version. Relations between the two countries cannot be said to show any improvement. The Bulgarians are believed to be very active in fomenting "Komitaji" activity along the frontier, particularly in the area S.W. of Adrianople, and articles in reference to this matter appear almost daily in the local newspapers.

The question of the compliance by Bulgaria with the military clauses of the Peace Treaty is also being followed with great interest, and fears are expressed that the Allies will allow themselves to be deluded into permitting Bulgaria to maintain too strong an Army. Regarding this matter it is idle to speculate, because, as I mentioned in my last letter, the Council of Ambassadors at Paris have given strict orders concerning the disbandment by October 1, of the present Conscript Army.

Although both Greece and Bulgaria are members of the League of Nations, and, in theory at any rate, believe in the Gospel of freedom and goodwill, there is no hiding the fact that the two countries heartily detest each other. The most serious aspect of the case is that the youth of both countries are brought up to believe in this way of thinking. It is also unfortunately true that of late Greece's policy has been to make the Bulgarians seem her principal enemies—not the Turks. At present she is at war with the Kemalists, but strong attempts have been, and are being, made to conciliate the Turks living in Macedonia and Thrace. The bad feeling is now so strong that it will require many years of careful statesmanship and diplomacy on both sides before the situation can be improved. In these circumstances it is very necessary that Bulgaria should at once send a diplomatic representative to Athens, as relations have been broken off for far too long a period.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, August 9.*

**An Unhappy Accident.**

An unfortunate event at the northern town of Kyrenia has placed several families there and at Nicosia in mourning. On July 29 its small harbour was visited by five British destroyers of new type. The officers organised aquatic sports, and all Kyrenia turned out to witness them, many villagers also coming in to enjoy the spectacle. Towards the close of the various contests a small building belonging to a Greek named Antonio Brakhas near the quay, which was occupied by more than 20 spectators, collapsed with a loud crash, precipitating all the occupants, who were chiefly women and children, with some fatal results. The shrieks of the wounded and others directed all to the spot, where many were found in a pitiable condition. The victims were transported in all available motors to the hospital, which is here maintained in excellent order. Four died within an hour, one a lady leaving a family of young children. Fortunately some young children who would have been victims had been taken a few minutes before the accident to the quay. All the medical aid within reach was obtained, and everything possible was done by the Commissioner, Mr. E. McDonald,, who telegraphed to Nicosia for the District Medical Officer, by the Mayor, the Police, and others. The funeral of those who died took place on the following day, and at the service the Bishop of Kyrenia gave an address. It was attended by the Chief Justice, Mr. S. Fisher, and other English officials who were visiting the port.

**A Prison Wedding.**

By special permission of the High Commissioner, given in special circumstances, a Greek who is undergoing a sentence in the Central prison of Nicosia, in connection with the disturbances of March 25, was married last week to a village bride, to whom he had been for some time engaged. The ceremony took place in the office of the Director of the prison, the Chaplain of the gaol and other priests officiating. After affecting scenes the bride, who had worn a wedding dress for the ceremony, took leave of the bridegroom, and then resumed the black dress in which she had arrived. The unfortunate prisoner was taken back to his cell.

**General News.**

Greeks continue to celebrate the victories in Asia Minor, and hold doxologies in many churches. The King of the Hellenes has sent a telegram from Eskishehir, thanking citizens who wired their congratulations. Summer fairs are being held as usual at the large Monasteries, there being no restriction on account of epidemics this year. There is no diminution in crime. Several murders, on what we should consider quite trivial grounds, have been committed last week in both Greek and Turkish communities. The Ottoman community will celebrate the Kourban Bairam on August 14. Unfortunately the festival is not a very happy one on this occasion.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, August 6.*

**General News.**

The correspondents of the *Manchester Guardian* (Professor Toynbee), and of the London *Daily Telegraph* (Mr. Beaumont) are back in Smyrna from the front. It is interesting to note that Professor Toynbee, who has been on the Ismid front, has very little to say in favour of the Greeks, and in fact is emphatic in his denunciation of their wanton cruelty towards the Turks; whereas Mr. Beaumont, who has been on the Ushak-Eskishehir front has lost none of his enthusiasm for the Greek cause. The two correspondents are now comparing experiences, and just in what precise manner they "agree to differ" will doubtless appear in their respective newspapers.

Prince Paul has returned to Smyrna from the front and left for Athens on the cruiser "Hellas." It is rumoured that King Constantine will shortly return to Smyrna from the front. M. Gounaris and M. Theotikis await his arrival.

The British nurses working in Greek hospitals in Smyrna are far from happy. The British Consul has cheered them up a little by getting their salaries paid; and the S.N.O. has gone one better by inviting them on board, three at a time, for breakfast, as they could not get accustomed to break their fast off a small cup of black coffee and a rusk.

*Smyrna, August 11.*

H.M.S. Tomahawk has arrived in Smyrna to replace H.M.S. Seraph, which proceeds to Constantinople to join the Destroyer Flotilla at Buyukdéré.

During the week the Seraph team played two water-polo matches with the Smyrna Greek team, and won on each occasion by 2 goals to nil.

Four thousand wounded Greek soldiers have reached Smyrna from Eskishehir, but only the severely wounded have been detained in the Smyrna hospitals; the others have been shipped off to Piraeus in the fine hospital ships working between the two ports.

Two buildings occupied by the American Red Cross Clinic at the Kalamaria Camp at Salonika, for Greek refugees from Russia, have been destroyed by fire. Dr. Wingfield, head of the unit, was seriously burned, and the Greek interpreter died of injuries.

Reports on atrocities by Greeks and Turks in the districts of Yalova and Guemlek and in the Ismid peninsula were issued last week as a White Paper, Turkey No. 1, 1921 (Cmd. 1478).

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

*The columns of "The Near East" are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of "The Near East." Letters must be written on one side of the paper only.*

## ZIONISM AND PALESTINE.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir:—In your issue of the 18th inst. you publish an extract from a letter received from an American, in which a number of statements are made that call for correction.

(1) The writer states that the Jews in America "have been quite deceived by the Zionist leaders" and "have an absolutely false impression of Palestine and the Palestinians." He must have a very naive idea of the American Jews if he imagines that this is the case. Since the conclusion of the Armistice scores of American Jews, including eminent Zionists like Mrs. Mary Fels, Justice Brandeis, Dr. Harry Friedenwald, and others, have visited Palestine, and upon their return to America have either given addresses or interviews, which have enlightened their fellow-Jews upon the situation in Palestine. Moreover, the members of the American Zionist Medical Unit in Palestine form another good channel through which information has been conveyed to America for the last three years. And both the general and Jewish press in the United States have devoted and do devote very considerable space to matters Palestinian. I have therefore no hesitation in affirming that the Jews in America cannot possibly have been deceived by the Zionist leaders and that they have as correct an impression of the situation in Palestine as anybody can have who has not actually visited the country.

(2) The writer states that Dr. Weizmann appealed "for 50,000 American Jews to emigrate in a year to Palestine," and he predicts there would be a tragedy if this appeal were literally complied with. The American correspondent has evidently taken a sentence out of its context, without which its purport cannot properly be appreciated. If, for example, 50,000 well-to-do Jews with ample capital, emigrated to Palestine there would hardly be a tragedy. But what the unnamed correspondent entirely overlooks is that immigration into Palestine is under such strict supervision and is so carefully regulated that the hypothetical disaster he foreshadows is utterly inconceivable.

(3) The unnamed writer further states that when "the attempt to found a Jewish state in Palestine fails" then "American Jews who are asked to raise 80 million dollars for the movement will cast all the blame on England." This statement implies that the American Jews will actually raise the "80 million dollars," otherwise they would obviously not be justified in casting "all the blame, etc." As a matter of fact, they are asked to contribute their proper quota of the £25,000,000 which the Jews all over the world are called upon to raise within the next five years. The purposes for which the money is required are all clearly set forth, viz. purchase of land, colonisation, irrigation, afforestation, education, sanitation, etc. No responsible Zionist has ever said that the money is required "to found a Jewish state." The fears of the American writer, who seems quite ignorant of the published contents of the British Mandate, thus arise from a gross misconception bred of ignorance; and the alarming picture that he paints of possible complications between Great Britain and America testifies simultaneously to the fertility of his fancy and the poverty of his judgment.

On the subject of the Palestinian Arab Delegation, I should like to observe that "its work of enlightening public opinion," to which you refer, has received a salutary check. The Delegation stated that the Sephardic Jews in Palestine are on their side, a baseless assertion that immediately evoked an emphatic contradiction from the Chief Rabbi and other leaders of the Sephardim of Palestine.

In your issue of the 11th inst. you stated that "many of the older Jewish residents of Palestine, if not the majority of them, are opposed to the policy of the Zionist Commission." The fact is that the "Vaad Leumi," the Jewish National Council, elected by all sections of Jews in Palestine, goes further in its nationalist demands than the Zionist Commission. On the general question of the need of amicable relations between Jews and Arabs I am in perfect agreement with you; but I must point out that all the implications of the British pledge contained in the Balfour Declaration can be carried out without the least infringement of the rights of the Arabs.

I am, etc.,
ISRAEL COHEN.

August 19, 1921.
The Zionist Organisation Central Office,
77, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

## THE GREEKS IN ASIA MINOR.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The lessons of the great war have been learnt, alas! by nobody. Why should your "disillusioned" correspondent expect the Greeks and Turks alone to take them to heart? War is always a last and horrible expedient, and in this case especially it is for Greece a supreme and terrible one. All other means have however, been taken from her, all other paths closed, and by war alone can she redeem her national inheritance, the land of her fathers, and save from total extermination millions of her children who through long centuries have been awaiting their deliverance from slavery and untold suffering.

The "clock of progress" has been at a dead stop in Asia Minor ever since the Turk wiped out the great civilisation of which only remnants and ruins remain in stone, and records in history and song. The Greek Government proposes to wind it up at double speed and to make up for lost time.

Your correspondent is too pessimistic when he asserts that "the future rises gloomy and threatening from amidst this chaos!" War means disorder, but why assume this chaotic condition will be lasting?. Since 1912-13, Greece rules over a minority of alien peoples Turkish and Jewish; there have been no complaints against the Greek administration, and in this most crucial moment no signs of discontent, no agitation, no rising in either Thrace or Macedonia; the Turkish and Jewish deputies are giving proofs of utmost loyalty in the National Assembly, and the Government receives daily official documents signed by the Muftis and Turkish communities of the newly annexed cities giving thanks for just and liberal treatment by the Greek administration and for the protection given to all alike by the army of occupation. I enclose a translation of two of these documents.

There will be no "ruling by force of arms of a subject race" but absolute justice and equality, respect of religion and national customs. To absorb, not to dominate, has been through history the ruling principle of Greek civilisation; we have no doubt that under this liberal rule Greeks and Turks will live in good fellowship, and work together for the good of the bountiful land left fruitless through many centuries of misrule.

England and Greece have this in common, that alone of all European nations they know how to rule alien races with a light hand, not the clenched fist, but the open grasp of friendship.

England has not yet fully realised how much she has in common with the little land ringed about with sea and rock, whose people


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through tears and stress, cling obstinately to their belief that England cannot, dare not fail them.

"Since the songs of Greece fell silent, no songs like ours have risen,

"Since the sails of Greece fell slack, no ships have sailed like ours,

"How should we lament not if her spirit sit in prison?

"How should we rejoice not if her wreath renew its flowers?"

The wreath has blossomed; surely England will rejoice....

I am, etc.,

D. PSYCHA.

(Madame Psycha encloses translations of two declarations, one signed by the Moslem Deputy- Governor of Nicomedia, the other by eleven residents of Pazartzik, testifying to the humane and generous conduct of the Greek troops. Ed.)

## ARAB AND ZIONIST.

We have received the following communication from the Arab Delegation now staying at the Hotel Cecil; it is dated August 18.:—Dr. Weizmann's idea of a Conference between the Arabs and Zionists with a view to arriving at some workable agreement is not new.- The Palestine people have not accepted the Balfour Declaration and will not accept it. Repeated protestations have been made through its Representative Societies, Congresses and Institutions, because it believes that the terms of the Declaration are self-contradictory and cannot be harmonized in their execution. The present unhappy state of Palestine and the recent disturbances that took place there are ample proof of this. The Arab Delegation therefore cannot enter into negotiations on the basis of this Declaration. The Delegation has come to England to put its case before the British Government and the British Public and to show the danger of putting this Declaration into effect. Furthermore the Delegation has come to obtain for the people of Palestine the safeguarding of their civil, political and economic rights.

# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

### The Supreme Council.

The *New Statesman* of August 13 makes, in an article called "The Great Delusion," a heavy indictment of the Supreme Council. For itself it favours the League of Nations, and in comparing the two institutions pointedly says:—"There is no greater delusion than to suppose that the League stands for Utopia, and the Supreme Council for political realities. We endure the incompetent tyranny of the Supreme Council not because we are realists, but because we are cowardly romantics." And it specifically attacks the Supreme Council:—

Its weakness is only too apparent, when one examines its practical record. The present state of Europe and of Western Asia, indeed, is damning evidence of its failure. For two years it has lived less by solving difficulties than by creating them. It has been the battleground of conflicting interests and a hotbed of intrigues. Its decisions, on the rare occasions when it makes them, inspire no respect. Look at what it has "settled" in Germany, Russia, Poland, Austria. Or consider its handling of Turkey. The Treaty of Sèvres was bad to begin with, animated as it was by a mixture of ignorance, greed and vindictiveness. The Conference at San Remo consolidated and extended the original vices of the Treaty. Mr. Lloyd George, infatuated with Greece, presented M. Venizelos with an empire. Neither France nor Italy liked it, but, for reasons which we need not discuss, their opposition was overborne. From that time affairs in the Near East have gone from bad to worse. There has been perpetual fighting, on a large or a small scale; the Greeks have squandered blood and treasure in the vain attempt to secure their spoils; all Turkey has been driven into an intransigent nationalism. The conflict has had its inevitable reactions on the Russian Bolsheviks, on the peoples in Western Asia and on the Mohammedans of India, who are supporting the Gandhi movement, not because they believe in non-co-operation, but because they are being persuaded easily enough that the British Government is heading an attack of Christianity upon Islam. Meanwhile, the three great European Powers are at daggers drawn in the Near East, each struggling to secure its own interests with as little regard as possible to those of its Allies or of the world at large. Here are concentrated all the faults of a body which is founded on brute force, which has no unity of purpose and no power to settle the strife which it has itself stirred up. The problem has again figured on the agenda in Paris this week, and it has been disposed of on the Micawber principle of waiting for something to turn up. The moment has not arrived for any attempt at mediation; the war is to continue, on the understanding that none of the Powers shall give assistance to either of the belligerents, though—by a benevolent afterthought—this prohibition is not to apply to private purveyors of munitions. Mr. Lloyd George still cherishes the belief, it seems, that the Greek armies will achieve a brilliant and final success, and, as if he had not already done sufficient harm, is not ashamed to proclaim his sympathy with them. Is there anything in all this lamentable business on which the Supreme Council can congratulate itself? We can see nothing but the bankruptcy of statesmanship. Whether the Greeks are right or the Turks, or whether both are in the wrong, the Supreme Council has proved itself a disastrous failure.

### Baghdad.

The *Manchester Guardian* of August 17 contains an article, written by a correspondent in Baghdad, and entitled "The Baghdad of To-day." The article begins:-

The celebrations are over. The great day has come and gone. The Emir Feisul has been welcomed and acclaimed by the people, and, whatever the future holds, there can be no doubt that his arrival in the city produced a large amount of genuine enthusiasm amongst the public at large. How far this was due merely to "holiday" excitement, how much to a sincere wish to have the Emir as their king, it is difficult to say. The Emir is popular with the country people and is probably as acceptable to the Bedouin on the fringe of civilisation as anybody is likely to be. On the other hand, the townspeople and "intellectuals," Jews, city Arabs, and the like give him only their grudging support, counting it slightly *infra dig.* to welcome openly a person whom they look upon as being merely a petty prince from the middle of Arabia, insignificant and probably uncivilised.

It describes in glowing terms the personality of the Emir Faisal, who it says "is genuinely anxious to do his job well."

And what of the future?—The elections, apparently, are to take place in the autumn, and after that the new Arab Government will gradually become a fact. Opinions are curiously divided about the possible result. Undoubtedly there are people who hope everything from it. To them this is the real renaissance of the ancient Arab race, released at last from the grim pressure of the Mongol. But on the whole, general opinion is against them. The pessimists have the day. There is a general belief that there is no one man strong enough and popular enough to rule here as King, and the mere fact of there being several candidates in the field is inauspicious. Feisul has the support of the British Government, and will probably win; but there is a strong party in favour of his brother Abdullah, who is considered the easier man to manage; a party supporting the Sheikh of Mohammerah, who on the other hand is reported to have resigned his candidature; a party who support British or European control and development—and this party is stronger than might be supposed; and a not inconsiderable number who don't want any ruler or rule at all. If the British control is to be loosened, there is no doubt that a fairly numerous class exist who would like to have the Turk back. These are mostly, curiously enough, the Jews and Christians, who apparently have had less to fear from the Turk here than in Turkey. Their contention is that the Arab is utterly unable to govern himself, and that the country should be controlled from Europe; but if that is not to be, they would rather have the Turk, who is easy-going, nearly powerless, and kept just enough order to enable ordinary life to "carry on." As to administration of justice, they point out that the Arab is every bit as bad as the Turk. Already it is necessary in the local courts to fee certain people before your case has the slightest chance of a decent hearing.

The standard of Englishmen in these post-war days is not, unfortunately, quite what it was in this respect. There can be no doubt that as a race, we have lost the prestige and popularity here that we had in 1918. Ill-breeding, open drunkenness, petty dishonesty, bullying, and a lack of understanding of or sympathy with the native have all combined to produce a bad impression. The Englishman is still feared, but he is no longer liked. Our present day soldiers and officers cannot be compared with the fine fellows who formed our original army of invasion, picked as they were from the cream of our home population; and it is difficult to make even the intelligent Bagdadi appreciate that the cheerful, clever, bright young man whom he used to enjoy meeting so much at one of the local coffee-houses was not really a representative British soldier. A race like the Arabs, to whom soldiering is still the supreme profession, can hardly be expected to appreciate the fact that with us the cream of the population never is, and never was, in the Army, except in emergencies. Looking on soldiers as invariably the best that a nation can produce, they not un-naturally are unimpressed by the present breed of Englishmen.

The writer then shows how the prevailing political uncertainty has reached in the business world; and he concludes:—

The future remains uncertain; but the ordinary Bagdadi shrugs his shoulders and hopes for the best. Undoubtedly this city and country are capable of great development. Probably only political trouble will hold it back. The stranger who has mixed with the people cannot help but hope that somehow or other means will be found to adjust the political situation satisfactorily, and that the natural genius of the people may have another opportunity to express itself.....

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-day.**

August 25 (New Style).
August 12 (Old Style).
Julhija 21, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab. 21, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie has decided to remain in London during the autumn.

Prince Djemal-ed-Din has arrived at the Hotel du Palais, Biarritz.

Major-General Sir Frederick and Lady Sykes have returned to London from Le Touquet.

Sir Roper Parkington has left Harrogate for Broadwater Lodge, Wimbledon.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, M. Michel Gavrilovitch, returned to London last week from Paris.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. McGrath, D.S.O., Royal Artillery, to Mrs. Rosita Forbes.

A marriage has been arranged between David Jardine Bethell, of the Sudan Political Service, and Erica Gwytherne de Grey, of 2, The Terrace, Camberley.

Prince Loftallah has arrived at Geneva to organise the Syrian Congress, which is due to open to-day, August 25.

It is announced that the coronation of the Emir Faisal as King of Irak took place on August 23 at Baghdad.

M. Bèla de Zottan, who for many years has been Hungarian Judge of the Mixed Tribunals at Alexandria, is in London as the Hungarian member of the Anglo-Hungarian Mixed Arbitral Tribunal.

The Ven. J. J. Beauchamp Palmer, Archdeacon of Kottayam, Travancore (South India), has been presented by the Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral to the living of Mudford (Somerset).

A marriage is arranged, and will take place in India in November, between Douglas Hendrie Currie, 18th Lancers, Indian Army, and Maud Vernon, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Anson, of Garvock, Sevenoaks.

A marriage has been arranged between A. W. Harrison, son of the late H. A. Harrison, I.C.S., of Doghurst, Sipson, Middlesex, and Maud Elsie, widow of Charles Johnsone Mitchell, D.S.O., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (August 10) :—Colonel Arthur Poillon, American Military Attaché, and his wife have returned from Paris, and Captain A. Brickley, aide-de-camp of the former, has left Bucharest for the United States.

M. Nedkoff, Bulgaria's first representative since the resumption of diplomatic relations, has left Bucharest for Bulgaria to occupy a high post at the Foreign Office. He is being succeeded here by General Fitchoff, who has just arrived.

The betrothal is announced of James Kirkwood, of Bansra House, Raneegunge, and Toriburn, Ranchi, India, second son of the late John Kirkwood and Mrs. Kirkwood, of Denny, Stirlingshire, to Adela, elder daughter of the late Edward Joseph Williams, Bristol.

The engagement is announeed between Olive, youngest daughter of the late Stuart Snell, of Bromley, Kent, and of Mrs. Stuart Snell, of 24a, Sinclair-gardens, and Ronald Melville Pym, of Mirror, Alberta, Canada, fifth son of the late Bishop of Bombay.

A marriage has been arranged to take place in October between Captain J. S. Morrow, attached 1-3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles, of Londonderry, and Violet, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Robinson, Glenlyon, Sydney-parade, Dublin.

The engagement is announced between Richard Marsh Crofton, Indian Civil Service, second surviving son of the late Captain D. Crofton R.N., D.L., and Mrs. Crofton, of Lakefield, Mohill, Co., Leitrim, and Olive, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Stewart Cox, 23, Redcliffe-gardens, S.W.10.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Robert Tor Russell, D.S.O., P.W.D., Delhi, son of S. B. Russell, of Gosmore, Hitchin, and Ethel Frances Hatch, M.B.E., younger daughter of H. F. Hatch, retired, Bombay Civil Service, and Mrs. Hatch, of Hitchin, and granddaughter of General W. S. Hatch, R.A.

A marriage has been arranged between Ralph Clarmont Skrine, elder and only surviving son of Surgeon-General H. W. Stevenson, S.C.I. (I.M.S., retired) and of Mrs. Stevenson, of Balladoole, near Castletown, Isle of Man, and Barbara, elder daughter of the late Jonkheer R. J. R. Boreel, and of Madame Crommelin, the Liberian Legation, 13, Eaton-place, S.W.1.

### APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

**Mirza Hossein Khan Alai, who was formerly Persian Minister at Madrid, and who has now been appointed to Washington, left London last week to take up his new post.**

The King has approved of Colonel C. A. C. Godwin, Indian Army, being appointed Aide-de-Camp to the King, Indian Establishment, vice Colonel A. Le G. Jacob, Indian Army, promoted Major-General, with effect from March 20, 1921..

The King has approved of the following appointments: M. D. del Burgo, as Consul of Roumania at Hull; Senor Don Daniel Castel v. Marco, as Consul of Spain at Calcutta; -Senor Don Miguel Maluquer v Salvadorm as Consul of Spain at Bombay, with jurisdiction also in Ceylon and Aden; Dr. E. F. Underwood, as Consul of Liberia at Bombay.

The Hon. William Augustus Forbes Erskine, M.V.O., who is expected to succeed Sir Arthur Peel as British Minister at Sofia, entered the Foreign Office in 1894. He was Acting Third Secretary at Teheran from June 1901 to December 1903, and became Acting First-Secretary in the Diplomatic Service in 1906, receiving substantive rank in 1910. After holding appointments at Stockholm and Rome, he was nominated in November 1913, British Delegate on the International Finance Commission at Athens, where he was twice Chargé d'Affaires between 1914 and 1917. He was promoted Minister Plenipotentiary at Havana two years ago.

In a recently published list the following names, the recipients of decorations and medals awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the war, occurred: By the Sultan of Egypt, Order of the Nile, 3rd Class, Major B. H. Archer, O.B.E., 18th London Regt.; By the late King of the Hellenes, Medal for Military Merit, 3rd Class, Lieut. G. H. Law, R.A.; By the King of Roumania, Order of the Crown of Roumania, Cavalier, Lieut. G. N. Carey, Manch, R.; Temp. Capt (Temp.

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Lieut.-Col.) R. J. McAlpine, O.B.E., M.C., Spec List. By the King of the Hejaz, Order of "El Nahda," 3rd Class, Capt. W. D. G. Batten, 3rd Gurkha Rifles, I.A

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Mr. Percy Beart Thomas, C.I.E., Inspector-General of Police of the Madras Presidency.

We regret to learn as we go to press that Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Winston Churchill have suffered a bereavement by the death of their three year old daughter, Marigold Frances.

The death occurred last week at Geneva of Lieutenant General Sir David Henderson, K.C.V.O., K.C.B., D.S.O., Director-General of the League of Red Cross Societies and formerly Director of Military Aeronautics. Among many distinguished services was his part in the Sudan campaign of 1898.

It is announced from Athens that M. Rhallis, the former Greek Premier, died last week from cancer. M. Rhallis, who it will be remembered, succeeded to the Premiership of Greece last November when M. Venizelos resigned, and King Constantine returned to the throne, first made his mark in 1890 as leader of the "Young Greek Party." Four times before the advent of M. Venizelos he had been Premier, but after the fall of King Constantine in 1917 he withdrew from politics, and though he returned in 1920 to form the Restoration Cabinet, ill-health and other causes led to his final retirement in the beginning of the present year.

## SKETCHES OF MOROCCO.

There was evidence of astonishing versatility in the exhibition of paintings, water-colours and etchings by Mr. T. Blake Wirgman recently held at the Alpine Club Gallery, Bond Street. For not only was mastery shown in the different *media*, but successful attempts were made in things so opposed as portrait and landscape, or mood and movement. Of all Mr. Wirgman's work, which included scenes from Great Britain, Spain, South America, and Morocco, we liked best, apart from his portraits, his Moroccan sketches. His representation of such direct scenes as "Buntingford," or "Puy de Dome Auvergne," may have been, certainly were more refined and exquisite in details than these Moroccan subjects; but we did not see anything in the exhibition better than the incisive accuracy of "Muley Ali, the Sheriffa of Wazan," or than the extremely suggestive half-light of "Loading Camels, Morocco," or of "Saddling Horse at Dawn." Mr. Wirgman's colours are not rich or grand, but his fidelity of observation alone is sufficient to make all his work satisfying. What he can do when his vision is direct and intellectual can best be seen in the fine sketches of Mazagan, and of Casablanca; and how, when his vision is more poetical, his limitations are revealed, is obvious in his management of a "South American Sunset," and of "Casablanca after Sunset."

This was a thoroughly interesting exhibition, and for the sake of "Widow placing Myrtle on her Husband's Tomb," and of "A Street in Fez" alone it was worth visiting.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Marshal Lyautey arrived in France last week from Morocco.

Parcels may now be sent by post to Albania—Valona only—and to the State of Fiume.

Famine is reported to prevail in Azerbaijan. The people are stated to be flocking into the fields in search of grass to eat, the Red Army having seized all the corn in Baku.

The foundation of a large Doric temple have been discovered at Sicyon. The temple, which was destroyed during the Roman epoch, is probably that of Artemis.

Part II. of the Administration of Justice Act, 1920, in which provision is made for the reciprocal enforcement of judgments in the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire is now extended to Cyprus.

The impeachment of the members of the Radoslavoff Cabinet, which was responsible for Bulgaria's entry into the war, has been referred to the Appeal Court. The defendants, who include two Generals, will be tried in default.

The Viceroy has appealed to the Princes and people of India for contributions towards the sum of 14½ lakhs (about £96,500) required to complete the Victoria Memorial, so that the building may be completed by December, when the Prince of Wales intends to open it.

## KING ALEXANDER OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES.

It is a matter for keen regret that the death of King Peter should have occurred at a moment when his successor is abroad and ill. Fortunately the news of the condition of the new King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes is more reassuring, and the hope is entertained that he may yet be able to leave Paris before many days elapse, in order to return to Belgrade, in the event of it being established that an operation is not necessary. King Alexander's coronation, however, which had been fixed for August 26, will now have to be postponed.

During the strenuous period of his Regency King Alexander has won for himself golden opinions both at home and abroad. He has proved a conscientious ruler, and his zeal and tact give promise of a successful reign. The difficulties of his position however, are apparent. He succeeds to the throne of a new State, which, in spite of the fact that it realises the dreams of generations of the Southern Slavs, has not yet found itself and may yet have to weather some storms before it enters upon an expanse of quiet water. In England the new King has frequently been a welcome guest, and in his own person constitutes an important link between the two countries.

### Memorial Service for the late King Peter.

A Requiem Mass for the late King Peter Karageorgevitch was performed at the Russian Church in London on August 23. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, accompanied by his A.D.C. Captain the Hon. F. E. Needham, M.V.O., attended on behalf of His Majesty the King. Among those present were His Excellency the Minister of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and members of the Legation Staff, Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, K.C.B. Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, and the members of the Diplomatic Corps in London.

The service was conducted by the Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff, assisted by the Rev. A. Theokrittoff.

The Court has gone into mourning for the late King for a fortnight from August 16.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes:—A member of the Sivitanides family, some of whom have made large fortunes in Egypt have left by will £250,000 to King Constantine of Greece, for the founding of an industrial and technical school at Athens; as well as other sums for the benefit of various Greek institutions in Egypt While some surprise is expressed that nothing has been done for Cyprus needs, warm tribute is paid in the press to the generosity of the benefactor.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON."*
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1921.


## THE PROBLEM OF ASIA MINOR

The statement of the Supreme Council's case in regard to the problem of Asia Minor that Mr. Lloyd George gave to the House of Commons last week was necessarily condensed; but we may infer that it was intended to present all the points which seemed relevant to the Prime Minister in justifying the policy adopted by the Allies. As the whole Turkish question is still in the melting-pot, it is of interest to examine the statement with a view to finding out, in the light of subsequent events, whether the Allied Governments acted for the best in all the attendant circumstances, or whether other methods and other measures reasonably open to them with the knowledge then available might have saved the present *impasse* and brought about a settlement which seems still postponed indefinitely. The basis of the Treaty of Sèvres, Mr. Lloyd George explained was that the parts of the Ottoman Empire which were Turkish should remain Turkish, and that the non-Turkish parts should be allotted to those who comprised the bulk of the population. In order to determine which parts were Greek, commissions were appointed by the Allies, presumably working and deliberating separately, "to investigate the whole problem of boundaries and population, and to a certain extent to go into the history of those countries." The Commissioner appointed by Great Britain was Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, and by his report, as well as by the reports of the various experts who assisted him, Smyrna and Thrace were assigned to Greece. The French experts "came to exactly the same conclusion," and the decision was accepted by the Supreme Council. Owing to "the danger of anarchy and its consequences in those various areas" France occupied Cilicia, the Italians occupied Southern Anatolia and the Greeks were invited by the Supreme Council to occupy Smyrna and Thrace. When the Nationalist insurrection occurred the Greeks were anxious to deal with it immediately, but were "held up" by the Allies. Mr. Lloyd George implied that this action was a mistake, as he interposed the remark that what had happened since showed that M. Venizelos was quite justified in the view he took then that he could have disposed of the insurrection without the slightest difficulty. The Allies, however, attempted mediation, and "when we made certain proposals to King Constantine, unfortunately both parties refused to accept them." Of the two alternatives, compulsion and leaving Turks and Greeks to fight it out, the Allies chose the latter on the ground that, they would have had to compel both parties and they could not compel the Turks. Both these races, Mr. Lloyd George holds, will be easier to deal with when their limitations have been brought thoroughly and clearly to their minds. "The time for mediation," he added, "has not yet arrived. When it does, I have no doubt the Treaty of Sèvres will have to be reconsidered. You cannot expect a country that has waged a successful war to accept the same terms as a country prepared to forgo its full claims to avert the risks of war."

The first point that will have struck those who listened to or have read the British Prime Minister's statement on the recent deliberations of the Supreme Council in Paris is the difference between his handling of the Silesian question, and that of the Near Eastern problem. He has come to grips with the former; with the latter he is merely speaking to his brief, which has no personal interest for him. It would be unreasonable to expect a single mind to have the same grasp of all the complicated problems that awaited settlement at the end of the war; that Mr. Lloyd George has failed to master the Near Eastern question cannot be a grave indictment in the circumstances, but we are probably right in supposing that it has been a grave misfortune for the Near East. In the first place it was a mistake, unless he had unsuspected knowledge of the affairs of South-Eastern Europe, to entrust to Sir Robert Borden the difficult task of unravelling the tangled skein of Near Eastern history, with its paradoxes, overlapping intrigues, and falsifications. The evidence of the most perjured witness may seem altogether credible, if he is not cross-examined with knowledge. Mere ability and impartiality are not enough for the man who would draw up a just settlement of the Near East; without knowledge and vision he would be capable of the worst injustice. It is for this reason that the settlement which commended itself to the Allies has broken down; but so little does the Supreme Council appreciate the fact that Mr. Lloyd George appears to imagine that only a "reconsideration" of the Treaty of Sèvres is required to secure lasting peace in the Near East. The outlook for the future would be brighter, if the Supreme Council welcomed the tearing up of the Treaty of Sèvres as an opportunity for revising the whole of its Near Eastern settlement and resolved that with more time at its disposal it would not perpetuate its past mistakes.

The day has not come when the settlement of the Near Eastern problem can be left to the peoples immediately concerned. If the goal that Europe has to set itself in order to avoid a repetition of the disastrous war is unification, the principle must first be applied in the Balkans; there it must be applied from above, and not left for possible application from within. Economic and other facts, as well as the lines of future development, call for closer consideration in determining that settlement than dubious historical data presented according to prejudices of the exponent. The most superficial knowledge of Near Eastern affairs would have told the Allied Governments that the occupation of Smyrna by Greece could only produce the very conditions that the French were being sent to Cilicia and the Italians to Southern Anatolia to prevent. Unless the desire is to perpetuate the existing muddle, the Supreme Council must adopt a more resolute line of action than the issue of indirect appeals to Greece. She is warned not to make the cardinal error of insisting upon exaggerated terms. But the attitude of the Entente Governments compels her to put her claims high, because so long as the senseless boycott of King Constantine is maintained, she is debarred from that intercourse on an equal footing which is essential to reasonable negotiation. If Greece take the Allies at their own word, then the war in Asia Minor is exclusively a matter between herself and the Turks, and as she feels that she has a chance of wiping the latter off the map, her training and traditions must prompt her to risk much in making the attempt. If, on the other hand, she is reminded that she is a member of the Great Alliance, and that the future of Turkey is the concern of all the Allies, less would be heard of Greek "claims." As things are, Greece through the personal pique of the members of the Supreme Council, has been dropped from the Alliance, and the world is treated to the unedifying spectacle of the organisation that defeated the Central Powers confessing its impotence to deal with her. When a just settlement has been evolved there will be no need to talk of bombarding Greek harbours or of spending scores of millions in an Anatolian campaign. The Supreme Council will have other means of imposing a settlement; it is powerless to-day because its cause is an unjust one, and the settlement it seeks to impose glaringly at variance with the principles for which the war was fought.

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# BOLSHEVIST RULE IN CENTRAL ASIA.

## III. The Tragedy of Azerbaijan.

(*By Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah.*)

No region, perhaps, has suffered so much at the hands of the Bolshevists as the fair land of Azerbaijan. The most striking feature of the whole situation has been the extraordinary development of a system of terror, which the agents of the Soviet Government have thought fit to visit upon the helpless Azerbaijanians. The reason is not far to seek; for unlike the Uzbeks of Bokhara and the nomads of the Steppe, the people of Azerbaijan are blessed with a shrewd understanding, and have a broader outlook on life. The common sense of the Moslem population there had for long condemned the Moscow philosophy, and refused to be lured into a position which was neither practicable nor profitable. But it was deemed to be necessary for the Soviet cause to implant itself in Azerbaijan at all costs, in order to come into close touch with Persia and Asiatic Turkey. The opposition of the Azerbaijanians had, therefore, to be subdued by force of arms. Force was thus employed not only to subjugate; the Reds found it the only means of preventing a general rising against them in the newly occupied country.

Strict and constant requisitioning of grain and live stock has thoroughly aggravated the peasant population. Large numbers of once very prosperous farmers, having abandoned their homes, have taken refuge in the hills, and visit their wrath in the shape of night raids on the local Bolshevists. In most cases the confiscation of the entire property of irreconcilable Khans and Begs has turned the aristocracy against the invaders. The new Government, working under the Soviet authorities, has drawn up a very elaborate scheme for opening a large number of schools throughout the country, but the people are more concerned about food for the body than food for the mind. Despite a very active propaganda, which endeavours to preach the blessings of Lenin's doctrines, the people have not failed to notice that the new order of life is chiefly responsible for the high prices.

Prices are not only very high, but there is an entire lack of all manufactured goods. The working classes, who in the beginning were the prop of the Bolshevists in Azerbaijan, and were dreaming of all the luxuries of wealth and equality, are also disillusioned—for all that the Soviet "Comrades" are able to do now is to eke out a miserable existence, procuring little better than famine rations. The "Chrezvychaika" appointed by the Reds had to see that none dared to raise a voice of protest.

In practical politics the "Chrezvychaika" plays a very important role, as he is responsible for the so-called Soviet elections. A greater farce would be difficult to imagine than the election, for the Communists are inevitably elected. Lists of chosen candidates are read to the electorates and then it is asked whether there are any dissenters. Naturally there are no objections, for dissension means an indirect challenge to the terrible authority of "Chrezvychaika." Such sham elections are always followed by laudatory articles in the newspapers subsidised by the Soviet Government.

The 'Red' army consists for the most part of men who have been conscripted. They are ill clothed and ill fed, and not in the least anxious to see any active fighting. Had it not been for a very efficient propaganda in the army the fighting element in the Soviet Azerbaijan would have revolted long ago. Not a few times the Red commanders have held out to their units prospects of plunder in regions hitherto unattacked by the forces of the comrades. The Soviet authorities are running no risks, and have established a system of espionage. No man is safe from it, and woe betide a man who comes under the "observation" of a Bolshevist spy. I write from personal experience of this fact.

The officers in the Bolshevist army, stationed at different parts of Azerbaijan, are a motley crew. While the commander of one division may be an ex-clerk, that of another may very possibly be a man who, in the pre-Bolshevist period, was a tramway conductor. Young men are sure to receive special attention when a command falls vacant. The army is having a very difficult task in fighting disease, for epidemics of malaria and typhoid, together with cholera are very prevalent. While at Barfrush in the southern Caspian region, I heard that the last named disease had increased in its prevalence since the arrival of many workmen from Kuban and Georgia. Medical assistance is difficult to procure. Hospitals which I visited are in the very worst state of sanitation; patients are neglected, and not one of them is supplied with a pillow.

The general effect of the Bolshevist regime has been to alienate in the most definite manner the sympathy of the Moslem population. Bribery among the officials is the usual method of securing immunity for the individual from requisition or mobilisation. The Red "sailors" have a most privileged position; while a soldier may be starving, a naval officer has luxuries at his command. A civilian may be shot on the least suspicion of indulging in speculation, a sailor, it seems, is allowed to explore any avenue whatever to swell his cash deposit. It has, for instance, often been noticed that warships leave Baku for Resht or Astrakhan, laden to their utmost capacity with every kind of article for sale, and the high naval command, in the person of "Comrade" Raskolnikov, simply allowed them to pass unheeded.

The Azerbaijanians are thoroughly tired of the state of affairs which Bolshevism has brought in its train, and they look forward to the day when they may be able to rise against the Russians, Bolshevists or otherwise. For the present they are compelled to remain in this wretched condition, and nurse their wrath, because the Bolshevist system is too firmly established to be overthrown without a well organised effort.

## SIR STANLEY MAUDE.

In the House of Commons on August 13, Sir R. Sanders (Under Secretary, War Office), in answer to Mr. Forrest (Co. L., Pontefract), said: A memorial to the memory of Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude and his comrades of all ranks of the 13th Division who were killed in Mesopotamia has been erected on a site overlooking the Diala River. In addition, as a result of purely voluntary subscriptions, several memorials dedicated to Sir Stanley Maude either have been or are being erected in Mesopotamia. At the time of the death of this gallant officer, a civil and a military fund were opened with a view to commemorating his distinguished services in Mesopotamia. The very considerable sum subscribed by civilians of whom some 90 per cent. were natives of Mesopotamia, has been devoted to the erection of local war memorial hospitals—such as that now under construction at Basra—schools and similar public buildings. With the fund spontaneously subscribed by the British and Indian troops in Mesopotamia—the individual subscription being limited to one day's pay—it is proposed to erect an equestrian statue of the late Sir Stanley Maude at Baghdad.

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## THE NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*August* 15.—Commander Kenworthy asked the Prime Minister whether any British firm of armament-makers had been permitted to furnish the Greeks with munitions since the last conference of the Greek and Turkish Governments in London; and whether British firms would be permitted to sell or supply arms to the Turkish forces defending their home-lands against Greek invaders. The Prime Minister replied that His Majesty's Government had no control over the export of arms and munitions in this country except that provided by the Orders in Council of March 24, 1921, which entitle the Government to refuse licences for the export of certain arms and ammunition and similar goods. The full list was published in the Board of Trade Journal of March 31, 1921. No licences have been issued for the export to Greece and Turkey of any articles on this list since January last. The answer to the last part of the question was in the affirmative, but he was not prepared to accept the hon. Member's description of the roles of the respective belligerents.

*August* 16.—Mr. Wood informed Col. Archer Shee that immigration of Zionists and others Jews into Palestine, which was temporarily suspended as a result of the recent disturbances at Jaffa, has now been resumed and is proceeding under close supervision.

Commander Kenworthy asked whether any blockade of Turkish coasts has been declared by either Greece or the Allies; what is the extent of the coast blockaded; and whether the British Navy is being used to protect British merchants engaged in the arms traffic, to either the Greek or Turkish forces from molestation. Mr. Chamberlain replied that the answer to all parts of the question was in the negative.

In the debate on the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill the Prime Minister made a statement with regard to the situation in the Near East, which is dealt with fully in the leading article of this issue.

*August* 18.—Mr. Harmsworth, replying to Col. Sir Charles Yate, stated that the dissolution of the South Persia Rifles was already in progress and that about one-third of the force had been disbanded. Negotiations were, however, being carried on with the Persian Government with a view to maintaining some part of the force in being, and with regard to the compensation to be paid by Persia to the Government of India for the expenses incurred in maintaining peace and security in Southern Persia during the last few years by means of this force.

In reply to Major Barnett Sir Robert Horne said that the British Government owed to the late Government of Azerbaijan certain sums in respect of transactions which took place during the occupation of parts of the Caucasus by British troops after the Armistice with Turkey. The amount at present ascertained was approximately £450,000, but the exact amount could not be stated pending the results of the examination of the accounts of the local military authorities which was at present taking place.

Mr. Wood informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that a full report had been received from the High Commissioner of Palestine on the administration of that country during the past year on August 17, and that this report would be published as soon as possible. The question of introducing constitutional developments in Palestine was now being discussed by the High Commissioner with representatives of local opinion in Palestine, and the matter was also being discussed with the Colonial Office. There was no intention of perpetuating any anomalous or unfair discrimination between different races or creeds which might have been made under the Turkish regime in this matter. All possible steps were being taken by the police authorities in Palestine to collect fire-arms in the possession of unauthorised persons. The report of the inquiry into the recent disturbances at Jaffa had not yet been received and until it had been received he would prefer to reserve judgment.

Mr. Churchill informed Sir John Rees, who asked questions regarding the official language in Malta, that Italian being the official language of record of the courts in Malta, a British subject or any other person who, although knowing English, was unable to swear that he had not sufficient knowledge of Italian fully to understand and follow all the proceedings if conducted in that language, was tried in Italian. No disability was attached to a person who was tried in a language with which he was thus familiar. The present law did in practice provide separate lists for English and Italian speaking jurors, those who spoke English and not Italian forming the special jurors, and the Italian speaking the ordinary jurors.

On the motion for the adjournment the Prime Minister gave an account of the proceedings of the recent conference with the Prime Minister and representatives of the Empire. He informed the House that the question of Egypt had been considered, but that it was difficult for him to say anything because of the negotiations going on at the present moment with some very distinguished Egyptian representatives. He was hoping to have the pleasure of seeing the head of the delegation himself on the following day. He was sincerely desirous of an understanding which would make it possible to make Egyptian freedom and British interest coincide. He was very sanguine that such an arrangement could be achieved.

Sir Donald MacLean expressed the hope that there should be no avoidable delay in dealing with this most urgent problem which was of such vital importance to the Empire.

Mr. Ormsby Gore hoped that as soon as the House met again the Government would avail itself at the earliest opportunity of taking the House fully into its confidence in regard to all proposals connected with Egypt, but he fully realised the need of saying nothing which would in any way interfere with the good progress of the present negotiations which he understood were now proceeding smoothly.

## THE STORY OF A SHELL.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (August 9):—The latest sensation in Belgrade is a legacy of the bombardment, nothing more or less than the discovery of an unexploded shell buried in the ground in the Pozorishna Ulica. It was an immense thing, from one of the big Austrian 30.5 c.m. siege guns, of the type that did such damage at Liège, Namur and Maubeuge. A military commission of experts pronounced it extremely dangerous to attempt either to remove or destroy it, as the slightest concussion would probably produce a terrific explosion, and referred the matter to the police, as a purely civil business, since no military lives nor property were concerned. The police, however, declined with thanks, averring that shells, as munitions of war, fell within the province of the military. Meanwhile, a Government office in the immediate neighbourhood shut up shop, and all people who lived near spent most of their time in cafés and restaurants, returning home on tip-toe to pass a few hours anxiously attempting to sleep, talking in whispers. It looked like a slump in rents in that district, when the owner of the house offered a reward of 5,000 dinars to anyone who would rid him of the nuisance. A Government official from a peaceful ministry, who had previously worked at Kragujevats arsenal, undertook the delicate job. With extreme care, little by little, he removed the earth round and finally exposed the monster completely. With the help of eight brave men, he slung it as gently as could be in a hammock, walked it steadily down to the Danube and consigned it to the waves, to the immense relief of the owner, the neighbours, and no doubt also of the police and military authorities.

The shell was fired from one of the identical heavy Skoda siege guns which had battered Antwerp and Liège in the early days of the war. It came unscathed from the western front and was set in position in the Laudonov Shanats at Zemun to fire on Belgrade. It was well camouflaged, but had not thrown many shells before the Serbian airmen spotted it. They succeeded in putting it out of action on the second day, by dropping bombs on it which laid out a number of the crew, who were surprised to find that their reception on the Danube front was hotter than it had been in Belgium.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**A Successful Tender.**

After all the criticisms that it has fallen to my lot to make regarding contracts that have been lost by British firms owing to their inability to quote sufficiently low terms it is with special pleasure that I am able to record the success of a British firm in tendering for the supply and laying of 105 miles of water mains in Bombay. Messrs. Braithwaite and Co., of Calcutta, are the successful tenderers, and their tender for the contract, which will be carried out with English steel, was roughly £1,640,000. Previous experiences naturally suggested that the American manufacturers would easily outbid British firms, but as a matter of fact the second lowest tender was that of Sir John Jackson, which was £2,333,000, while the American tenders ranged from £2,500,000, to just over four million pounds. It would perhaps be unwise to make too much of this success, but at any rate it does seem to indicate that the time has ended when our foreign competitors can have things all their own way.

**The Rupee Rising.**

After its prolonged depression it is quite refreshing to be able to refer again to the rising rupee. At the time of writing the quotation is 1s. 4,11-16d., while at the end of last week the rupee ultimately touched 1s. 5⅛d. Needless to say this movement has been the subject of lively comment in the City. The view generally taken is that the cause is to be found in speculation initiated in the belief that the excellent monsoon will give rise to the development of the export trade with a corresponding growth of demand for rupee exchange on this side. But while the monsoon has so far been good it would appear, to say the least of it, to be going too far in taking it for granted on that account that there will be heavy shipments of jute, and other Indian products. The argument in normal times is sound, but who can tell to-day that there will be the markets that justify the shipments?

**The Outlook.**

Supposing for a moment that the speculators are right in their hypothesis as regards the immediate future, and that in due course the export trade develops. In that case a further rise may be looked for in the exchange, but how far it will prove permanent is another thing altogether, and depends on quite a number of doubtful factors. The demand for India's produce depends only to a limited extent on the capacity of the home market. Had it been otherwise the rupee would not have been so low for so many months. India in common with the rest of the world has suffered from the fact that one result of the war has been to remove temporarily large areas from the world's markets. Until Central Europe and Russia are again in a position to take their normal supplies India will have great difficulty is disposing of her surplus stocks. That fact coupled with the general situation gives reason for doubting whether the improvement in the rupee that is expected can prove anything but transitory.

**The Slump in Oil Shares.**

The vicissitudes in oil shares have been the outstanding feature of events on the Stock Exchange during the past few days. First came a remarkable slump, then a reaction; and with the opening of the present week liquidation has set in again. A comparison of present prices with the highest that ruled last year gives some remarkable results. The main reason for the fall is to be found in the general conditions, but it must be emphasised that the high prices that have obtained were not justified *prima facie*. They were based on the expectations of the future, and as just at present buyers are not indulging in any particular optimism there is little or no support for the market. It will be rather unfortunate if present conditions obtain through the autumn, for we are then promised quite a number of new issues, including I believe, at least two for the Near East.

**P. and O. Banking Corporation.**

In a circular letter to the shareholders in this company Lord Inchcape announces that a refund is to be made of the extra £37,500 that had to be paid when the concern was launched. It will be remembered that it was originally intended to issue the prospectus in January, 1920, but that it was delayed at the request of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. Then came an increase on the capital duties on new issues in the Finance Act, and companies which had postponed the issue of prospectuses found themselves in the position of being penalised for meeting the wishes of the authorities. As the result of representations a clause was inserted in this year's Finance Act exempting from the operation of the new duties, companies which would otherwise have been promoted up to January, 1920. "You will be glad to know, as I am," says Lord Inchcape in the letter in question "that there is still justice to be done to the individual when the decision rests with the House of Commons."

**Commentator.**


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

Cairo, August 11.

**New Source of Revenue.**

Following on the recent introduction of an excise duty a decree has now been published extending this impost to liquids such as beer, cider, castor-oil, turpentine, sulphuric acid, and ammonia; to provisions such as coconut oil, tinned meat, and fish, condensed milk, gelatine, dried fruits, tea, coffee, cocoa, and pepper, and to construction material, such as zinc and lead sheets, lead tubes, window-glass, marble, asphalt, iron and steel bars, angles, girders, sheets, pipes, etc. This excise will be levied on these articles whether imported or locally produced, and where they are imported the excise duty will be collected in addition to the ordinary import duty. At the same time as these new duties have been introduced an increase has been made in the fees for all land transactions, registered in the Mixed Courts or Mehkemehs Sharia, the fees being raised to 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, August 10.

**Parcels Post.**

A commission has been appointed to regulate the parcels post service with foreign countries. It has been decided, in principle, that parcels may weigh up to 10 kilos, while with regard to the Customs officials' visits the system obtaining in Germany and Switzerland will be adopted. The commission will also deal with the question of packages with declared values in foreign currencies in order to determine the equivalent sum to be maintained in lei in case of loss.

**Miscellaneous.**

The economic convention with Austria expired on August 1, and negotiations for the conclusion of a new convention will begin on August 15. The Roumanian Commission will start next week for Vienna.

The proprietors of the various rapeseed oil factories have requested the Minister of Industry to prohibit the export of this seed in order to safeguard their supplies. They declare that they will have to suspend work and close their factories if this is not done.

Three representatives of the Manchester Co-operative Societies have paid a visit to the head-quarters of the Peasants Co-operative Societies. They stated that their societies desired to establish a close connection with the co-operative movement in this country.

The arrival of the animals to be delivered by Bulgaria has been postponed until September 14, on account of the excessive heat.

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The Ministry of Industry announces that machinery and parts of machinery that cannot be manufactured in the country are exempt from import duty in compliance with the law for the encouragement of industries

## SALONIKA.

(*From our Sofia Correspondent.*)

Salonika, August 11.

**The Commercial Situation.**

The situation here although not too bright is much better than in the majority of Oriental and Balkan towns. The drachma is maintained at an approximate rate of 66 to the £1 sterling, and goods are arriving from abroad in fair quantities. Of these goods however, about 70 per cent. represents merchandise in transit destined for Yugoslavia. One meets with complaints on all sides regarding customs duties, thefts from the quays, increased tariff duties, and the like, but notwithstanding all this there is a good amount of commercial activity. Thrace, which was formerly a barren field for commerce, is now demanding a steady supply of certain goods, which is largely due to the needs of the Greek Army stationed there.

No trade worth speaking of is being carried on with Roumania and Bulgaria, but the tobacco industry is very much alive, and some American firms are making large purchases of raw tobacco. It must be remarked that great strides have been made in the manufacture of cigarettes, and some of the best local brands can be very favourably compared with those sold in the West End of London.

Owing to the fact that the great bulk of the manufactured goods and produce was imported into Greece at a time when the drachma was at a very high level, prices are not at all high as a result of the recent fall in the exchange for those possessing English, American, and other currencies of a like value. Even for a Greek, there is no abnormal rise in the cost of living, and to give an example the minimum train fare before the war was 15 lepta, and is now only 25. The cost of labour has also risen very little indeed, perhaps 60 per cent. at the most. Generally speaking Salonika is not dear, and one is able to buy almost anything one wants.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, August 9.

**The Coming Loan.**

The passing by the Skupshtina of the bill authorising an external loan of 500 million francs is welcomed in Zagreb, where it is hoped that the loan will be successful and the rate of the dinar improved.

## CYPRUS.

Nicosia, August 9.

**The Economic Situation.**

The outlook is far from satisfactory. Returns just published show that for the quarter ended March 31 last imports amounted in value to £345,003 as against £564,670 for the corresponding period in 1920 and exports to £160,296 as against £262,570. Thus a sum of £184,707 goes from the island, while the depression in almost all branches of trade continues. Again the papers urges with very good reason that much greater economy and self-denial are needed on the part of the people, while Government is again urged to relax present regulations that prohibit the export of various articles and stores which conditions are now said to justify. As regards luxuries, there seems no disposition to be behind the times and a mania for the newest fashions prevails.

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## ASIA MINOR.

Smyrna, July 28.

**General News.**

Major-General Raymond de Candolle, C.B., C.E., has taken up his duties as general manager of the Aidin Railway Company, which runs from Smyrna to the Egedir Lake, and has visited the part of the line which is free from the Kemalist operations. To-day he left for Ouchak on the French line, accompanied by Mr. Martin, assistant-general-manager of the Société de Chemin de Fer de Cassaba.

The abnormal heat in Smyrna, where hot north winds have prevailed for some considerable time, has caused the hotels at the seaside resort, Lidja Chesmé (opposite Chios), to be filled to overflowing by the European colony. Unfortunately the hot winds are causing much shrinkage in the figs and grapes crops on which the commercial prosperity of Smyrna so greatly depends.

## INDIA'S PRECIOUS STONES.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

In bygone ages the nations drew from India a great part of their supplies of precious stones. Considerable interest attaches, therefore, to the recent discovery of a rich sapphire mine in Kashmir, and a fresh prospect of diamonds in the Central Provinces. Sapphires of fine quality used to be mined in Kashmir, but centuries of working have almost exhausted the old sites. As ancient is the diamond industry in Southern India, in the northern part of the Indian Peninsula, and in the Central Provinces, but in late years it has become very limited owing to lack of fresh workings.

Few are aware to-day of the immense resources of India as regards precious and semi-precious stones, the mining trade of which has never been properly developed. There are mined the diamond, ruby, sapphire, spinel, tourmaline, garnet, rock crystal, and various forms of chalcedonic silica, jadeite, and amber. At the present time the ruby and jadeite are the only stones produced in India of any great value. Ruby mining is carried on in Upper Burma, and, next to petroleum, is the most profitable of the mineral resources of the State. A few years ago one ruby of seventy-five carats was taken out, and it realised £35,000, and in 1914 others of about equal worth were obtained.

In the same ruby-bearing gravels of Burma are found the yellow, white, blue, and green varieties of the sapphire. The spinel is also got in large quantities in Burma and a fine quality of tourmaline stones of blue, green, and black colouring is found in Upper Burma. Beryls are found also—many of good value—but many more so fissured as to be of little worth. Garnets are mined in Kishangarh, Jaipur State, and form a considerable industry. Rock crystal, that is cut by the natives for cheap jewellery, known as "vallam diamonds," is found in Tanjore, Madras Presidency, and another quartz crystal, obtained in Kalabagh, is cheaper, and is used for making necklaces that are so popular among the native women.

Chalcedonic silica, called India 'hakik,' and taking in many varieties of agate, is mined in the Deccan. Agates and cornelians are cut and prepared for the market at Cambay, the Madras Presidency. The agates come mostly from the State of Rajpipla, and large quantities of them are shipped to Europe and China for use in the jewellery trade.

The turquoise of India, which has been famed for many centuries, and celebrated by Eastern poets, is obtained in various parts, but large quantitites of it in its finest form come from Sikkim and Tibet—that from the second country being harder and dark or blue has therefore greater value. It is possible, then, that at some future date India may become again a great supply source of precious gems.

The Government of India have exempted manufactured mica from the payment of import duty.


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## BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS

### VI. SYRIA.

We give the following extracts from the report of Mr. H. E. Satow, O.B.E., H.M. Consul-General, Beyrout, on the trade of Syria for 1920 :—

As regards imports there was after the Armistice a demand for almost every kind of commodity. This demand had died down by the middle of 1920. Exports have throughout been weak. The chief imports from the United Kingdom are cotton goods. Other British imports are coal and patent fuel, woollen goods, bar tin, tin-plates, galvanised sheets, alum, caustic soda, bicarbonate of soda, other drugs and chemicals, confectionery and tinned foods, and motor engines and accessories.. There was a fairly constant decline in the imports of manufactured goods towards the end of the year due to heavy overstocking of the Beyrout market in the hope, unrealised, of the interior becoming open for trading. Moreover, owing to the high prices ruling for British, American, and French goods, the German traveller and those from the new countries which formed part of the old Austrian Empire are making considerable headway towards recovering their pre-war share, at least, of the business in Beyrout.

Before the war the most important local industries were the production of silk and silk spinning. There were in 1910 about 150 spinning factories in existence. The southern districts exported the spun silk which went mostly to Lyons, while in the north dried cocoons only were exported. In 1920 there was some export of silk from Beyrout, about 500 bales. The industry was, however, on the down-grade before the war and there is scant sign of revival. Mulberry trees are still being cut down, and in the plains the tendency to replace mulberry plantations by orange groves continues.

Other local industries on a modest scale are weaving, tanning, dyeing (especially at Aleppo), olive oil production and soap making. All have need of development. The olive crop in 1920 was affected by heavy snow in February. The yield was 1,200 tons as compared with 2,500 tons in a normally good year. In the Latakia district the yield was about 500-600 tons.

**Labour Shortage.**

There is a shortage of labour in the country. The Lebanon is reputed to have lost nearly two-thirds of its population from starvation during the war and from emigration after it. Emigration is now officially forbidden. As the result of this and of the great cost of living wages are high. An ordinary labourer receives 5s. a day, a skilled mason or carpenter about £1 a day, and their assistants about 10s. a day.

Since the French occupation great attention has been paid to road making and good results have been obtained. The Lebanon especially has a large extent of good driving roads. Conditions are therefore favourable for motor transport. There has been a considerable import of motor cars during the year. American cars greatly predominate owing to their cheapness. Their lightness and power suit them for the rough roads and arduous climbs. British low-priced cars are not sufficiently powerful for the climbing, while the higher-priced ones are too dear for the market or too heavily built. Owing to the small carrying capacity of the Damascus Railway under present conditions and to the high rates, merchants even now find it cheaper to transport goods to Damascus by road. Lorries and vans are also in use in Beyrout itself and in the coastal region.

There is nothing definite to report as to the project for building a port at Alexandretta, but it will eventually be realised in course of time. The branch line from Alexandretta to the Adana Aleppo main line has just been completed. The journey to Aleppo takes about six hours. There is now a scheme for a branch line by Ras el Khanzir, Antioch and Haram to Aleppo, by which the journey should take three hours. The extension of the Beyrout port has been decided upon, but nothing has yet been done.

There are some schemes under discussion for obtaining electric power from streams in the Lebanon. A beginning has been made with one such scheme at the Nahr Ibrahim, north of Beyrout, but it has made little progress.

Such mineral wealth as exists, and it is believed to be fairly considerable in the northern parts of Syria, awaits development. As far as the Beyrout district itself is concerned the only known mines in the past were some unimportant chrome and asphalt and bitumen mines in the Latakia region, and some lignite deposits in the Lebanon.

### VII. MOROCCO.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. E. H. Selous, H.M. Vice-Consul at Saffi, on the position in the French zone :—

The continued depreciation of the franc was disastrous for United Kingdom goods. Time and again prospective customers, tempted by the favourable delivery date as compared with that offered by French firms, were reluctantly compelled to relinquish the benefit resulting from the margin between delivery dates in view of the high cost of British goods, the difference between which and the French cost was sufficient to swallow up all profit to be derived from the earlier delivery. This was particularly and most unfortunately noticeable in the case of machinery and is much to be regretted, coming as it does at a moment when the demand for machinery has begun to make itself felt, thanks to the point of general and industrial development now reached by the young Protectorate, and in view of the fact that British machinery has at last made it appearance on the local market, many important United Kingdom engineering firms now having accredited agents at Casablanca for the French Zone.

Some consolation may be derived from the fact that during 1920 a British make of motor car at last made its appearance on the Moroccan market, a limited number arriving in the course of the summer and finding an immediate sale. In this respect it is regrettable that United Kingdom manufacturers could not see their way to reserving a greater proportion of their output for foreign markets during the motor car boom. Morocco is now flooded with French and American cars whilst there are probably not more than twenty-five cars of British make in the whole of the Protectorate. Had British cars been available during 1919 and 1920, both of the mass production and of the better class tourist types, they would have been able to establish themselves in the country. The average sale price of the fifteen or so British cars sold at Casablanca during 1920 was £1,000.

The mineral resources of the country, whilst still undeveloped, are on the eve of being opened up along what will probably turn out to be the most important mineral line of the Zone, *i.e.*, phosphates. The Administration has hopes of beginning the export of phosphates in the course of the next two years. Two phosphatic areas of such importance have been discovered that Morocco will take a place alongside Florida and Tunis as one of the premier phosphate-producing countries of the world.

The oil possibilities of the Zone continue to hold out great hopes of eventual realisation. Two permits of exploitation have been issued by the Mines Department of the Protectorate Government, and many permits of research have been accorded for prospecting in the area of oil indications which stretches from N.W. of Gabil Tselfats to Fez and Taza.

The 1,200 or so research permits which had been issued up to the end of the first quarter of 1921 in the French Zone cover almost every kind of mineral, but only phosphates have as yet been definitely proved to be, as regards both quantity and locality, a comercially exploitable proposition, whilst oil certainly holds out very good hopes.

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The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 31 amounted to £E10,157, making the total for the year £E108,677.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

**Coal Waste.**

It has lately been observed that there is a wide difference between the popular and industrial view of coal and that held by scientists, the former regarding it as something that should be burned whilst the scientific view is exactly the opposite. Actually coal is too valuable to be burned; to burn it is to squander it. The by-products of coal are more valuable than the mineral itself, and not until these by-products have been extracted should the residuum be used for industrial or domestic purposes. Sir Edward Mackay Edgar recently asked how far this latter view is commercially practical, and what sort of a market could be found for the coke and other by-products that would result from the systematic carbonisation of coal; whether legislation would not have to be enacted absolutely prohibiting the burning of raw coal in any British household; whether the true function of coal is not to be transformed into gas or electricity, and to be treated simply as raw material for lighting, heat, and power. He went on to say, and rightly, that on these and a dozen other of the almost infinite ramifications of the coal problem we are waiting, so far in vain, for the considered verdict of science.

That the coal trade does not minister to other British industries one whit more than it is dependent upon them was one of the chief points made by Sir Edward. In the long run, he continued, it rises or falls with them, and as their well-being is determined by the complex interplay of forces and conditions that operate all over the world it follows that the coal trade itself is equally subject to these external factors and influences and can only flourish as long as it recognises and allows for them. In his view, if anything can save the coal industry of this country it is science, and if science cannot then nothing can. It will continue as an industry and a great one, "but it will no longer be the greatest or the most vital; it will have been deposed from the front rank."

Probably many readers will disagree with the statement that it is curious how little chemistry has achieved for coal in the way of developing, cheapening, and popularising its by-products and its use as compared with what it has done for oil. As a matter of fact had it not been for chemistry coal would have remained merely something to burn under furnaces, a mere competitor with wood, instead of being the source of practically all our colours, our drugs, our disinfectants, essences, and flavours. The efforts of the chemist have been of untold value to the coal industry, and though he has admittedly done much for oil it would seem on the face of it that he has done ten times as much for the older fuel. One witness before the Royal Commission estimated that about a quarter of our total consumption of coal should be saved every year. But it is only the chemist and the chemical engineer who can bring about so desired a result, and consequently it is obvious that although much has been done much remains to do. The growing popularity of the gas producer and the gas engine, the extensive use for power and heating of blast furnace gas, the adoption of central heating, and the utilisation of waste steam and of low grade coals and lignites are all steps in the right direction, and whilst engineers to an extent agree with those who criticise our present methods they are ready to admit the value and the extent of the progress that has already been made.

**Direct Ore Treatment.**

A considerable amount of experimental work has been carried out in certain metallurgical plants with a view to ascertaining how far extraction can be improved and capital and other costs reduced by dispensing with the erection and use of gravity stamps, and the adoption of other methods. It appears that these investigations have now practically solved the problems, and that the experiments have reached a stage which has decided the technical experts in charge to increase the crushing capacity by 10,000 tons per month by the erection of four new tube mills. It is said that direct tube milling has resulted, under certain conditions, in finer grinding, and correspondingly lower residue. As to the relative costs of this method it is obvious that on account of the elimination of stamps, the capital charges in a new plant will be much lower, whilst operating charges may be less.

**Copper in Steel.**

At one time the presence of a slight percentage of copper in pig-iron for steel production was regarded as being detrimental to the product, but the discovery that it possessed a marked anti-corrosive effect did much to alter opinion. A good deal has been written and said as to this, but in comparison little has been brought out prominently regarding other benefits which copper confers upon steel. As a matter of fact the presence of anything up to one per cent. copper not only advances the yield point and tensile strength as compared with medium-carbon steel without any percentage of copper, but it also renders the steel measurably more resistant to shock, which is a very important consideration. Hardness is also increased by copper, and as far as is known at present, the behaviour of copper in steel closely resembles that of nickel.

The view that copper was detrimental was accepted almost universally at one time, and many troubles due to other causes were laid at its door, and there is no doubt, also, that those who partially or completely recognised its value overlooked it in the greater importance and use of nickel, chromium, and vanadium. It is certainly cheaper than any of those metals and its use may, and doubtless will, become wider as our knowledge broadens. It would seem as though further research work would be advantageous, and this will no doubt be undertaken by our big steel concerns especially in view of a statement recently made by a large maker of convertor steel castings. From several years of experience he has became convinced that the presence of copper, to the extent of from 0.75 to one per cent., in his steel, unavoidably present by reason of the grade of pig iron he uses, has had the effect of raising the tensile strength and other physical properties of his products by at least 10 per cent., with no detrimental effects in other directions.

**The Crossley Car.**

I have always had a high opinion of the Willy's Overland Crossley, and I was pleased to note that a letter has been received by the firm which bears out my view, and that of other users of the Crossley production. The writer says in his letter: "I purchased on February 17, of last year one of your Model 4 touring cars and as one of your satisfied clients am happy to give you the following particulars. The car has run 14,000 miles without once giving trouble. The average petrol consumption works out at 25.2 miles per gallon. The first set of tyres were replaced at 9,000 miles. A considerable amount of London work, as well as long-distance runs, has been done, and the lowest petrol consumption recorded was in a 1,000 mile trip up the East coast, when, with one passenger, the car averaged 30 miles to the gallon."

**A Convenient "Set."**

Particulars have just been received of a compactly designed electric lighting set, which so far as generation and storage is concerned, is self contained, and needs merely coupling-up to the main cables of any small petrol engine, which is direct-coupled to a small continuous current electric dynamo capable of giving out 300 watts at 24 volts. In addition there are the necessary instruments and oil and petrol tanks, and a battery of 12 cells. Working on full load the engine will consume 1 gallon of petrol in 10 hours. The dynamo is specially constructed, with laminated fields, to remain perfectly cool, and in addition it is provided with a cooling fan. The cells are capable of supplying six lamps for a period of 10 hours.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## THE CONGESTION AT BRAILA.

### Railway Transport Difficulty.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. Vice-Consul Hutcheon on shipping at the port of Braila in 1920 :—

The troubles experienced by shipping in the port of Braila during the past year have been mainly due to the difficulties of railway transport, the exceptionally low level of the river, and the inadequacy of facilities for the loading and discharge of cargo. The railway difficulty has been the most important. Before the war, anything from 500 to 900 trucks of grain would have arrived in the port daily during the busy season, whereas, in 1920, days passed without the arrival of a single train. Imported goods for the interior lay for months on the docks for want of trains to take them away. In consequence, ships were delayed pending the arrival of cargoes and because the congestion of goods on the docks impeded unloading operations.

The level of the river in 1920 was the lowest on record. The entrance to the dock basin, where all cargo, except that coming by the mail steamers, is unloaded, was for a considerable time not more than 10 feet in depth, though this was also due in part to the inadequacy of the dredging service. Vessels had, therefore, to discharge part of their cargo into lighters before they could enter the basin. The movement of lighters bringing cargoes of grain from up-river to load at Braila was likewise greatly impeded and strandings were frequent. All this meant delay to shipping in the port. There was also a shortage of lighters, some 110 having been sunk during the war and about 90 having left the Danube and gone to Constantinople. (The number of lighters between Sulina and Turnu Severin at present is about 470).

With regard to the facilities for the handling of cargo, there are in the port 27 berths in all for the accommodation of ocean-going vessels. Of these, 12 are in the dock basin, 7 outside the basin but within the dock limits, and 8 outside the dock area along the *platforma cerealelor*, or grain-loading quay. At five of the berths within the dock basin the quay is vertical and steamers can lie right alongside. Elsewhere it is slanting, and pontoons and gangways are necessary. There was a fair provision of these before the war, but now there are only two steel gangways and about ten pontoons, the others having been removed or destroyed by the Germans. In the great majority of cases, therefore, wooden stages have to be erected, causing delay. Only three berths—within the basin—are provided with cranes, of which there are five in all : two electric cranes capable of lifting 2½ tons, two steam cranes lifting up to 1½ tons, and one hand crane for loads up to 10 tons. The design of the first four mentioned is such that they cannot be used for vessels standing high in the water which must therefore rely for unloading purposes on their own derricks. The working of the hand crane is a very slow process, and steamers requiring to have recourse to it may have to wait some considerable time until the berth at which it is stationed is vacant. There was formerly a floating crane in the port capable of lifting up to 40 tons, but it met with an accident in 1919 and sank in the river. There are, consequently, no facilities for unloading very heavy pieces.

The dredging apparatus used in dredging the dock basin is also out-of-date, and in a state of disrepair and, as already mentioned, the dredging service last year was altogether inadequate. The total capacity of the sheds in the docks for the accommodation of imported cargo is 6,400 tons. In normal times this was not considered to be by any means sufficient and during the past year, owing to the difficulties of railway transport to the interior —for which the bulk of the goods discharged at Braila are destined—the storage accommodation was inadequate and, as already stated, vessels were considerably delayed on account of the congestion of goods on the quays.

It may here be mentioned that before the war there were 348 warehouses in the port, with a total capacity of 200,000 tons, for the storage of grain awaiting export. Nine-tenths of these were destroyed during the German occupation and only about a half have so far been repaired. During the past season, however, owing to the slowness of the arrivals by rail the lack of storage accommodation for grain has not been felt.

Amongst other troubles experienced by shipping during 1920 mention may be made of the delay caused by the stoppage of all loading operations for two periods of five days each in the month of November, as a result of an order by the Government for the revision of all export permits. The port has also had its share of labour troubles during the year. There was a general strike of dock labourers and carters for some days in the latter half of the month of October, and shipping was likewise affected by the strike, more or less general on the Roumanian State Railways lasting from the middle of October to the first week in November

The pilot service in 1920 was also not quite adequate. The Danube Commission, which provides pilotage on the river between Sulina and Braila, has at present a force of only 27 pilots, apart from those employed at the bar, whereas before the war the number was 40. There were cases during the past year where vessels ready to leave were unable to obtain a pilot from the Commission and had either to wait till one was available, or employ an outsider at considerable expense. Pilotage in the port of Braila proper is performed by pilots attached to the (Roumanian) Port Captain's Office. The Port Captain has only three pilots so that when there are 30 or 40 vessels in port, several of which are waiting to be moved, delays must frequently occur. In so far as the Danube Commission service is concerned the position should improve, as a number of new men are undergoing instruction and should qualify as pilots in a few months time.

The main difficulties, however, with which shipping has had to contend in this port during the past year, and of the removal of which there is no immediate prospect, are the railway problem and the lack of adequate facilities for the handling of cargo. Of these the former is by far the more serious, and is affecting the whole country. Locomotives, however, are beginning to arrive from abroad, and this should bring about an improvement. Once the railways are running smoothly, things will begin to approach to pre-war conditions. The other matter is a question of money and time. The financial condition of the country prevents the Government from spending at present the sums necessary to replace the material destroyed or taken away during the war and to provide the port with all the modern facilities which it requires.

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The shipping and dumping charges on coal at the port of Calcutta, have been revised to 8a. and 3a. per ton respectively.

It is reported that the Greek stokers at Athens have stopped work for higher pay. All coastwise shipping from the Piraeus has ceased and it is feared that the strike will spread to all Greek steamers arriving there.


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## SHIPPING, ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY EXHIBITION.

At the Shipping, Engineering and Machinery Exhibition which is to be held at Olympia from September 1 to September 28 one of the most interesting exhibits will be that of the Parsons Motor Co., Ltd., who will have on view three sets incorporating their well-known engines as follows :—( 1 ) 30 k. w. Parsons combined generating set, comprising 60- h.p. type 4-cylinder vertical enclosed paraffin engine, direct coupled to Crompton dynamo, 230 volts., D. C. the set mounted upon cast-iron bedplate. ( 2 ) 28 h.p. type Parsons marine set, comprising 4 cylinder paraffin engine, fitted with standard fly-wheel and clutch and positive reverse gear, all mounted pon angle steel bearers with propellor shaft, stern tube and propeller. ( 3 ) 14 h. p. type Parsons ships auxiliary plant, comprising 2-cylinder vertical enclosed paraffin engine, direct coupled to Cromptons 7.5-k.w. dynamo, 100-160 volts D.C., and also driving Reavell two-stage enclosed compressor by gearing ; the whole set mounted upon special steel bed.

The engines are representative of the modern type of high-class internal combustion engines, and the features of construction are such that long service under heavy industrial conditions is assured. The present day engine is the result of some 20 years experience in the manufacture of paraffin and petrol engines, and when such points as forced lubrication, separate cylinders, and magneto timing drive are taken into consideration, it will be realised that these engines are first class in every way.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 27) ; s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta, September 10) ; s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, September 14).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 31).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Matheson for Bombay and Persian Gulf, (Birkenhead, September 3) ; s.s. Clan Urquhart for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 8).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Sea Glory for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Constantinople and Galatz (London, September 15).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Grodno for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 3) ; s.s. Belgravian for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania (Liverpool, September 8).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 6) ; s.s. City of Calcutta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 19).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of London for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, August 31).

*Ellerman's Wescott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham Singapore, etc. (London, September 8) ; s.s. Glengyle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, September 22) ; s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 6).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Patrician for Calcutta (Liverpool, August 31) ; s.s. Explorer for Calcutta (Liverpool, September 15).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Martaban for Port Said, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 7).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Tydeus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore etc. (Birkenhead, September 1) ; s.s. Machaon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, September 2).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Venice for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 27).

*Maindy Line.*—S.s. Maindy Tower for Antwerp and Moroccan Ports (London, end of August).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Assiout for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, (Liverpool, September 3) ; s.s. Siptah for Gibraltar Algiers, Malta, Syra, Piraeus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 10).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Bosnian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, September 17).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Kashgar for Bombay, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 26) ; s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 9) ; s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, September 9).

*P. and O. British Line.*—S.s. Hatarana for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 3) ; s.s. Nardana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 3) ; s.s. Mundra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 17) ; s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 23) ; s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 7).

*Prince Line.*—S.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, August 30).

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Egypt.**

Electric Light Set.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a second-hand electric lighting set consisting of compound steam engine suitable for steam pressure of 150 lbs. per square inch direct coupled to a direct current, shunt wound dynamo, capable of giving 32 amperes at a pressure of 110 volts. September 1.

Cement.—The Surveyor-General, Survey of Egypt, Giza (Mudîrîya), invites tenders for the supply of 40,000 cement or other blocks. September 6.

Cooking Material.—The Sub-Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Insha, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cooking, housewifery and laundry material required for 1921-1922, September 4.

**Roumania.**

Rice, etc.—The Roumanian Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of the following commodities :—25 waggons rice, 3 waggons tea, 65 waggons sugar. (Each waggon is 10,000 kgrs. net). No information regarding conditions of tender is available and firms should state their own terms when submitting offers. Tenders should be addressed direct to the Direction d'Intendance Strada Jules Michelet 24, Bucharest. (D.O.T.). September 1.

## AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

111 Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

118 Well known Sports Goods House with factory in India, wish to appoint Agents in Near and Middle East where not at present represented.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements, in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,'" 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

113 Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114 Importer in Karachi (India), travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115 An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers, and exporters. Specialities :—Exports : Medicinal herbs, dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports : Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116 Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117 Importer in Roumania, interested in jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old, Dundee and Calcutta makes.

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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From our own Correspondent*).

Manchester, Saturday.

The tone of the market during the past week has been dull and there has been a total absence of initiative on the part of the big shippers. Perhaps the quietness of the market is the result of many operators being on holiday, but at the same time one cannot disguise the fact that business has been extremely dull and feature less. Cloth demand for Egypt, Constantinople and the Levant has been rather disappointing, and although a few tentative bids have been received, sales of any weight have not been mentioned. With regard to Egyptian yarns, users have bought very sparingly and prices when tested have shown an easier tendency. Many weak sellers have been about and spinners are full of complaints. Inquiry for piece goods for India has not been met with on a large scale, and generally speaking trade with that outlet has been unimportant. Better advices have been received from China, but shippers have shown no disposition to operate on a larger scale. South America still lags behind. American counts have been anything but eagerly sought after and prices when tested have favoured buyers. Not much business has been done in export numbers. Taking the market as a whole there are no signs of an immediate improvement, and when trade does take an upward move, progress will be very gradual. Buyers do not trust current rates on account of the belief that prices have not yet touched the bottom.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week **ended August 11:—The fact that cotton can be purchased in this market at a considerable saving compared to the prices demanded for similar qualities in Egypt has become more readily recognised with the result that quite a fair business has been transacted. Except in the finer qualities of Sakel, which are not offered in quantity, sellers, in face of the larger sales, are still willing to meet the demand, and until prices stiffen here materially, or Egypt modifies offers appreciably, the turnover is likely to continue at the present total, or even expand further. The major portion of the sales have again consisted of Sakel grading, fully good fair to good, and, judging from the selection, there must be a considerable stock here of these qualities. Some holders of the above cottons are reluctant to let any possible business pass them, and, taking the official quotations as a basis, undoubtedly cheap cotton has changed hands. Owing to the present state of trade in the fine counts, spinners have not been able to avail themselves to any great extent of the exceptional conditions prevailing here. In normal times the weight of business would soon readjust the differences between this market and Egypt. Uppers and brown have been in only very moderate request. Sudans and Tokars also have claimed little attention. The sales for the week amounted to 2,900 bales (including 100 Sudan), against 1,500 last week. Quotations are unchanged, except fine Sakellaridis, which is 150 points higher.**

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97½ |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 66–66½ |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 100 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 16⅛d |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 300-305 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 16⅛d |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 550–570 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3 65/8 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 47.45-47.50 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 305–308 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 87–87½ |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 450 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 3050–3250 |
| Warsaw ..... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 8,300–8,600 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**The Profit Possibilities of the Italian Lire.**

Under this title our Expert on Foreign Exchanges has completed Article No. 5 in his series "Dealings in Foreign Exchanges from the English Investors point of View." The Article shows — ITALY'S FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES—THE POSITION OF THE SILK INDUSTRY—ITALY'S REVENUE FROM TOURISTS,—etc. The Article explains the PROFIT POSSIBILITIES BY PURCHASING ITALIAN LIRE—ITALIAN 3½ GOVERNMENT LOAN, etc. This Article will be sent free of charge on application to—

**Foreign Exchange Department,**

**THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,**

**Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London S.W. 1.**

# COMPANY MEETINGS.

## FURNESS WITHY & CO.

### Intérests in Danube Trade.

The thirtieth annual meeting of Furness Withy and Co., Ltd., was held on August 18, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, E.C. Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., presided.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting Mr. Ralph T. Warwick, of Messrs. W. T. Walton and Son, read the auditors' report.

Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—" The profit for the year, including the balance brought forward, amounts to £955,848 4s. 6d., which is arrived at after making provision for all taxes payable both in this country and abroad. After deducting the dividend on the Preference shares and the two half-yearly dividends at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, free of income tax, on the Ordinary shares, there is an available balance of £703,348 4s. 6d., out of which the directors have allocated £300,000 to depreciation account, and now recommend the payment of a bonus of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, on the Ordinary shares, which will leave £203,348 4s. 6d. to be carried forward to the current year's account. I scarcely think there is anything in the balance-sheet which calls for special comment.

We have continued our policy of developing and extending our organisation upon natural lines, and since we last met we have added several highly important units to our properties.

In the early part of this year I visited all our organisations in the Mediterranean, where the Prince Line and Johnston Line particularly have very important interests. As you know, we already have offices in Piraeus, Alexandria and Constantinople, and it was a pleasure to me to see at first hand the efficiency of these branches and the loyal work of our representatives there.

For a long time past we have taken a special interest in the Danube trade, and to strengthen our already strong position there we have during the year acquired an interest in the firm of Watson and Youell, one of the most highly respected firms trading in the Near East, with offices at Bucharest, Braila, Galatz, Sulina, Constantza and Oltenitza. The firm, as previously constituted, did a merchant business as well as a shipping agency but as we always make it a rule not to engage in merchant business in possible competition with our shippers and consignees, it was mutually agreed that the merchant business of Watson and Youell should be entirely separated from their shipping business, and the latter section is now operated under the style of Watson and Youell Shipping Agency, Ltd., and it is in this section alone that we are interested.

Altogether my visit to the Mediterranean was a most interesting one, and I returned with full confidence that no other company is better organised for the development of the various interests with which we are associated in those waters.

I need not tell you that since we last met we have experienced a very heavy drop in freights. It is a commonplace to say that this fall is due to the volume of overseas trade falling below the supply of ships, but while that is obviously the primary cause of the depression it is worth while analysing the position somewhat more fully. A study of the statistics recently published by *Lloyd's Registry of Shipping* shows that of the total world's steam tonnage of 54,217,000 gross tons, there is, eliminating wooden vessels altogether, 11,703,000 gross tons of shipping afloat more than there was in 1914, notwithstanding the tonnage lost during the war. The approximate increase that would have occurred normally during this period of seven years is 15,000,000 gross tons—that is, on the assumption that there had been no war and no substantial increase in the shipbuilding plants of the United States. It will, therefore, be seen that there has been no over-production in the ordinary sense of the expression. Vessels on the register of over 25 years of age represent 5,757,175 gross tons, of which 4,055,847 are owned abroad and 1,701,328 are owned in the United Kingdom. If for the purposes of estimating the effective world tonnage these are disregarded we arrive at an increase of 5,945,825 gross tons over 1914. Of this increase, however, 2,940,000 gross tons are represented by the increase in bulk oil carriers, and while to some extent these may displace coal carrying, for ordinary general purposes of the world's trade, it may be said there are, in effect, only 3,005,825 gross tons more of serviceable vessels afloat to-day than there were in 1914. Notwithstanding these figures, there is laid up in the world's ports an amount of tonnage which was recently estimated at round about 10,000,000 tons. It follows, therefore, that the principal cause of the decline in freights is due not so much to the over-production of tonnage as to the falling off in the world's overseas trade, and, so far as ship-owners are concerned, I can only see one practical thing to be done, and that is to reduce operating costs to such a level as will help forward a revival of international trade.

It is no use disguising the fact that shipping has a difficult period to face, and it will take a good deal of time and patience before all our difficulties are overcome. With the wonderful natural resources which we as a nation possess, with the commonsense which has invariably triumphed over our past difficulties, and with a broad-minded understanding between Capital and Labour, I believe ultimately we are capable of regaining our erstwhile commercial supremacy which will reflect itself in our particular industry.

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## SOCIETE ANONYME DU BEHERA.

### Egypt's Economic Position.

The ordinary general meeting of the Societé Anonyme du Béhéra was held at the company's offices at Alexandria on July 19, Mr. M. C. Salvago, the Chairman, presiding.

The report of the directors, read at the meeting, states :—The year under review, as you know, has been one of extreme contrasts. The brilliant prospects with which it commenced in April were followed in the autumn by a correspondingly profound collapse. So complete was the fall on the cotton market, that the prices realised for the crop hardly more than covered the cost of production which has been carried on throughout the summer at the high prices reigning during the first half of the year.

Needless to say this sudden change in the economic situation has produced an acute reaction throughout the country, and your company in common with other similar concerns has suffered from a falling off in the encashments to an amount considerably below what had been anticipated. There is every reason, however, to hope that the position will right itself automatically from the fact that agricultural labour has fallen back almost to the normal. The present cotton crop will, therefore, be produced under approximately normal conditions as to cost, and will, in consequence, it is to be hoped, leave an ample margin of profit for the producer.

On the other hand the greater part of the expenditure has been undertaken with a view to meeting the needs of the large areas sold under our deferred sales system, and it is most desirable that this expenditure should not be curtailed more than is absolutely necessary. In this respect two new drainage installations with their systems of deep drains are nearing completion. Two further installations for which plant has been purchased, have been temporarily suspended pending a clearer outlook. This latter plant figures forthe time being in store which accounts for the greater part of the increase of that item in the balance sheet.

The registration of land sales has been brought to an almost complete standstill, purchasers being unable to meet their engagements for lack of funds. Nevertheless the area of land sales registered during the year exclusive of Sidi Salem attained 2,322 feddans in addition to which the company holds sale contracts maturing for registration, mostly under our deferred system for an approximate area of 11,063 feddans and a value of L.E. 538,513.

The Sidi-Salem transaction shows that after meeting all annual charges, interest and capital expenditure, the total debt has been reduced from L.E. 200,605 to L.E. 194,028. A considerably greater reduction was anticipated in view of the excellent business done in this estate but the encashments as elsewhere failed. The great amount of work has been carried out at Sidi-Salem to meet the requirements of the fresh sales. Large areas have been canalized, and a powerful drainage installation designed to deal with 10,000 feddans is in course of construction. When this work with its system of deep drains is completed practically the whole estate will be provided with good artifical drainage and a very important reduction in capital expenditure will then be possible. Land sales for an area of 638 feddans have been registered during the year, and sales contracts maturing for registration cover an approximate area of 4,228 feddans for L.E. 295,962.

**Dredging Contract.**

By a further agreement with the Egyptian Government, the general dredging contract has been again prolonged to June 30, 1921, to give time for the preparation of a fresh contract. This contract is at the time of writing under discussion, and it is hoped that the terms will be definitely settled before long. During and since the war the repairs to the company's dredging fleet, have been reduced to the minimum possible, due to excessive cost of repairs and the complete uncertainty as to whether it was the Government's intention to renew a long period contract. In order to give full and proper effect to the proposed contract a large expenditure on repairs will be necessary and two or three new dredgers required. In view of the above, your board proposes to set aside a sum of L.E. 20,000, from the profits to be applied exclusively to this object. One dredger has had new machinery installed during the year and has been otherwise reconstructed and modernized which accounts for the greater part of the increase in the item Plant and Furniture in the balance sheet. Dredging under the Government contract has amounted to 768.885 m.3, in addition to which we have dredged for the Suez company in the Abassieh Canal, 35.811, total for the year, 804.696 m.3. The latter work is continuing.

Turning to the liabilities in the Balance Sheet, it is to be noted that the increase of the item " Sundries " under" Creditors and Other Accounts " is due principally to the inclusion of the aforesaid L.E. 20,000 destined for the repairs of the dredging fleet. " Profits on Land Sales " show an increase of L.E. 57,564. Among the assets " Debtors for Land Sales " has increased by L.E. 79,648 of which L.E. 24,612 represents a fresh accumulation of arrears in the payment of the annual instalments. " Debtors and Other Accounts," which has risen from L.E. 45,625, to L.E. 73,491, has since been reduced by L.E. 21,000 by encashments of sums due by the Government on account of dredging. Other important items under this heading which will be recovered from first payments next cotton season represent advances to our purchasers of cotton seed, amounts due for the clearance of canals and drains, and fees for artificial drainage.

Mr. E. Monnerat, whose resignation after 38 years service in the company, was communicated to the shareholders at the extraordinary general meeting held on May 7, 1920, retired from active control of the industrial section on December 30, last. He has since taken over the general management of the Cairo Water Company in which post we heartily wish him every success.

Your board has, therefore, thought it advisable once more to reunite the two branches of the company under one control and to this end have appointed Mr. G. C. Foster as general manager. Mr. R. W. Andrews, who has been in the company's service since 1904, has become Manager of the Territorial Branch, and for the industrial branch, we have been fortunate enough to obtain the services of Mr. F. D. Scott, late of Messrs. Vickers.

Mr. B. Hornsby, C.B.E., on whom has devolved the Governorship of the National Bank of Egypt, in Cairo, has resigned from the board. His special financial aptitude and the unfailing cordiality with which he entered into our work will remain as a souvenir of his all too short sojourn amongst us. In virtue of Article 13 of the Statutes we have invited Mr. O. J. Finney to join the board of directors. His wide knowledge of the commercial side of the cotton industry will be of great help to us and we do not doubt that our choice will obtain your full approval

**Profit and Loss Account.**

After setting aside the arrears of rents amounting to L.E. 657.090 transferred to "Accrued rents in suspense" and a sum of L.E. 20,000 transferred to " Reserve for Dredging Plant " the net profit for the year 1920-21 amounted to L.E. 41,313.909, to which must be added the balance brought forward from 1919-1920, L.E. 51,834.945, making a total of L.E. 93,148.854. From which must be deducted the interest on the preference shares paid during the year 1920-21, LE. 24,375, leaving a total of L.E. 68,773.854. Deduct 5 per cent. on 500,000 ordinary shares. L.E. 12,500,—L.E. 56,273.854. Deduct 10 per cent. to statutory reserve viz :—net profit of the year, L.E. 41,313.909, interest on preference shares L.E. 24,375, 5 per cent. on 50.000 Ordinary shares, L.E. 12,500,—L.E. 36,875,—L.E. 4,438.909 10 per cent. L.E. 443.890—L.E. 55,829.964. The directors propose to pay a dividend of 3 per cent on 50,000 ordinary shares making a total for the year of 8 per cent., L.E. 7,500—leaving a balance of L.E. 48,329.964 to be carried forward.

One of the shareholders present pointed out to the chairman that the area of land sold in recent years appeared small in comparison with the extent of the properties. The chairman explained the point, the chief reason being the deferred sales system adopted by the company.

The meeting accepted unanimously and without discussion the accounts thus presented as well as the distribution of profits as proposed by the board, and decided to carry forward the balance of L.E. 48,329.964. The meeting fixed the payment of coupon No. 20 of the 50,000 ordinary shares at the rate of P.T. 40 (forty piastres tariff) per coupon, payable from Monday, August 1, 1921. The meeting ratified the nomination of Mr. O.J. Finney to the board of directors for a period of 5 years. The directors' fees were fixed at L.E. 5 per sitting as before. Messrs. Russell, Harris and Co., were re-elected auditors for 1921-1922 with the same remuneration of L.E. 250.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Those of our readers who may be interested in sports goods are invited to refer to the advertisement of Messrs. Phillips and Co., of Sialkot, India, and London, on page 240. An inspection of this firm's wide range of goods, including hockey sticks, footballs, tennis racquets and cricket balls, proves that they can be recommended to prospective buyers with every confidence. A comprehensive illustrated catalogue is published, and is sent free to all interested.

The total approximate gross earnings of the Indian State Railways for the second quarter of the year amount to Rs.19.83 crores.

The Government of Bengal, has decided to license the sale of swords, sword-sticks, and daggers.

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Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d. 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Panderma.

The report for July states :—Stagnation has prevailed in the market. Apart from about 90,000 kilos of grains of flax destined apparently for the Piraeus there have been no exports.

Stamboul, August 13.

Notwithstanding the state of war in Anatolia the position of the market is less unfavourable at the present time owing to consignments made to Roumania and notably to Batoum, in which town sales of merchandise are carried out at advantageous prices.

Manufactures—The activity previously recorded in textile manufactures continues The market is in a healthy condition. The losses sustained over the liquidation of old stocks do not seem to have greatly affected the position of importers. The recovery at Manchester and the trade with Roumania and the Caucasus enables one to look forward with a certain amount of confidence to the future of the trade in textiles which constitutes the chief branch of imports of our town.

Produce.—Sugar. After being quiet at the beginning of the week the market has shown a certain activity towards the end following on the news that the English refineries, lacking stocks, had made important purchases. Nevertheless, despite the rise that has taken place on the chief European markets ours remains quiet for lack of business, and prices quoted are below those ruling in Europe. The arrivals of the week amount to 350 waggons from Java, America and the Netherlands and three-quarters have been warehoused. Stocks here are estimated at 600 waggons. Quotations are :—Java, August September shipment, £30 per ton, Dutch sugar £31 per ton, in customs £T 30-30 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The damage recorded to the new crops in certain districts coupled to the general demand in Europe as a result of the exhaustion of stocks has given an upward tendency to prices. The rise has made its effect felt on our market, where the quotations are Ps. 44-45 per oke for coffee in transit, and Ps. 60-62 per oke in customs.

Rice.—The market is firm, despite the arrival of a consignment of 80,000 sacks of Saigon at Marseilles. Prices are rising at that place. Quotations :—Prompt shipment from Marseilles 110 francs per 100 kilos ; here Ps. 15 per oke.

## DROUGHT IN ROUMANIA.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, August 10.

The hay crop is being endangered owing to the prevailing drought in many regions. In consequence the price of cattle is falling throughout the country, also the price of beef which is now five to seven lei per kilogramme according to quality. The production of vines is reported to be of excellent quality and a large output is anticipated. On account of the drought the mildew and other fungi have made no progress.

The Caraaman salt lake in the Dobrudja has dried up, and the inhabitants while raking its surface, discovered a layer of white powder, which after analysis proved to be comestible salt, which will be invaluable to the local fishermen for salting fish.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Fluctuations in Oils.

*(From our own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday.

The past week has been redeemed from the sameness that has characterised preceding weeks by the fluctuations in the oil market. Otherwise the tone has remained much the same as before.

Gilt-edged securities have been rather weak. Consols have shed ¼ at 48. War Loan Fives are 3-16 down at 87,15-16, while Fundings at 70,7-8 have lost ½.

A dull tone has continued to be in evidence in the Industrial group. Shipping shares show little change, P. and O. Deferred being 347.

Bank shares have reacted somewhat after the recent rise. P. and O. Banking Corporations close at 11,1-8, a decline of 3-16. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 7⅞, but National Bank of Egypt have shed ¼ at 18,-7-8. Agricultural 3½ per cent Bonds have firmed up ¼ to 52½, but Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are ¾ down at 54½.

After a pronounced slump in the early part of the week a re-action set in the Oil Market, and prices are well above the worst. Anglo-Egyptian are 3-32 down at 1,3-8, while Roumanian Consolidated have shed 3d. at 10s. 3d. Steaua Romana are 6d. down at 12s., while Burmahs are 1-8 down at 5,9-16. There is nothing fresh to report as regards Rubbers.

In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 68, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent., and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855, are the same at 68 and 69 respectively.

In Greek shares the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan remains at 43, while the 5 per cent. 1884 Loan is unchanged at 42. The 5 per cent. 1890 Loan is 41, while Fundings are a point up at 40. The 4 per cent. 1910 Loan is unchanged at 31, but the 4 per cent. 1902 Loan at 34 shows a gain of a point. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is unchanged at 43.

In Land shares Beheras have shed ¼ at 8½, but the Preference are unchanged at 3,1-8. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are 3, and Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s. 6d. Egyptian Delta Lands have lost 3d. at 8s., but Gharbieh Lands are unchanged at 1½. New Egyptians are 1s. down at 22s. 6d., while Union Foncieres have lost 1-16 at 2½. Sudan Plantations are 1-16 up at 2,13-16.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 2s., and Alexandria Waters are 6¾. Morums are 10s., Egyptian Markets, 19s., and Egyptian Salt and Soda 33s.

## NEW COMPANIES.

### Trans-European Co.

The Trans-European Co., Ltd., has been registered with a nominal capital of £150,000 in 10,000 8 per cent. preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and 200,000 deferred ordinary shares of 1s. each. Objects:—To carry on the business of merchant bankers and financiers, to create or acquire interests in undertakings, owning and-or operating on the Continent of Europe or elsewhere sleeping, restaurant, trains de luxe, or other cars, rolling stock or equipment used on railways. The directors are:—Sir Henry Worth Thornton, K.B.E., Great Eastern Railway, Liverpool-Street Station, E.C. (general manager Great Eastern Railway). Sir George McLaren Brown, K.B.E., 61, Cadogan-square, S.W. (European general manager Canadian Pacific Railway Co.) Geoffrey P. Denton (Messrs. Swan Hunter and Wigham-Richardson, Ltd., 21, Russell-square, W.C.1. (director Moorgate Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.) The first members of an advisory council are to be appointed by the directors. The council may elect two members of their body to be governor and deputy-governor respectively, and the secretary of the company shall be secretary of the council. Any member of the council may be a director.

### Smyrna International Ferry.

The Smyrna International Ferry Service, Ltd., has been registered, with a nominal capital of £101,000 in 100,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 20,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. Objects:—To enter into an agreement with Bowen, Rees and Co., Ltd., D. Forbes, C. Whittall and Co., and Eliear Guiffray to establish and maintain a service of steamers and other vessels for the transportation of passengers and merchandise of all kinds to, from, and in the Gulf of Smyrna.

## Indian Intelligence.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dared August 8:—Monsoon active in Northern India, weak in Peninsula. In North-West India, including to the West of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and in Peninsula, total rainfall of August and September likely to exceed average. For North-West India and Burmah, conditions too uncertain to justify a forecast. Conference freight trade for Continent and Marseilles, 40s. since April; now 45s Cotton normal; much improved by recent rainfall but area below the average. Rice and Sesamum normal. Indigo poor. Bombay cotton market, August 4—weak. Fine M.G. Oomras, September Rs. 316½. Government of Bombay in order to stop mixing of short stable with Surati Cotton has introduced Transport of Cotton Restriction Act, 1921, to control transport by rail of cotton and cotton waste. Bombay piece good market unchanged. Enquiry in local goods encouraging. Calcutta jute and gunny markets, August 6—quiet but steady. August 7—Jute market closed. Gunny unchanged. At tea sale on August 21, Assams excellent, Dooars, Cachars and Sylhets good; Tippy Orange and Broken Orange Pekoes with Tip and no liquor, weak; all other grades three to six pies dearer. 72,303 packages sold to date at an average price of 8 annas 9 pies per lb. No change in bank rates.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on August 5 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 7-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 7-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £13-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 57; Behera Ord., £E 8¾; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 78; Building Lands of Egypt, £5-8; Cassi di Sconto, Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 35; Ciments d' Egypte Div., Fr., 23; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5½; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 810 ex.; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr., 629 Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr. 224; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 140; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr., 78; Eaux du Caire, Jouissance. Fr. 105, Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 7½d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4 15-32; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10½.; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 17-32; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co, Pref., £2 9s. 16; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £4 5-8; Kom Ombo Ste, Fondateur, £33 9-6; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37; Lots Turc, Fr., 40; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 270; Nungovitch Hotels, £6 11-16; Ramleh Railway, £2 ¾; Salt and Soda, Pt. 33s. 4½d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 44; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 63; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2½; Egypt Hotels, £1 27-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

The world's first poultry exhibition is to be held at The Hague from September 6 to September 13.


# BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been much brisker during the past week. Currants have been in special demand, and rates have advanced. There has not been much business in sultanas, and stocks of the old crop are now practically exhausted. Dates continue to present a steady aspect.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued to be in active request. West Indian crystallised is unchanged at 45s. to 52s. American is 2s. lower at 58s., while Czechoslovakian is 33s.

Coffee.—A steady tone has been maintained in the market. Futures are :—September 46s. December 46s. March 46s. 6d., May 46s. 10½d.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been weaker with Indian at 23s. 3d., and La Plata at 20s. 6d. Rapeseed has been fairly steady with Toria at 22s. 3d. and bold Ferozepore at 21s. 6d. Cottonseed is closing easier with Indian at 11s. 3d., Egyptian Black at 13s. 9d., and Sakellarides at 13s. 3d.

Oils.—Linseed oil at 36s. 3d. is 2s. 9d. down. Rape oil has been steady with crude at 55s. and refined at 62s. Cotton oil has been variable. Common edible is 1s. down at 52s., while Egyptian crude is 6d. lower at 42s, but deodorised is 5s. up at 50s. Turpentine has again declined, and is 4s. down at 64s.

## CYPRUS CROP OUTLOOK.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Nicosia, August 9.

There has been more rain in the hills, but no serious damage is reported. The carob crop should be excellent. The dates for picking beans are fixed annually by the District Courts of Administration (*Meglis Idare*). This is done in order to prevent or minimize the losses which would otherwise be experienced by owners of trees from thefts. Under this law any person found in possession of carobs before the fixed time is liable to prosecution. The dates fixed for the Nicosia district are August 15 and 22, for the lower and higher villages respectively and for the gathering of olives, September 19 and 21. The fixtures in other districts are not yet published.

## ROUMANIAN WHEAT FOR FRANCE.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, August 10.

The execution of the remainder of the contract for the 15,000 waggons of wheat sold to France has been entrusted to the headquarters of the peasants' co-operative societies. It is announced in this connection that ever since June 18 France has been asked to send five boats to ship part of this contract, but has not yet complied with this demand, and the barges carrying the wheat have since been incurring demurrage.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The *Bulletin* of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of the crop conditions in July :—

Cotton.—The weather was favourable. Shortage of water has been felt, especially in some localities in Lower Egypt and in Minya Province. The cotton worm attack has been severe in certain provinces. Boll-worm has appeared in most provinces The crop is backward.

Millet (Sefi).—The weather was on the whole favourable and water supply sufficient. Slight attacks of stalk-borer are reported from Beni Suef, Minya and Qena Provinces, but damage done is negligible. Heads are formed ; the condition of the crop is generally satisfactory. Harvesting will take place in August.

Sugar-cane.—The weather was favourable to the growth of the crop. Water supply was generally sufficient except in some places in Giza, Minya and Asyut Provinces. The stem-borer attack is very slight.

Rice (Sefi).—Weather was on the whole favourable. Shortage of water has been felt, especially in lands at the tail ends of canals. In some small areas the rice has dried off for want of water. No enemies are reported. Prospects of the crop are below the average.

Maize (Nili).—Preparation of land for sowing is in progress. The area intended for maize is expected to exceed the normal.

Ground-nuts.—Weather was favourable. Nuts are formed in early-sown crop in Sharqiya Province. Shortage of water has affected the growth of the crop.

The Motor Trade Association are organising a motor exhibition at Calcutta, during the coming winter.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 167s. cwt. ; bacon (Canadian), 157s. 6d. cwt. ; bacon (American), 127s. 6d. cwt. ; butter (Danish), 265s. cwt. ; butter (Australian), 230s. cwt. ; butter (New Zealand), 135s. cwt. ; cheese (Canadian), 134s. cwt. ; cheese (New Zealand), 135s. cwt. ; cheese (Australian), 125s. cwt. ; lard, 88s. 6d. cwt. ; chillies, 145s. cwt. ; eggs (Danish), 28s. per 120 ; eggs (Styrian), 19s. 6d. per 120 ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2¾d. lb. ; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 78s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (Costa Rica), 145s. cwt. ; coffee (East India bold), 122s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (Central America), 109s. cwt. ; coffee (Jamaica), 60s. cwt. ; coffee (Mocha longberry), 109s. cwt. ; coffee (Santos superior), 60s. 6d. cwt. ; ginger (Washed Cochin), 35s. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11¼d. lb. ; pepper (Singapore black), 4½d. lb. ; pepper (Muntok white), 9¾d. lb. ; raisins (Valencia), 82s. 6d. cwt. ; raisins (Sultana Smyrna), 86s. 3d. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 82s. 6d. cwt. ; currants (Calamata), 45s. 6d. cwt. ; sugar (granulated), 61s. 1½d. cwt. ; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 65s. 3d cwt. ; sugar (white Mauritius), 53s. 9d. cwt. ; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 49s. 6d. cwt. ; sugar (centrifugal), 20s. 9d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1 15-16d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour, 18s. 3d. cwt ; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 23s. 9d. cwt. ; rice (bran Rangoon), £9 2s. 6d. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb. ; tea (Indian, common to good common), 8½d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 3½d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 4d. lb. ; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 9¾d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 4d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 7d. lb. ; tea (Java, common to good common), 5½d. lb. ; wheat (Australian), 82s. 4½d. qr. ; wheat (English white), 67s. qr. ; wheat (La Plata), 83s. 6d. qr. ; barley (malting), 70s. qr. ; oats (English,) 36s. qr. ; oats (La Plata), 31s. 9d. qr. ; maize (La Plata), 42s. qr. ; maize (American), 39s. 3d. qr. ; flour, 60s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton ; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton ; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £69 16s. 3d. ton ; copper (electro), £75 5s. ton ; gold bars, 112s. 1d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 133s. 9d. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 162s. 6d. ton ; galvanised sheets (24G), £21 15s. ton ; lead (soft foreign), £23 6s. 3d. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s. 2½d. unit ; molybdenite, 43s. 9d. unit; nickel, £190 ton ; platinum, 360s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton ; quicksilver, £10 8s. 9d. bottle ; silver bars 37½d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 16s. 3d. ton ; tin (standard), £155 7s. 6d. ton ; tin plates (20 by 14), 23s. 6d. box ; wolfram, 12s. 6d. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 66s. cwt. ; oxalic, 9½d. lb. ; citric; 2s. 4½d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 5½d. lb. ; ammonia (sulphate), £13 12s. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £39 ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 8½d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £17 10s. ton ; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 132s. 6d. cwt. ; Potassium : Bi-chromate, 9¾d. lb. ; chlorate , 5d. lb. ; caustic, £35 ton ; nitrate, £52 15s. ton ; permanganate, 1s. 3d. lb. ; prussiate yellow 1s. 3d. lb ; sulphate (90 per cent.) £19 ton ; Sodium : crystals 141s. ton ; bi-carbonate £12 10s. ton ; bichromate 6¼ lb ; alkali (58 per cent) £9 7s. 6d. ton ; chlorate 4d. lb caustic (70 per cent.) £22 10s. ton ; ; hyposulphite £20 ton ; prussiate 7d. lb ; nitrate £18 10s. ton; glycerine(crude 80 per cent) £106 ton ; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent) £120 ton ; lemon oil 3s. 5½ lb ; quinine 4s. ½d oz ; red lead £39 15s. ton ; white dry lead £42 12s. 6d. ton ; white ground lead £53 ton ; sulphate of copper £30 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron 145s. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American) 8.90d. lb ; cotton (Egyptian) 15.25d. lb ; linseed (La Plata) £21 2s 6d. ton ; rape (Toria) £22 11s. 3d. ton ; soya beans £16 7s. 6d. ton ; palm kernels £23 2s. 6d. ton ; Oils : linseed £39 5s. ton : olive (Levant) £82 10s. ton ; palm £39 10s. ton ; rape (crude) £55 10s. ton ; soya £42 10s. ton ; petroleum 1s. 9½d. gallon ; petrol 2s. 6d. gallon; ground nut £54 15s. ton ; cotton (crude) £43 5s. ton ; cocoanut (Ceylon) £53 5s. ton ; turpentine 68s. 6d. cwt ; shellac (T.N. second orange) 287s. 6d. cwt ; shellac (A.C. garnet) 282s. 6d. cwt ; Rubber : plantation No 1 crepe 8½d. lb ; smoked sheet 8½d. lb ; fine hard Para 1s. lb.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up 10½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs. 10½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 10¾d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 10d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 7¾d. lb. ; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 9¼d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 9¼d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 8½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 5½d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 7¼d. lb. (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 5¼d. lb. ; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb, (second), 3¼d. lb. ; Kips (first), 6d. lb. (second), 5d. lb. (third), 3d. lb. ; Calcutta market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic hides (cows) : Agras, 9 to 14 ; Durbhangas, 6 to 7 ; Patnas, 5.8 to 6.8. Salted cows, 3 to 6. Arsenic hides, buffalo, 2.8 to 7.8. Skins : calf, 8 to 10 ; goat, 250 to 285 per 100 pieces.

Considerable quantities of Czecho-Slovak sugar have been sold in Great Britain, and it is probable that before the beginning of the new season all the available supplies of Czecho-Slovak sugar for export will have been disposed of.

H.M. Acting Consul-General at Algiers reports that the export of barley from Algeria to all destinations is now permitted up to a total of 50,000 metric tons (exclusive of the quantities exported to France). The maximum quantity may be increased if the results of the French and Algerian harvests prove sufficient.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 538—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Fighting in Asia Minor.*

The best made war rarely goes according to plan outside German *communiqués*, but military authorities, whatever their nationality, are exceedingly loth to admit the fact. In Asia Minor the Greek army since the resumption of the offensive has conspicuous achievements to its credit, and stands to forfeit none of its reputation, if its advance is slower when it encounters the main body of Turkish resistance. The tenour of the earlier communications, however, led the outside world to believe that the Turkish army had been completely broken and that there was nothing to prevent the Greeks from marching into Angora. As the event has proved, the Nationalists were yet to put up their stiffest fight, and the battle of the River Sakaria would seem to be still in progress. Greek reports continue favourable, but indicate that the enemy remains able to attack as well as to offer a stubborn defence.

### *Revision in Paris.*

An attempt has already been made to connect the reported decision of the Ambassadors' Conference on the subject of Albania's frontiers with party politics in Greece. The decision, we are solemnly informed, is an indication that the weakening of the Greek position attendant upon the return of King Constantine to Athens is not limited to Asia Minor. Possibly the Supreme Council has exposed itself to the charge by the nature of the settlement that it devised for the Near East; but it is to be hoped that the insinuation will be refuted. In extenuation of that settlement we may bear in mind General Smuts' description of the Paris Conference as a seething cauldron of human passion and greed, and we may be inclined to be more lenient than we should otherwise feel towards certain decisions arrived at under such conditions. Arrangements now made can be reached in a more judicial atmosphere than was possible two years ago, and this, it is to be hoped, is the explanation of the change of opinion now recorded.

### *Albania's Frontiers.*

The suggestion of a drastic partition of Albania was first accepted by the Allied Powers in 1915, when the British and French Governments were prepared to promise almost anything, in order to secure Italy's support. It is unlikely that the Albanian point of view received any consideration at the time. The same partition schemes had been put forward in 1912-13, and were then investigated, by no means impartially as it happened, but with less prejudice than was possible in 1919. The compromise effected in 1913 did no little violence to Albanian nationality, but it was at least a workable solution, as it provided a well defined geographical frontier. No doubt the ethnological position in the case of Argyrocastro has been modified during the last few years to the prejudice of the Albanians; but that fact would not necessarily justify the Ambassadors' Conference in rejecting the considered judgment of the 1913 Territorial Commission. Their decision, we may feel sure, has nothing to do with events in Greece. The allocation of Argyrocastro is in any case a difficult question to decide; but there can be little doubt that its incorporation in the new Albanian State is better calculated to promote peace in the Balkans than if it were given to Greece. The Greeks can well afford to take the decision in good part. If the new Albania makes good the Greek inhabitants will have little to complain of; if on the other hand, as the Greeks expect, Albania fails, their case will be proportionately strengthened, and districts which, handed over to-day, would always remain a source of friction and unrest, will pass unchallenged into Greek possession.

### *The Bulgarian Army.*

The demobilisation of Bulgaria's conscript army in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Neuilly has been begun, and is to be completed by the end of the month. So far only four hundred volunteers have been secured for the new force, and Bulgaria is in danger of finding herself before many weeks have passed unable to guard her frontiers or to keep order in the country. As a defeated enemy she can not claim much commiseration in a matter of this kind; moreover, appeals to the Great Powers largely miss their mark, as the question of the army is one that concerns more closely the smaller States that are her immediate neighbours, and the Great Powers naturally hesitate to take a step which cannot affect them in any way but would be held to prejudice their Balkan Allies. It is impossible, however, to conceive of any situation in which advantage is to be obtained by eliminating common sense. Nobody wants to see Bulgaria rendered capable of aggression or even mischief; but it is equally in nobody's interest, certainly not in her neighbours', to have Bulgaria a prey to internal disorder. The first effect of impotence on the part of the Sofia Government will be

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felt on the frontiers, where there always is, and particularly at this time, an element anxious to be a law unto itself, free from all restraint of a central authority.

### *A Common Sense Solution.*

It is urged in certain quarters that the failure of the Bulgarian Government to raise a volunteer army is not genuine, and is merely a device for stultifying the Treaty of Neuilly. As against this allegation it can only be pointed out that the Inter-Allied Military Mission is of a contrary opinion. This body would meet the difficulty by raising the pay of the volunteers to an amount that would certainly be vetoed by the Inter-Allied Commission for Reparations. The Bulgarian plea is that voluntary service is out of the question in a country where conditions are as they are in Bulgaria. There must be a definite reply to this contention, affirmative or negative. Roumania and Serbia with their preponderating agricultural populations, although peasant proprietorship is not developed to the same extent as it is in Bulgaria, can supply the answer; but it should be given in circumstances in which the reply would carry conviction, as a result, perhaps, of an exhaustive cross-examination. The matter, therefore, should be settled at a round-table conference at which Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece and Bulgaria are represented, together with the Entente Powers, under a chairman of American or neutral nationality. The head of the French Military Mission in Bulgaria is understood to have suggested that Bulgaria should be allowed to raise three or four thousand volunteers annually, and to make up the balance of the twenty thousand by ballot. The scheme is said to have been rejected by the Ambassadors' Conference; but it would probably be subjected to a more judicial investigation by the round-table conference that we have suggested. Moreover, it would be in the interests of a better understanding in the Balkans to have representatives of the four Balkan States meeting on equal terms to discuss a subject so closely allied to the big question of disarmament.

### *King Alexander of Yugoslavia.*

The illness that detains King Alexander of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in Paris is not yielding to treatment as rapidly as had been hoped, and so far no attempt has been made to fix the date of his Coronation. It is satisfactory to learn that his condition gives no cause for anxiety. Rumour and report are busy over the House of Karageorgevitch, and the news of the King's engagement to the Duchess of Vendôme is now contradicted in Belgrade. In the meantime the question of the succession has had to engage the attention of the Yugoslav Government. Until the King has an heir, he will nominate his successor from a collateral branch of the family, with the consent of the Skupshtina. Of the collaterals of the Karageorgevitch dynasty there are to-day a cousin of King Alexander, Prince Paul, born in Petrograd on April 15, 1893, only son of Prince Arsen, the younger brother of the late King, and a nephew, the young prince Vsevolod (in Serbian, Svevlad), born on January 7, 1914, the son of Princess Helena, eldest daughter of the late King, and Duke Ivan Constantinovitch of Russia, who was murdered by the Bolshevists in 1919.

### *A Fresh Problem.*

The complication which threatened the European settlement as a result of the Hungarian province of Baranya, situated between the Drave and the Danube, at their confluence, declaring itself an independent republic under Yugoslav protection, has given place to trouble over the transfer of Burgenland to Austria. By the Treaty of Trianon, Baranya, which contains the coal-mining district of Pécs (Funfkirchen), is ceded to Hungary, and was to be evacuated by Yugoslav troops on August 28. The Belgrade Government was inclined to make the surrender of the province conditional upon the previous cession to Austria to Hungary of Burgenland, also in accordance with the Treaty of Trianon; but the Ambassadors' Conference had reversed its former decision and had called upon the Yugoslavs to evacuate Pécs first. The movement in Baranya, although favouring Yugoslavia, was more personal and political than national; there is a strong labour element comprising Germans, Magyars and Slovenes, that is opposed to being placed under the jurisdiction of the present Hungarian Government, in view of its attitude towards socialism and the fact that some of the "republicans" are deserters from the Hungarian Army. Once again an awkward situation was avoided by the correct attitude of the Yugoslav Government, which refused to countenance the Baranya movement, and the evacuation took place without incident. The Magyars, however, have forcibly resisted the transfer of Burgenland, and Oedenburg has been the scene of fighting.

### *Italy and Egypt.*

Three weeks ago reference was made in these columns to the action of the Italian Colonial Federation in Alexandria in urging upon the Italian Government the necessity for the maintenance of the Capitulations. It was not clear at the time whether this was a spontaneous act of the local body, or part of a scheme to strengthen Italy's hands in making her bargain with Great Britain over the proposed change in the status of Egypt. The memorandum in question, however, proved double-edged; it fitted in well with the declarations of the Italian Foreign Minister that Italy had not yet recognised the British protectorate over Egypt, but at the same time it could not fail to give umbrage to the Egyptians. Accordingly the Federation has been called to account, and has had to publish a chastened explanation that its original memorandum had been erroneously interpreted, that there is nothing inimical to Egyptian independence in the demand for the maintenance of the Capitulations, and that the Italian colony is always sympathetic towards Egyptian aspirations. It ended pleasantly with an expression of the hope that Egyptians will succeed in concluding an agreement realising *all* their national hopes. It will be interesting to see whether a further memorandum is issued to explain tha in wishing the Egyptians the realisation of *all* their national hopes the Federation did not intend to include any hopes that affected the integrity or safety of Italy's Ally, the British Empire.

### *The Moplah Outbreak.*

Last week's news of the Moplah outbreak near Calicut came at a moment when the sensational Press was short of topics, and enjoyed the honour of larger type than has been given to India for some time, but we do not think that any considerable section of the country took the matter very seriously. To well-informed readers, the surprising item of the news was the smallness of the force originally employed to arrest the leaders of a tribe notorious for a degree of fanaticism which is fortunately rare in India. Everyone in Malabar knows that, when the Moplahs break out, as they do every few years, there is serious fighting ahead, and the temporary withdrawal of the troops suggests either that the strength of the

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movement must have been seriously underrated, or that political considerations may have been allowed to jeopardise the lives of the small force actually employed. The latter conclusion has in fact been drawn by observers of recent events in other parts of India. The old, and undoubtedly humane, maxim was that, when force was necessary at all, it should be ample to effect its purpose; of late there have been instances where, possibly with the idea of avoiding what is called provocation, bloodshed has resulted from the attempt to make a few files do the work of a regiment. It is bad tactics, and, we think, bad politics also.

### *Political Education in India.*

The mere fact that troops should be required on occasion to suppress internal disorder emphasises the backwardness of India in the essential matter of political education. In rural England it would be nearly impossible to raise a mob; in rural India it is sufficient to spread a few well-chosen lies, for the people are not yet able to detect such spurious coin. We are glad to see that the importance of this matter was insisted on by the President of the Legislative Assembly in a speech delivered recently in Bombay. Mr. Whyte eulogised, as was only proper, the achievement of the new legislatures, but he went on to say that the work to be done outside was even more urgent. Parliamentary institutions, he said, demand the closest touch between representatives and their constituencies, and it is essential to interest the people in the work of those whom they have chosen to represent them. We trust that Indian politicians will be quick to take this advice. Educating constituents is, of course, thankless work at the moment, but the constituents need it, and, if it is not taken seriously from the outset, the next elections may prove an unpleasant surprise to these who have neglected it.

### *The Indian Services.*

A striking illustration of the change in India's position was furnished by the official announcement issued last week regarding a partial revision of the scales of remuneration of the superior services. In the old days Whitehall regulated such matters autocratically, and was by no means over-anxious to receive suggestions from the other side; now we are given, in place of an authoritative statement, a telegraphic summary of the orders passed by the Government of India, and along with it a warning that the summary may be incomplete, so that we should await the arrival of copies of the Resolution by the ordinary mail. It is to be hoped that when these arrive the India Office will so far depart from its attitude of detachment as to see that they reach the various educational authorities, whose attitude counts for so much in regard to the recruitment of the Indian Services. We gather that in some centres the best young men are just now being warned off India on prudential grounds, and while we should not ourselves attach too much importance to opinions formed by college tutors, their influence is in fact sufficiently great to render it desirable that they should have full information of the latest developments.

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The High Commissioner for Palestine has given his consent to the formation of a Palestine Gendarmerie Force for the purpose of securing the frontiers against the invasion by brigands and to aid the civil police in the maintenance of internal order. This force will be employed and trained as a military police force, and after a period of six months' training will be accommodated, in groups of either 50 mounted men or 100 foot, in barracks in various parts of Palestine. None but individuals of the best character will be accepted. The strength of the force will be 500, and will consist of 300 cavalry and 200 infantry. The force will be a mixed one of Jews, Arabs, and Christians.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

### The Irish Answer.

The reply of Sinn Fein to the Government has proved a profound disappointment. Many had hoped to the last that Dublin would prove less intractable in secret session than in the public fulminations of Mr. De Valera; but apparently the demand for freedom to separate is maintained. To that demand Mr. Lloyd George has returned the only possible answer.

It is believed in some quarters that even now further negotiations are possible, and that De Valera would not be averse from another invitation to visit Downing Street. It is argued that he obviously did not contemplate separation a month ago, since in that event he would not have come to London, and the three long conversations with the Prime Minister would have been a waste of time for both; moreover, those who discussed the position with him personally some months ago did not gather that his aim was then full independence, and his public speeches—and even the latest letter—contain phrases susceptible of more than one interpretation.

There is a school of opinion which holds that the demand for separation is in fact a cloak for the real demand, the inclusion of Ulster in a united Ireland. If that is so, Sinn Fein is playing a very dangerous game; for Irish unity is not, as the attitude of Ulster has shown, a reality; and the idea that Sinn Fein either could, or would be allowed to, coerce Ulster is ridiculous. Even those Liberal journals in England which retain a general sympathy with Sinn Fein have strongly discountenanced the possibility of coercing Ulster.

The situation is extremely serious. The next word rests with De Valera; but nothing can disguise the fact that we are on the verge of civil war again, and civil war in a worse form than before. The one good result of the negotiations is to demonstrate to the world that England wants peace and an honourable settlement, and is prepared to go to the utmost limit to ensure it; this, indeed has been generally admitted in other countries, even by newspapers, which are not usually too friendly to us.

It may be necessary to call Parliament together again in September, should the situation become hopeless. The Government is pledged to do so in any case in the event of an absolute breakdown of the negotiations, and it is now probable that a general election will be held in the autumn, as the Cabinet will naturally feel its hands stronger, if it has a fresh vote of confidence from the people. There is no doubt that it would secure another majority.

(*Continued on p. 252.*)

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**The Census.**

The preliminary figures of the Census, which were published last week, are of extraordinary interest. The population of England and Wales has increased by 1,814,750 to 37,885,242 in the decennial period; and there are now 1,720,782 more women than men—surplus women, as some tactless person called them. This sounds very alarming; but as a matter of fact it only means that there are nearly eleven women to every ten men; it is more in the towns, and less in the country, which seems to show that women dislike solitude more than men. It is most marked in the watering-places, such as Harrogate, Tunbridge Wells, Eastbourne, and Bournemouth—in the latter place, indeed, there are 56,279 women to 35,491 men. At Aldershot and Eton, however, and one or two other places where there are schools and camps, men are in a majority.

The great towns have increased in size, while the country remains practically stationary; curiously enough, London appears to have diminished, but that is a trick of the figures, owing to the fact that there are more factories in the inner area, and the population has moved out. All the outer suburbs show huge increases, with the curious exceptions of Sutton, Epsom, and Dorking, where slight declines are shown. The greatest actual increases, however, are shown by seaside places, Blackpool and Southend leading; the greatest proportional growth is at Clacton and Frinton, which twenty years ago were little more than fishing villages.

It is interesting to note that almost exactly half the net increase of population in the country was accounted for by the birth-rate of 1920, when 957,782 babies made their positively first (unless one believes in reincarnation) appearance; the birth-rate is now beginning to drop a little, like the death-rate and the criminal statistics. We are all becoming more virtuous and consequently longer-lived; and women, in spite of their lack of clothing live longer than men.

**The Lost Airship.**

The wreck of the great airship over Hull last week was a terrible tragedy. It took with it some of our most experienced airmen; and its loss will naturally give pause to those who have advocated the lighter-than-air machine. Either the ship had structural imperfections, as rumour alleges, or was subjected to too great a test; these are matters for expert enquiries. It is nowhere suggested, however, that experiments in this type of craft should cease, although opinion more and more holds to the view that the aeroplane is the real human bird of the future. Apart from questions of safety and stability, the difficulty of berthing the huge bulk of an airship gives the aeroplane an enormous advantage.

**Reputations in Parliament.**

The parliamentary writers are engaged in the usual discussion as to the rise or fall of reputations during the past session, and they seem fairly well agreed over their verdicts. Mr. Lloyd George admittedly retains his old personal ascendancy over the Commons, his authority was so complete already that it was hardly possible for him to increase it. His one ineffective performance was over the Addison business; but an Archangel could hardly have done better in that difficult situation. Mr. Bonar Law was not much missed at first when his health broke down; it was a commonplace in April that even the greatest figures in politics are forgotten before six months have passed. That is no longer strictly true, for a large section of the Unionists, and most of the Coalition Liberals, would now be glad to see Mr. Bonar Law back again. The fact is that Mr. Chamberlain has not been quite so successful as his predecessor; he is rather stiff and stark, and unapproachable in manner; he is respected rather than popular. Mr. Bonar Law, it is true, always looks utterly miserable, whereas Mr. Chamberlain looks more cheery than he is; but behind a dismal countenance—to parody a well-known hymn—Mr. Law hides a kindly heart. Even his *penchant* for ginger ale and chess, two almost incredible failings in the eyes of most politicians, has not really weakened his hold on the political affections of the House.

Sir Robert Horne stands much where he did; he has so recently taken over effective control of the Treasury that he had had no time to make his mark as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Gordon Hewart as Attorney-General has increased his reputation by his successful piloting of the new Licensing Bill; nor has it done him any harm that the Prime Minister could not spare him from the Cabinet to take the Lord Chief Justiceship. The great lawyers, indeed, have both done well; for while Lord Birkenhead has made several notable speeches in the Upper House, his legal judgments have been highly praised by the Bar—which is not by any means a respecter of persons merely because they hold high office.

In the Commons Mr. Winston Churchill has made only one important appearance, but his speech on Asiatic policy was an unqualified success. He is cultivating a novel reticence in these days, but it is not necessary for a Colonial Secretary to be always in the limelight, and there are those who believe that his period of office will in the end prove as noteworthy as that of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

**The Opposition.**

On the other side there is little to record. Mr. Asquith has been less effective in 1921 than he was in 1920. He has never caught the tone of the new House, and he seems to have a contempt for it. Some of his followers are inclined to wish he had taken a peerage—of course he could have one any day he hinted a desire for it—and left the leadership of the Liberal Independents to more forcible hands. His one notable act during the session has been to stop the incipient courtship of Independent and Coalition Liberals, as expressed in a couple of informal lunches; and there are two opinions as to the wisdom of that irreconcileable attitude.

The small band of Independents have put up a better fight against the Government than most people realise, but it has not counted for much; they are still relying on a great revival of opinion in favour of Free Trade—which is no longer the official policy of the United Kingdom—but there are no real signs of any such revival. On Ireland both their early criticism and their subsequent support of the Cabinet have gone far better.

The Labour Party has not recovered from the shock of the coal strike. Its members rarely attend the House. When they do speak, they are usually dull and platitudinous—with the exception of Messrs. Thomas and Clynes, and our new discovery, Mr. Graham; and they are now busily engaged in quarrelling among themselves. They are beginning to realise that the cry of State Socialism is not so effective as was once supposed, but they have no alternative gospel to put in its place. How are the (potentially) mighty fallen!

Among the private members, three only have increased their reputation. The Cecil brothers, who joined the Opposition with a fine gesture of independence, have perceptibly lost ground; Lord Robert is no longer spoken of as a possible Prime Minister. Captain Elliott and Mr. Austin Hopkinson have both spoken well on occasions; but Mr. Ormsby Gore, who only escaped office by the skin of his teeth, is rapidly coming to the front as who never speaks without knowledge particularly on the Church of England and the Near, and Middle East.

**Surrey v. Yorkshire.**

The controversy as to Armstrong's captaincy in the last Test Match still continues, and although he has not lacked defenders, opinion on the whole has been adverse to him. But the most exciting event of the cricket week was, curiously enough, a drawn game. Yorkshire were in process of beating Surrey by an innings at the Oval, and a victory for the northerners would have had an important effect on their chances of the championship; but on the last afternoon, when the game was in their hands, a sudden downpour stopped play. It was one of the heaviest thunderstorms that have visited London during the past few years, and it speedily turned the wicket into a swamp. It was very hard on Yorkshire to lose merely through the weather; but Surrey have had such bad luck this season through the breakdown of Hobbs that one can hardly begrudge them their one piece of undeserved good fortune.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, August, 18*

**The Crown Prince of Persia.**

A noted arrival has been the Crown Prince of Persia, who, together with the Crown Princess, is on his way to pay a visit to his father who is at present at Constantinople. The Crown Prince and party, who arrived at Port Said, proceeded by special train to Alexandria, where they are staying as the guests of the Sultan. The feast of Courban Bairam is just over, and Government offices re-opened to-day after having been shut for a full week. The usual reception was held at the Palace on the first day of the feast. It was exceedingly well attended, amongst those present being the Crown Prince of Persia.

**The Political Situation.**

Politically things remain quiet here, but there is a growing indignation at the blundering tactics followed by Zaghloul Pasha and his emissaries in England, tactics which are recognised as being nothing short of an appeal to the British Government to intervene in the internal affairs of the country and protect one portion of the population from alleged oppressive methods adopted by the other. He has just made another blunder in the message to the nation which he has issued on the occasion of the Bairam feast. In it he defends himself against the accusation levelled at him of prejudicing the national cause in his opposition to the Cabinet, but at the same time he makes the significant admission that the Cabinet's political programme is identical with the national aspirations, and people are asking themselves the obvious question why there should be all this campaign to bring to the notice of the British public that the Egyptian Cabinet is suppressing public opinion when the Cabinet is fighting for the very objects for which that public opinion is said to be asking. The long and short of it all is that Zaghloul Pasha is proving more and more how absolutely inconsistent his mental outlook is, and how utterly unqualified he is to represent his country in such delicate negotiations as are at present being carried on.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, August 16.*

**Communism in Yugoslavia.**

Allegations have frequently appeared in the press that the Communists are acting in harmony with the Magyar Irredentists and with the Frankovist Separatists and, in fact, with everybody who hates the union and wishes to break up Yugoslavia. In the absence of definite proof there was a natural tendency to regard the statements made as exaggerated, but confirmatory evidence is rapidly being accumulated. M. Pribitchevitch, Minister of the Interior, in a recent speech in the Skupshtina, in support of the Defence of the Realm Act, pointed out that the Yugoslav Communist Party, in contradistinction to the Social Democrats of France, Italy and other States, accepted the Third International, but in a blind and naive way. The authorities are in possession of a proclamation dated May 29, 1920, launched from Moscow by Zinovieff to the proletariat of Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Turkey and Greece, calling upon them to make a single revolutionary front in the Balkans. This certainly points to Muscovite inspiration for the movement, of which many people were sceptical.

The next step was the deposition of a witness named Joseph Fa, a Hungarian, who had been a commissary under Bela Kun. He claimed to be a chauvinist Magyar, who wished to break up Yugoslavia and recover the Voivodina for Hungary, and admitted receiving money from the present Hungarian Government. Another link in the chain has been supplied by the arrest by the Austrian authorities, at Graz, at the request of the Belgrade Government, of Dr. Manko Gagliardi, who is on the list of war criminals for atrocities committed in Serbia during the Austrian occupation. Dr. Gagliardi fled from the country on the defeat of Austria and took up his abode at Graz.

Recently the authorities at Belgrade came into possession of definite proof that Gagliardi was concerned in the plot against the Regent, and the Austrian authorities arrested Gagliardi. A mass of incriminating documents was seized in his lodgings, including correspondence with the Communist Party in Belgrade.

The authorities, therefore, now consider themselves in possession of proof on the international and criminal plot against the Yugoslav union, of which the attempt on the Regent and the murder of M. Drashkovitch were incidents.

Criminal elements in the country have been enlisted into the plot, as well as open foreign enemies. An outburst of crime in the Voivodina, murders, thefts, and robbery, are held to be the work of Communists. The truth is probably that professional criminals have found in Communism a convenient mask and encouragement for their misdeeds. A band of fifteen robbers, of Roumanian nationality, has recently been captured. They called themselves Communists and confessed to a number of murders. It is probable that the majority of the members of the "Croatian Legion" which Gagliardi helped to organise are misled. Most of them are former Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war in Russia, who have been more or less affected by Bolshevik propaganda there and were captured by Gagliardi's agents on their way home, and won over to the cause.

**Frontier Problems.**

The Sofia correspondent on the Zagreb *Rijec*, which does not feel such intensity of feeling as the Belgrade papers, reports a conference of *komitaji* leaders near Kustendil. There were over forty voivodas present and they resolved to proceed at full steam with their activities in Macedonia. The telegram goes on to say that the Sofia authorities sent a detachment to stop one party crossing the frontier near Strumnitsa on July 24, where one notorious voivoda was killed, and his band was broken up. Bulgarian troops at other points have succeeded in preventing the infraction of the frontier.

Yugoslavia is maintaining a strictly neutral attitude in the Albanian question, regarding the rising of the Mirdites as an internal matter of that country, though refugees across the frontier are not turned back. But all along the frontier, a large quantity of proclamations in the Albanian language is said to have been found, inciting the Yugoslav Shipetars to rise, murder any who are well disposed towards the Slav authorities, and to encourage the *kachatsi* or brigands.

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**Miscellaneous News.**

The remains of Vladika Peter II, of Montenegro, the great patriot ruler, and perhaps the greatest Yugoslav poet, which were removed from their tomb on the Lovchen by the Austrians on August 12, 1916, in order to depress the moral of the Montenegrins, were returned to their resting place on the anniversary, August 12, 1921.

Owing to the terrific heat (the temperature has exceeded 104 degrees F. in the shade) the population of Belgrade has been crowding to the bathing-places on the Save, where many sit in the water up to their necks all day long. The other day a party of about two hundred were waiting on the plank bridge for their turn to secure tickets, when the bridge, not designed for such a weight, collapsed, the crowd received their bath sooner than they expected. As it is not known exactly who was there, and the water is twelve or fifteen feet deep under the bridge, it is feared that there may have been some drowned, especially as there was a large proportion of women and children in the crowd.

In spite of the stringent regulations compelling strangers to report to the police and register themselves and obtain permission to stay in the town, a hunt round by the police has discovered no less than 1,402 persons of doubtful character, strangers to the place, in Belgrade, without proper permission. These have been at once expelled. This has cleared the town of a lot of doubtful customers, and may contribute to ease the lodgings question.

Sir Alban Young, H.M. Minister at Belgrade, has returned from London.

M. Milos Budisavljevitch, President of the Yugoslav Red Cross, and M. Nikola Petrovitch, Yugoslav Consul at Geneva, will represent the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes at the forthcoming international congress shortly to be held at Geneva to deliberate on the problem of helping the famine-stricken population of Russia.

The library of the late M. Vesnitch, former Yugoslav Minister in Paris and President of the Council in the last Coalition Government, consisting of over ten thousand volumes, has been left to the Belgrade Faculty of Law.

On August 10, an earthquake was felt at Skoplje (Uskub). There were three distinct shocks, apparently travelling from north to south, which lasted several seconds. A certain amount of damage was done.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, August 17.*

**Political Movements.**

This week passed quietly, without any sensational incidents. Political strife was kept alive by the Press of the various groups and parties. The tone of their articles marks the state of the cross under-currents, and conveys the impression that, while the whole Opposition is unanimous in its clamour for the withdrawal of the Cabinet, its various component parts are drifting apart, so as to render impossible united action. Thus, the Tzaranists (Peasant's Party) are at daggers drawn with the Liberals, and much the same can be said of the advanced wing of the Ardeleni (National Transylvanians); while M. Jorga, the chief of the National Democrats, who was the spiritual leader of the late Federationists' block, repudiates the Tzaranists for having welcomed M. Stere in their midst, besides accusing them of fostering class-hatred. He warns the young element of the Ardeleni—who are flirting with the Tzaranists—to be aware of them, as an eventual class-hatred in Transylvania would spell disaster to the Roumanian cause, for the irreducible Magyar foe would inevitably take advantage of such defection. M. Jorga recommends a combined Liberal-Transylvanian Cabinet, provided that the Liberals abandon their absolutist and reactionary methods, and adopt a purely democratic programme to meet present exigencies. It would appear that in consideration of prevailing conditions among Opposition parties the Cabinet need not worry much about its own future; but it is aware of the fact that it could do no practical parliamentary work if the entire Opposition were to continue to boycott Parliament. The Cabinet is therefore endeavouring to win over some strong elements and especially the Tzaranists and a portion of the Ardeleni under M. Maniu and M. Vaida. It is rumoured that negotiations were broached with the Tzaranists, but they had to be discontinued on account of the exaggerated pretensions of the latter.

This state of things will presumably continue until the arrival of the King and General Averescu; and everybody expects that a change in one way or another will take place before the re-opening of Parliament. Two by-elections will be held shortly, in which the Liberals, in accordance with their determination to ignore the present Parliament, declared that they will not compete. The Anti-Liberal Press construes this more as a cheap way of avoiding certain defeat at the poll; it asserts that the Liberals should, on the contrary, face the voters, in order to ascertain their views upon the Liberals' hostile attitude towards the Cabinet.

**Miscellaneous.**

The Duke d'Amalfi, Spain's Minister to Roumania, has returned to Bucharest.

The French Aviator Captain Pelletier d'Orsy landed in Bucharest after having flown direct from Paris. The flight lasted nineteen hours, with halts at different places. The feat is the more remarkable, since it was accomplished with a modest monoplane of the "Morane Saulnier Parsal" type. This intrepid aviator has the merit of having inaugurated the aerial service which will, next spring, link together the two capitals.

A group of British Boy Scouts were invited to participate at the sports, exercises, games, competitions, and festivities which are being carried on from August 10-20, at Sibiu, Transylvania.

By order of the Primate a great religious procession took place on Sunday, followed by public prayers for rain.

Two more disasters have occurred in the Black Sea owing to stray mines. Both ships foundered; one was Russian and the other Danish. It is reported that eight men, of whom one was an American naturalist, met their death on the latter ship.

A terrible disaster occurred at one of the fortresses near Bucharest, an enormous quantity of explosives blowing up the fortress. The real cause has not yet been ascertained; it is surmised that the explosives decomposed on account of excessive heat and consequently ignited. There were luckily no casualties, but the damage is enormous.

A Roumanian-Yugoslav Commission is being instituted to definite the boundaries between Roumania and Yugoslavia.

The Roumanian-Soviet negotiations regarding navigation on the Dniester have been suspended. The Soviets declined to adhere to the Roumanian claim, that the navigation on the Canal Bugas should be carried on with Roumanian pilots and under Roumanian supervision.

## GREECE.

*Athens, August 13.*

**The General Situation.**

The lull after the storm, but for how long? The Minister of War says that the beginning of the second phase of the operations is only a question of days now. The talk about advancing on Constantinople has ceased completely—at least for the time being. Probably Reuter's semi-official message to the effect that if the Greek Army embarked upon such an undertaking, it would find itself face to face with the Allied garrison forces in that town, has something to do with it. The Hellenic High Command is once again concentrating all its attention on the arch-bluffer of Angora, whose army, or what is left of it, is apparently in for a bad time. King Constantine and General Papoulas have come to the conclusion that the occupation of the Nationalists' capital would not help them much, so long as the fifty

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or sixty thousand men whom Kemal is still supposed to have are at large. The sole aim, therefore, of the forthcoming operations is the complete destruction of the enemy forces. Speaking recently to some journalists, M. Gounaris said that if it were necessary to gain its object, the Greek army would even go beyond Angora.

Meanwhile the deliberations of the Paris Conference are followed with great interest and without anxiety. It is generally believed that Greece's staunch supporter, Mr. Lloyd George, will again have it his own way, and that there are no more "Notes" coming forth, for the present. What however is causing a certain amount of anxiety is the silence of M. Maximos. Nearly a month has elapsed since he left in a great hurry for London, but we have not so far heard anything about the so-much-hoped-for loan. Has it fallen through again? Matters will look really bad if the Governor of the National Bank returns to Greece empty handed this time.

**The War Minister's Declarations.**

On Tuesday last the Minister of War, M. Theotokis, received the representatives of the Press and spoke to them about the operations in Asia Minor and the brilliant successes achieved by the Hellenic Army. The Minister at first emphasised the rapidity and the methodical manner in which the preparations for the offensive were carried out. He laid stress upon the fact that the whole organization of the offensive, which was due exclusively to the efforts of the competent departments of the Greek Army without any exterior assistance, was so perfect that it even rivalled the order and efficiency of similar organizations in the British Army. M. Theotokis then referred to the recent operations and pointed out that, as a result of these, one third of Kemal's forces had ceased to exist, while the remainder had received such a moral shock that it had lost all its military value. The battle of July 21 was the most brilliant feat of the Hellenic Army. Being under the impression that the Greeks after a fortnight's continuous fighting would be worn out with fatigue, also that, owing to their rapid advance and the considerable distance from their base, it would be difficult to bring up supplies for a day or two, Kemal attacked with the bulk of his forces consisting of seventeen divisions. But the Greeks not only repulsed the Turkish onslaught; they also counter-attacked. The results were known. The enemy suffered an extremely severe defeat and retreated in disorder sustaining enormous losses and abandoning huge quantities of war material in the hands of his pursuers.

Speaking of King Constantine, the Minister of War declared that His Majesty's presence amongst the troops was greatly responsible for the triumphs of the Hellenic arms. The area of the territory occupied up to the present exceeded 36,000 square kilometres, which was equal to half the size of Old Greece. With the exception of 150 kilometres of the Eskishehir-Angora line which was also expected to shortly fall into their hands, the Greeks were in possession of the entire Turkish railway system. The Decauville line between Angora and Sevastia, which was only 50 kilometres in length, would be of little use to the Turks, seeing that the distance between these two towns was about 500 kilometres.

Referring to the second phase of the operations, M. Theotokis said that this would begin within the next few days and would be quite as successful as the first phase. The people of Greece should place their entire confidence in the Army. This would do its duty and would obtain great results. The aim of the forthcoming operations was not the occupation of towns and positions but the definite crushing and destruction of the enemy.

As far as M. Theotokis knew, no peace overtures were made by Kemal, but in any case Greece was not going to repeat the mistake of the Allies in Mudros in 1918. She would exact and obtain such guarantees as would make it absolutely impossible for Turkey to attempt any more of her perfidious tricks. The Christian populations of the recently liberated territories would be safeguarded from future aggression and ill-treatment.

**The Greek Casualties.**

According to the official casualty list issued by the War Office the total losses of the Greeks up to the present are as follows:—

1st Army Corps:—Officers: Killed 35, Wounded 86. N.C.O.'s and Men: Killed 436, Wounded 1,743. Missing 647.

2nd Army Corps:—Officers: Killed 18, Wounded 78. N.C.O.'s and Men: Killed 399, Wounded 2,059. Missing 153.

3rd Army Corps:—Officers: Killed 12, Wounded 47. N.C.O.'s and Men: Killed 218, Wounded 964. Missing 34.

IV. Division:—Officers: Killed nil, Wounded 5. N.C.O.'s and Men: Killed 13, Wounded 112. Missing 3.

XI Division:—Officers: Killed nil, Wounded 4. N.C.O.'s and Men: Killed 26, Wounded 99. Missing 7.

The total Greek losses are therefore as follows:—Officers:—Killed 65, Wounded 220. N.C.O.'s and Men:—Killed 1,092, Wounded 4,977. Missing: 844.

## THE AEGEAN COAST.

*(From our Sofia Correspondent.)*

*Kavalla, August 16.*

**Kavalla.**

Your Sofia Correspondent is still in Macedonia, and has arrived here on his way from Salonika to Adrianople. It is much more pleasant to travel by boat these hot days, and the s.s. Roumelie from which I have just disembarked is, although small and not fast—one does a steady 11 miles an hour—a comfortable ship, with good food and a nice old Greek Captain who is very proud of his half dozen words of English. This morning at day-break we lay off Athos, and landed some provision for the use of the monks. The Athos Monastery, which is one of the oldest in Greece, has to-day more monks than it ever had before, owing to the fact that all those who belong to it are exempted from military service. From Athos to Kavalla is eight hours' journey, and we passed quite close to the island of Thasos where a number of British officers and men were stationed during the war.

Kavalla, the port from which the world famous "Xanthi" tobacco is exported, is a picturesque little town with its Turkish quarters situated high up on a big rock jutting out on the sea; behind this rock lies the long water aqueduct. It is satisfactory to hear that this year's tobacco crop is good, and that large quantities of the seed have been purchased by Americans, English, and others. Until this year Kavalla served only as a depot and sorting house for the tobacco, but a German-Dutch combine have now started actually to manufacture cigarettes at the place itself. Since wages are not dear, the venture should be successful, an average semi-skilled labourer receiving about 20 drachmae a day, which is equal to 6s. in our currency. Kavalla has still to rely on motor transport to connect it with the interior and it is a little over an hour's drive over the hill to Drama. The war has outwardly left few marks on the town beyond some houses destroyed by the Bulgarians and a small area close to the sea which suffered from the bombardment of the British Fleet.

**Dedeagatch.**

Leaving here late in the evening, we woke up next morning to find ourselves at Dedeagatch, the port to which Bulgaria has been promised, but has not yet secured, an economic outlet by the second Treaty of Sèvres. The railway runs down to the water's edge, and the land facilities are thus good; but as a port it is quite useless, as all cargo has to be landed by means of lighters, and during the winter a steamer sometimes has

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to lie off for a fortnight before a favourable opportunity for landing her cargo presents itself. It is estimated that the cost of making a port will run into many hundred of million drachmae, and Greece has at present so many calls on her exchequer that one doubts whether she will be able to meet this bill for some considerable time to come. On the other hand it is not probable that Bulgaria will be willing to assist in any construction scheme unless she can be sure of possessing afterwards an absolutely free and independent use of the port. During the summer months when the weather conditions are propitious a certain quantity of goods is landed, and it is from here that the Greek Army in Thrace receive the greater portion of their supplies.

The town itself is of course very small, and possesses no industries beyond some flour mills which were destroyed during the war. Nevertheless for a mere passer-by like myself, there were certain compensations, and the greatest of these was the view to be had from the sea front. Looking south-west one saw the Island of Samothrace some fifteen miles away, while on its left quarter, although farther away, lay Imbros, and on the dim horizon and dead south were the western shores of Gallipoli. My steamer, now a mere dot on the horizon, could be seen steaming away for Smyrna—her final destination—and away to the east there was a fleet of white sailed fishing boats lying absolutely becalmed under the roasting beams of the August sun. There is always a fascination in the sea, and it was with a feeling of regret that I turned my back on the watery panorama and made my way to the station to catch my train for Adrianople.

**Bulgarians in Thrace.**

It might not be out of place to say a little here as to the supposed ill-treatment by the Greeks of Bulgarians living in Thrace. The chief complaints levelled against the Greeks are that Bulgarian is not allowed to be taught in the schools, that Bulgarians are made to fight in the Greek Army, and that a number of Bulgarians have been deported to the various islands along the coast of Greece. Now the first complaint seems to be well founded and is the one fault which the Greeks would be well advised to correct, as it will always tend to continue the bad feeling which is already existent. As to the statement that Bulgarians are made to join the Greek Army, this must be accepted with considerable reserve, as naturally enough the Greeks would not dream of sending to the front soldiers who they knew were there against their will and who would probably desert at the first opportunity. Nor, as far as can be ascertained, are the Bulgarians being taken for home service, although if Greece finds it necessary to mobilise more classes, Bulgarians may be called on to perform garrison duty. There have been a few deported who were sent away to the islands, but their numbers do not appear to have been very great. They were sent away for having caused trouble, and are not confined to prison, but are allowed full liberty.

In so far as a cursory look-round enables one to see the situation, it would seem that up to the present the Bulgarians in Thrace are not being actually ill-treated, but they live under the fear of what the future may have in store for them. The bitter hatred—one can call it nothing else—that exists between Greek and Bulgarian is not calculated to make the life of a Bulgarian under Greek rule, or *vice versa*, an easy one, and it is not surprising that the great majority of the Bulgarians left Thrace when the Greeks started to occupy the province fifteen months ago. With the Turk, relations are on the surface considerably better, and as I wrote last week, the Greek seems anxious to conciliate him, but he has a very hard task ahead of him. In fact one can only hope that the Greeks will maintain their present attitude of leniency and restraint towards the various nationalities, other than Greeks, in Thrace. If they do they should meet with great success, as there is no denying the fact that as administrators they are ahead of either Turks or Bulgarians.

## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, August 22.*

**Argyrocastro and Koritsa.**

The event of the week has been the receipt of a dispatch from the Albanian Delegation at Paris, announcing that Great Britain definitely recognises Argyrocastro as Albanian, and that she will make no demands for a rectification of the frontiers in favour of Greece. The question of Koritsa has already been decided, so that Albania now has the frontier of 1913.

The news sent a thrill of joy through the country, and the Government sent telegrams of thanks to London, Paris, and Rome; and the municipalities of Koritsa and Argyrocastro have despatched specific messages of gratitude to the British, French, and Italian Cabinets.

The welcome news came through just when the representatives of Chimara were at Tirana, whither they had arrived a few days before to express their gratitude to the Government for the new administration which has just been installed.

**An Amnesty.**

Last week Parliament granted an amnesty to those Albanians who have been detained under the accusation of having participated in the "Essadist" movement of the Spring of 1920. These men had been in prison for more than a year, and, the danger of a similar new movement having vanished, it was deemed wise to set them at liberty, and so to show confidence in their goodwill.

**Albania and Serbia.**

There are no more difficulties, in the North with the Mirdites in whose region there is now complete peace. Unfortunately the "Serbian Committee"—whose centre is at Podgoritza—is ceaseless in its endeavours to create friction with Albania. Unable to recruit supporters in Albania itself, the Serbs are forming bands in Yugoslav territory which demonstrate on the Albanian frontier. The Albanian Delegation has brought to the notice of the League of Nations this hostile and disloyal attitude of the Serbs, and the General Secretary of the League has invited the two Governments to send their representatives on September 1, before the Council at Geneva, where an inquiry will be made into their differences. The Albanian delegates will be Monsignor Fan Noli and M. Midhat Frasheri.

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# THE LATE KING PETER.

*From our Correspondent in Yugoslavia.*

Zagreb, August 24.

King Peter, the Great, Liberator of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, his official title before posterity, is at last released from the cares of this world, where for nearly eighty years he drank his full of the misfortunes and fortunes of this life. He has been laid to rest in his family home, in his own foundation, by the side of his grandfather, Kara George, the Liberator, whose tradition he so gallantly and so successfully carried on, bringing it finally to its logical conclusion, with the recent passing of the Constitution of his united people.

In 1870, when a prisoner of war in the hands of the Germans, whom he instinctively hated, he escaped by a bold plunge into the Loire, and, amid a shower of bullets escaped and returned to the French army in which he was serving. The chill which he caught in those wintry waters inflicted a rheumatism which never left him, and it was due to rheumatism that he withdrew from public life on the eve of the Great War, though it did not prevent him from taking an active soldier's part in the tremendous events of 1914-1918.

It would be hard to find a more romantic life than that of Peter Karageorgevitch. Brought up in the spirit of democracy, an exile for forty-five years from the land and people that he loved so well, he entered upon his real life's task at an age when most men think of retiring. He was almost sixty when he mounted the throne, vowing to devote his remaining years to the task of liberation; ten years he spent in preparation, and then ten years of storm and strife and war and again exile, until finally he was able to see the realisation of his life's dream, the union of his people, and to know that his part was played, his work done, success achieved.

The change, in 1903, from the tyranny of the degenerate Obrenovitch to the democratic constitutionalism of King Peter was positively startling. His unfortunate predecessor never dared to stir abroad without a troop of guardsmen. But Peter strolled about the town and on the hills of Topchider attended by a single officer and orderly. When a lieutenant endeavoured to clear a way through the crowds that pressed round to kiss his hand, his cloak, his sword, the King said; "Do not trouble. I do not like police protection. My people will protect me." And this was his attitude to the end. During those long years at Geneva he associated with Socialists and with Bakunin, the King of Anarchists, with Svetozar Makovitch, leader of the Serbian Socialists, and met Karl Marx. There he discussed the future of his country with Nikola Pashitch, like himself, an exile in those days. When he was translating J. S. Mill's "On Liberty," Milton, and Machiavelli into Serb, his thoughts were for his people, for their intellectual advancement, at a time when he was prevented from struggling for them physically.

He was always a lover of liberty and a good hater of tyranny; that is why he offered his sword to France in 1870, and all his life hated the Germans, above all, the Austrians and Magyars, who were in particular the enemies of his people. A tale is told of how he was talking with German officers at the close of the Franco-Prussian War, when they were in occupation. A Prussian bully was expressing contempt for the French, as a degenerate people, when Lieutenant Karageorgevitch protested. The Prussian then turned his abuse to the young Serbian volunteer, whose hot blood boiled up at the insult, and he struck the German in the face. They exchanged cards. Next morning, the German had first shot, and missed. But the Serb did not miss, and the bully fell with a bullet through his brain.

In 1875, he saw another chance of fighting for his ideal, and this time with his own people, against the Turk, and he hurried to Bosnia to join the insurgents. He launched a proclamation calling for volunteers, from Austrian territory, for he lay hid, making his plans, in Zagreb, as a jumping-off place, while the authorities in Vienna wanted his blood. He took the name of Peter Mrkonitch, and raised his band and fought many a successful action. In his enthusiasm for the cause of his people, he sent a letter to Prince Milan Obrenovitch at Belgrade, calling on him to forget past hatreds and unite in the cause of Serbdom. The reply was characteristic. Milan sent a creature named Toda Erceg to assassinate him. Fortunately his faithful adherents discovered the plot, and Peter was warned; but this obliged him to abandon his crusade.

It is interesting to note that only his most devoted friends were aware of his identity. Vienna, Constantinople and Belgrade were out for the blood of Prince Peter Karageorgevitch, but could not identify the Voivoda Markonitch, or Zoritch, as he was sometimes called. A detective from Vienna referred in his reports to a "distinguished gentleman whose name I cannot ascertain." One of his officers, a Montenegrin Peter Golubovitch, only knew him as Mrkonitch, and thought, as many did, that he was a French officer. The Austrians did not even know that he had his base in Croatia and Slavonia, that he launched his proclamation from Zagreb, that he collected volunteers from the Save to the Drave, or that on March 4, 1875, he travelled from Zagreb in the Susak train for the Bosnian frontier. The tale of this rising and of his part in it is a romance in itself.

He inherited a fortune from his father Prince Alexander in the form of an estate in Roumania, but he dissipated most of this in the Bosnian rising. When he ascended the throne, he finally sold the property and devoted the proceeds to building a church at his home at Topola, where the family vault is and where he is now buried.

**The Funeral.**

The funeral scenes at Belgrade were impressive in the extreme. Several small details show that strong vein of sentiment that runs through the Serbian people. Fifteen of his old comrades of the Bosnian Rising collected a wreath of wild flowers from the spot where they first met their beloved leader; they came as a deputation to the funeral, under Moja Hrvacianin, and at their particular request, their offering was placed in the coffin before it was sealed. As he lay in state, there were pinned upon his breast two more medals, each the first issued, of the Albania Medal, in memory of the Great Retreat of 1915, and the Serbian War Medal.

The wreaths numbered over a thousand, and it is interesting to note that the first delivered was from the grateful Russian students now in Yugoslavia. Many public institutions and banks gave large sums, running into many thousands of dinars, to be devoted to the erection of a permanent memorial, in some practical cause such as the King would have loved, a hospital or a school.

The Minister of War, General Zechevitch, issued an Order of the Day to the Army and Navy, which is interesting as throwing a light upon the psychology of the


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Serbs. It is worth reproducing. After reciting the fact of the demise of the crown and accession to the throne of the Regent, under Article 56 of the Constitution, the Order proceeds :—" The noble heart of the grey-haired King, which for seventy-seven years beat with unrivalled love for all three branches of our single-blooded people has to-day ceased to beat. His noble soul has sped aloft to the heavenly heights to the Throne of the Almighty. Heroes! Sons of our dear Shumadia, Weep! for to-day there has died the first and most perfectson of the Shumadia. Son of rocky Hezegovina and Montenegro, of wonderful Dalmatia, of the wild Krajn and of lofty Bosnia, Weep! for to-day Peter Mrkonitch has breathed his last. Heroes and sons of wondrous Macedonia, Weep! for your Liberator is no more. Heroes, sons of lofty Croatia, of glorious Slovenia, of our rich Slavonia, of our flat Srem, Backa and Banat, Weep! for the stalwart arm has grown for ever cold of that great King who brought you together in common brotherly embrace after the separation of centuries. Heroes all, Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, pour forth your tears! for to-day there has breathed his last that great and grey-haired Sovereign who, together with your grandfathers, fathers and brothers, in the teeth of unheard-of struggles and fierce war with the enemy has created the free, indivisible fatherland of all Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. With tears of grief, pray to God, heroes,for the repose of the Soul of the Great King Peter I Karageorgevitch, and in the common mourning of all our three-named people, close your ranks more firmly than ever by the side of His Successor, His Majesty King Alexander Karageorgevitch."

The gun-carriage which bore the coffin is a veteran of the Salonika front. It was present in all the heavy fighting at Rosna, Banica, on the lofty pass of Gornitchevo, on the Chuka, on Hill 1378, and came to Belgrade with the 1st Army, penetrating into Hungary as far as Subotitsa. From it were fired 16,000 rounds, and half a dozen gunners were killed by its side. After the funeral the gun-carriage will be handed over to the National Museum.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE WAR IN ASIA MINOR.

*To the Editor of the Near East.*

Sir,—The very pertinent questions which Lieut.-Colonel Aubrey Herbert asked in the House of Commons regarding the supply of munitions of war to the belligerents in Asia Minor were met by Mr. Chamberlain with platitudes about the "principles of international law and the habitual practice of this country." But the Leader of the House did not explain how it was possible to be strictly neutral when the Powers were in military occupation of the Straits and the Turkish capital. The fact that the Greeks who had originally gone to Smyrna as the Mandatory of the Powers now refuse to listen to the advice of the Supreme Council was ignored entirely. How can we wonder either at the Mohammedans in India being more than doubtful as to the sincerity of our declarations seeing that in 1897, when the Turks had beaten the Greeks to their knees, there was no hesitation; we at once intervened and prevented the Turks from enjoying the fruits of their victory. Mr. Churchill in his speeches has explained the necessity of bringing the war in Asia Minor to an end without a further break up of the Turkish Empire. Yet what has our Government done to bring about this pious wish? Who is the evil genius who is ever ready to persuade the Cabinet to come to a wrong decision whenever this Near Eastern problem is under discussion? The Press this last week has been full of extracts from Lord Esher's book—"The Tragedy of Lord Kitchener." But if the truth be ever told, some historian of the future will assuredly record that the shortcomings of our War Office during the fighting were more than surpassed by the errors of our Foreign Office in its conduct of the peace since the Armistice. It may also possibly be pointed out that in the peace negotiations there was no Kitchener's Army to write up on the credit side of the account. To paraphrase a well known saying, "Peace hath her tragedies no less than war."

I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

14/8/21.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## THE CAVALRY OPERATIONS IN PALESTINE AND SYRIA, 1917-1918.

**"The Desert Mounted Corps."—By Lt.-Col. the Hon. R. M. P. Preston, D.S.O., with an introduction by Lieut.-General Sir H. G. Chauvel, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. (London : Constable and Co., Ltd.).**

Those who have read Mr. Massey's two great books "How Jerusalem was Won" and "Allenby's Final Triumph" might imagine that for the general reader the last word had been given on this great campaign. This history of the "Desert Mounted Corps" shows how much more there is to tell. Although covering the same military events as the above-mentioned books it deals with the special work of the Cavalry with such intimate personal knowledge and experience and with so much detail as to form a story of enthralling interest. In his introduction Lieut.-General Chauvel states that "in writing this history Lieut.-Colonel Preston has done a service to his country which I am sure will be fully appreciated." While naturally of predominant interest to those who served in the Mounted Corps it will appeal to all who take an interest in Allenby's great success.

The narrative commences at the re-organization of the force when General Allenby took over command in June 1917. The Desert Mounted Corps was composed of the Australians, New Zealanders, British Yeomanry, Territorial Horse Artillery and Indian Cavalry. The last greatly predominated after the withdrawal to France in April, 1918, of the Yeomanry division. In the last operations a French "Regiment Mixte de Cavalerie" two squadrons of regular French Cavalry and two of Algerian Spahis took part and greatly distinguished themselves.

In following the work of the Campaign nothing is more surprising than the number of times when the Cavalry got home with only moderate losses by galloping straight for the enemy's trenches or the enemy's guns. The capture of Beersheba at the eleventh hour was a fine piece of work.

"As soon as the batteries were in action, General Grant's two regiments swept out into the open, in column of squadrons in line, and galloped straight at the Turkish trenches.

Seen from the rising ground on which our guns were in action, it was a most inspiriting sight. It was growing dark, and the enemy trenches were outlined in fire by the flashes of their rifles. Beyond, and a little above them blazed the bigger deeper flashes of their field guns, and our own shells burst like a row of red stars over the Turkish positions. In front the long lines of cavalry swept forward at racing speed, half obscured in clouds of reddish dust. Amid the deafening noise all around, they seemed to move silently, like some splendid, swift machine. Over the Turks they went, leaping the two lines of deep trenches, and, dismounting on the farther side, flung themselves into trenches with the bayonet. The whole position was in our hands in ten minutes and was consolidated immediately."

A similar thing happened at Huj.—

"As our cavalry appeared, thundering over the rise the Turks sprang to their guns and swung them round firing point-blank into the charging horsemen. The Infantry, leaping on the limbers, blazed away with their rifles till they were cut down. There was no thought of surrender ; every man stuck to his gun or rifle to the last. The leading troops of the cavalry dashed into the first enemy battery. The following troops, swung to the right, took the three heavy howitzers almost in their stride, leaving the guns silent, the gun-crews dead or dying, and galloped round the hill, to fall upon the mountain battery from the rear and cut the Turkish gunners to pieces in a few minutes. The third wave, passing the first battery, where a fierce sabre v. bayonet fight was going on between our cavalry and the enemy raced up the slope at the machine guns. Many saddles were emptied in those few yards, but the charge was irresistible. In a few minutes the enemy guns were silenced , their crews killed, and the whole position was in our hands."

At El Mughar "the squadrons lost more heavily both in men and horses than the two (squadrons) that had gone on with the sword." The three things which the Turks feared most were a threat to their communications, a charge of cavalry and a heavy aerial attack. They received all these to the full before their armies were utterly destroyed.

One of the greatest difficulties experienced in some phases of the campaign was the scarcity of water—even where water was present it had often to be drawn from deep wells and the pressing need for haste made it impossible to provide an adequate supply. It is amazing to read how at a pinch cavalry were able to progress under conditions which were once thought impossible. "One battery of the Corps marched and fought for nine consecutive days, during which period its horses were only watered three times, and this was no isolated example."

The author cannot praise too highly the Australian horses. "The majority of the horses in the Corps were Walers and there is no doubt that these hardy little horses make the finest cavalry mounts in the world." When ridden by an Australian trooper each horse carried a weight of over twenty-one stone, all day and every day for seventeen days on less than half the normal ration of forage and with only one drink every thirty-six hours.

In connection with cavalry tatics and the more technical side of mounted warfare this work will, we feel sure, be of considerable value to the student of military history, but for those also who wish to obtain a vivid and realistic picture of the campaign from the capture of Beersheba to the surrender of Aleppo nothing better has ever been written.

E.W.G.M.

## THE ETERNAL DESERT.

**"The Sahara."—By Pierre Loti. With Frontispiece in Colour by A. Lamplough. Translated from the French by Marjorie Laurie. (London : T. Werner Laurie. 10s. 6d. net.).**

If M. Pierré Loti is disappointed in the English sales of his latest work he will have neither his own literary power, the acumen of the reading public nor the skill of his translator to blame. He will find the cause of any lack of popularity to lie in the title with which he has chosen to docket the volume. It is safe to assume that nine-tenths of the casual reading public will pass the book unnoticed unless they happen to be looking for a descriptive volume on desert lands. This is a pity, because although the Sahara plays a naturally important part in the development of M. Pierre Loti's work it really only serves as a stage upon which is set a drama of intense human interest.

The plot is an old one ; old as the visitations of white men to dark continents ; but few authors could equal M. Loti in his portrayal of the characters who were in it, especially that of Jean, the pure minded, loving, sinful Frenchman, member of the Corps of Spahis, serving his military term at St. Louis. This man with his hopes, his loves, his ambitions and his failures, makes the book, while the pressure of the sweltering breathless desert is pregnant in every phase. Here is a man, a simple home-loving peasant drafted to Africa for five years service. Straight and clean living in the midst of unspeakable vice, he carries the memories of his parents and of his bethrothed triumphantly adequate until he falls victim to the wiles of a white skinned mulatto wanton, who is true to him for just as long as his whole-hearted adoration amuses her. When at length accident reveals her duplicity, Jean for a period follows the path most usually trodden by men in such circumstances, only, however, to pull himself together under the influence of a letter from his mother. It is here, perhaps, that M. Loti's art is the most manifest. Never for a moment is the vague shadow of gloom lifted ; a shadow so slight that it is quite indefinable ; yet intruded in such masterly style by the author that no sun of Africa can dispose it. We read of Jean's release from the bondage of St. Louis, we see him duly embarked upon his journey to Algiers, but deep in our minds we feel that the spell of the amulets, "woven like a web across his room" is still potent to his undoing. Of the actual progress of the story it would be unfair to write, it must suffice to say that in his final chapters M. Loti has dallied with no consideration outside his art, for which in these days of literary insincerity we may be truly thankful. This

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is not a book for the young to read; many passages are distinctly unpleasant, but the author has given us a picture of life in the Sahara, and life is not always free from unpleasantnesses. The translator, Miss Marjorie Laurie, is to be congratulated upon her accomplishment of what must have been a very difficult task, and the frontispiece by M. A. Lamplough, is quite up to the high standard we are accustomed to expect in this artist's paintings of the East.

## WITH THE 1/5th ESSEX IN THE EAST.

**"With the 1/5th. Essex in the East."—By Lt.-Col. Gibbons, D.S.O. (Colchester: Benham and Company Ltd., 12s. 6d.)**

"When I look back on the record of these men of Essex—their splendid devotion to duty, their patience in adversity, their cheerfulness under every conceivable hardship and discomfort, their steadiness and bravery in action and their exemplary conduct at all times, I am in despair at the feebleness of my pen and wish they could have produced a historian better able to do them justice." So writes the author of this book; its reader will, however, not agree that the splendid records loses much through the narrator. Indeed the members of the Battalion are to be envied in having such a faithful, interesting, and detailed record of their doings. Every individual known action by a member of their battalion, all the honours gained, and all the casualties seem to be recorded.

While, however, the book must be of permanent interest to the members of the 1-5th Essex there is much of great general interest, and the author has spared no pains to make intelligible the various actions in which he was engaged, as well as the historical associations of the places seen. In some respects the accounts of engagements given here considerably amplify other records. Of Gallipoli there is a vivid picture—of the miseries and hardships endured, in common with many other regiments, by this regiment. The account of the Palestine fighting covers new ground to some extent, and is a welcome addition to our information. The mystery of the first battle of Gaza is not solved here. A letter is quoted from Brigadier General Dodington in which he states:—"I can tell you, however, that we had the Turks stone cold in Gaza on the night of the twenty-sixth and could have bagged the lot if only those higher placed had known what we knew. We had them too on the twenty-seventh if only certain action had been taken." All the military operations about Gaza are greatly elucidated by a capital sketch map.

The work of the Battalion after the capture of Jerusalem, along the banks of the River Auja, and later on the foot-hills near Wady Ballut is told in considerable detail. Then came the second great advance. The 1-5th Essex gradually progressed up country until at length when hostilities with Turkey ceased on October 31, they found themselves on the neighbourhood of Beyrout. Finally, after some exciting experiences in Egypt in suppressing rioting, on November 19, "the 1-5th Essex after a brief but glorious career ceased to exist." This volume will ensure that this "glorious career" will not be forgotten.

It may be added that there are over two dozen excellent original photographs, and six maps.

E.W.G.M.

## NOT OF THE NEAR EAST.

**"A Market Bundle."—By A. Neil Lyons. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s.)**

Save for a chance reference, of an uncomplimentary character, to ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, we have been unable to find any reference to the Near East in this book—and we have read it from cover to cover. But we are very grateful to the publishers for sending it to us, for it is capital fun, and has given us many smiles and a few hearty laughs. Mr. Neil Lyons' work is new to us, but we hope to know more of it ere long. These stories are all very short—there are forty-four of them in this particular 'market bundle'—but if they are 'little' they are, emphatically, 'good' also. They are told with a verve and neatness that mark their author out as a born short-story teller, and though many of them are mere nothings, one or two will set readers thinking, if not very profoundly. A good book indeed, and one which we recommend to readers both at home and abroad.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

**Spanish Music.**

There is an England to-day a real and fast increasing interest in the artistic doings of Spain, a country whose genius, so long obscured by bad governments and national indifference, is now finding full expression. As yet, it is true, we know little of the real Spain; our conception of its music is too much derived from Bizet's "Carmen," and in its literature many have not yet passed the Ibanez stage. But we are learning. Great attention was given to the exhibition of Spanish paintings held last year at the Academy; Galdos (now that he is dead) is being worthily appreciated; and the names of Granados, Albeniz, and de Falla are seldom absent from the programmes of our concerts. Above all the Russian ballet of Diaghileff has given to English interest in Spanish art an enormous impetus.

Now there is probably no country in which Eastern and Western music have so commingled as Spain, or rather as Southern Spain. The exact extent of Moorish influence in the Iberian Peninsula it is impossible to gauge, but the study of it is fascinating and one of peculiar interest to readers of "The Near East." To them, therefore, I specially command a book recently published by Messrs. Constable: "A Picture of Modern Spain: Men and Music," by J. B. Trend (15s. net.) It is written with engaging enthusiasm and complete knowledge, and, what is a notable virtue, it does not indulge in that false glamour which many dishonest travellers have thrown over their writings on Spain. There is in it a vast amount of information not obtainable elsewhere, but to say it records facts alone would be very wrong, for Mr. Trend never conceals his own opinions, which incidentally are extended over all the arts and occasionally to politics and religion as well. But though everywhere the book is of extreme interest—whether the subject be "Education in Spain," or "The Catalan Question," or "Spanish Opinion on the War," it is chiefly the music of Spain that concerns me here. On this Mr. Trend has much to say, mostly from the operatic or stage aspect; and one is very grateful to him for a "bibliographical guide to Spanish secular music." How sensitive he is to the beauty of Spain and how well he can describe it may be seen from the following passage on the Alhambra, taken from a chapter on "Music in the Gardens of Granada:" the author was with de Falla at the time:—

> In the day-time the Alhambra is difficult to understand. It is too strange, too remote to be completely intelligible. . . . And then Sr. de Falla with Sr. Vaizquez Diaz, one of the most modern of Spanish painters, took me at night. The moon was waning, but it showed about half, and covered everything with an intense, queer light which was now violet, now greenish, but emphatically not white. The atmosphere seemed friendly, familiar, not strange and uncomfortable as in the daytime. The long tank in the Court of Myrtles stretched away into an uncertain distance; and a man with a lantern passed slowly under the arches in front of the Hall of the Ambassadors. Then I realized what had happened. The atmosphere of the Alhambra at night is the atmosphere of opera. . . . Moonlight and Moorish art gain indefinitely by their association.

It will be easily realized how valuable a book it is that a man whose impressions are so suggestive as this extract shows them to be has written, and, quite apart from the great instructive worth of it, Mr. Trend's volume should be read for the insight into the soul of the country which such passages provide.

ANDANTE.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-day.**
September 1 (New Style).
August 19 (Old Style).
Julhijja 28, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab. 28, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Roumanian Minister, M. Boeresco, has been granted an extension of leave owing to indisposition.

Lord Porchester has left London for Constantinople to take up his military duties at G.H.G.

M. Boliet, Professor of Oriental Languages at Paris, is now on a visit to Bulgaria to study the language.

Mrs. Arthur James has left Brides-les-Bains to visit Sir Horace and Lady Rumbold at Constantinople.

The Pope received in private audience last week Mr. Ronald Storrs, the Military Governor of Jerusalem.

The Greek Chargé d'Affaires and Mme. Rangabé have left London, with their family, for The Birches, Penshurst, Kent.

The marriage arranged between Graeme Oliviera, of Harrington, Kotagala, and Glenny Jaques of Shedfield, Hants, will take place in Ceylon in October.

The King of Roumania left Bagnolles on August 27 to spend the week-end at Saint-Lunaire, where the Queen of Roumania is staying.

Madame Stancioff, wife of the Bulgarian Minister in London, has left for the South of France with her son, and will be away some weeks.

The marriage of Mr. Edward Stevenson, M.C., 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, and Miss Ela Peyton will take place at Meerut, United Provinces, India, on October 5.

Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London last week from visiting the King of Roumania at Bagnolles-sur-Orne.

General Newman, Chief of the General Staff in Egypt, who was seriously injured in an aeroplane accident at Heliopolis on August 15, is now making satisfactory progress in hospital.

Vali Adh, the Heir-presumptive of Persia, who is on his way from Bombay to England, has arrived at Constantinople to visit his father, the ex-Shah, who has been living there since his deposition. ..

The marriage of Colonel-Commandant A. D. Kirby, C.B., C.B., C.M.G., R.A., and Miss Muriel Wilson is arranged to take place in Bombay during October. Miss Wilson intends to leave England during the last week in September.

An engagement is announced between Captain John Warnes Hudson, Indian Army, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Hudson, of Blakeney, Norfolk, and Margaret Evelyn Overman, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert W. Overman, of Weasenham, Norfolk.

Sir Arthur Peel, the retiring Minister of Bulgaria, left Sofia on August 23. A distinguished company assembled at the station to bid him farewell. The King has conferred the national Order of Civil Merit of the First Class upon him.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., who has resigned his position on the Inter-Allied Reparations Commission in Bulgaria, has received from the French Government the Cross of Officer of the Legion of Honour.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place on September 6, between Colonel P. Matcham Davies, R.A.S.C., son of the late Lieutenant-General A. Matcham Davies, Indian Army, and Mrs. Davies, late of Branksom Park, Bournemouth, and Hildur Ohlson, daughter of the late Captail Elias Ohlson, R.N., of Stockholm, Sweden.

The marriage arranged between John James Flockhart, only son of the late James Flockhart and Mrs. Flockhart, Leytonstone, Essex, and Flora Evelyne, younger daughter of Sir George Watt, C.I.E., L.L.D., and of Lady Watt, Chinsura, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, will take place at Wellesley-square Church, Calcutta, early in December.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Karachi, India, in October, between Captain Arthur Amys Fausset-Baker only son of the late Major Fausset-Baker and Mrs Fausset-Baker, and Flora Jane Evans, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Evans of Witheby, Sidmouth, Devon.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (August 13):—Earl Granville, who had proceeded last week to Portaria, a picturesque village on Mount Pelion, has returned to Athens.

Vice-Admiral Kelly, Chief of the British Naval Mission to Greece, has returned from England after an absence of over two months.

It was announced in a Reuter message from Athens on August 25 that King Constantine has been indisposed during the last few days owing to gastric troubles; but the latest bulletin states that His Majesty's health is quite restored and that he has once more taken up his official duties. King Constantine is at present at the advanced base of Eskishehir, and will continue to stay at the front until the end of the war.

On August 24 King Ferdinand of Roumania celebrated the fifty-sixth anniversary of his birth. His Majesty, was the recipient of numerous messages of congratulation, among them being a cordial message from King George and another from the Roumanian colony in London. During the day cards were left at the Roumanian Legation in London on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Lord Chamberlain, and the State Chamberlain.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place next year between Major James Strachey Barnes, son of Sir Hugh Barnes, K.C.S.I., and Miss Moseley Williams, until lately attached to the Junior American Red Cross at Tirana, Albania. Miss Williams, by her personal courage and acts of devotion has endeared herself to the Albanians, to whom she is known as the "Duchess of Pertrella," from a rocky fortress, 500 feet high a few miles from Tirana on the Elbasan road. At the wedding, which is to be celebrated at Scutari, the Archbishop of Scutari and Monsignor Bumtsi, one of the four Albanian Regents, will officiate, and Bairani Tsuri, the famous Albanian *guerillero*, will act as best man.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Prince Michel Soumbatoff has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires of the Georgian Legation in London.

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## OBITUARY.

Captain Cecil Gledstances Treherne, R.N. (retired), died at The Chestnuts, Weybridge, last week. As a sub-lieutenant he served in the Téméraire during the Egyptian War in 1882, for which he had the medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star.

The death of Admiral Charles James Barlow, D.S.O., occurred recently. Born in 1848, he entered the Navy in 1862, and took part in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, being present at the bombardment of Alexandria. He was second in command of the Naval Brigade during the Burma Annexation War (1885-6), and received the D.S.O. in 1887.

The death has occurred in his ninety-fourth year, of Commander George Barnett Goolden. He entered the Navy in 1845; was made mate in August, 1852, and in that rank served in the paddle-sloop Vesuvius in the Mediterranean. He served in the Diamond as flag-lieutenant to Rear-Admiral Boxer in the Black Sea during the war with Russia in 1854-55. For this service he received the Crimean and Turkish medals with the Sebastopol clasp and fifth class Medjidieh.

The death is announced of General Henry Alexander Cockburn, an Indian Mutiny veteran. He was posted to the 53rd Bengal Native Infantry in 1851. In 1854 he was made adjutant of the 1st Cavalry Gwalior Contingent Force, and did good work in the North-West Provinces. In November, 1857, he was second in command of Meade's (Central India) Horse, and he commanded that regiment and the Sipri Field Force from 1859 to 1861. After 1862 he held various appointments under the Government of India, and on four occasions he was thanked by the Government of the North-West Provinces.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

At a mass meeting held in Delhi last week resolutions were passed of loyalty to the British Government and against the Gandhi policy of Swaraj (Home Rule), which was described as involving "unheard-of sufferings for the depressed classes in India."

An official telegram from Sofia states that letters purporting to contain secret orders of the Bulgarian authorities in regard to concealment of war materials are forgeries.

The India Office have informed the Merchant Service Guild that it has been decided to grant on a reduced scale war gratuities to marine officers who served in Indian waters during the war at other than Naval or Royal Indian Marine rates of pay. The grant will be at the rate of 31 days' pay for each complete year of service under the usual Admiralty conditions.

A big fire broke out on August 21, at Scutari. The flames spread over a large area and 150 houses were destroyed. The Allied troops stationed at Constantinople aided in combating the flames.

A telegram, dated August 21, from Beyrout, stated that a small band of horsemen, who arrived in the Jebel Druse from Trans-Jordania claiming to represent the Emir Abdulla, were obliged, by the attitude of the population, to give themselves up to the French.

The Montenegrin Consulate at Rome was visited by the police on August 23. Strict secrecy was maintained as to the motive of the perquisition. It will be remembered that the Montenegrin Legion in Italy was dissolved a few months ago, one reason stated by the Foreign Minister for such dissolution being that the Montenegrins were carrying on hostile propaganda in Italy.

A Madras message states that the Madras public is spending five lakhs of rupees on a children's hospital, in order that through it they may commemorate the Prince of Wales's visit.

A Bucharest message states that Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, and M. Penesca, Roumanian Minister to the Vatican, have signed a concordat whereby Roumania officially recognises the (Roman) Catholic Church. Two bishops are to be appointed shortly.

The anti-Bolshevist rising in Azerbaijan is reported to be gaining in strength. Tartars are in full revolt in the Karabagh and Nakhitchevan districts, while Armenians render active co-operation at Zangezur.

The Palestine Government has announced the establishment of a regular weekly passenger and goods train service between Haifa and Amman (Transjordania). The train will leave Haifa every Wednesday and return from Amman on Friday.

It is stated from Alexandria that the native Press is publishing messages from London asserting that an agreement has been made to prolong the Mixed Courts on their present basis for five years.

## THE ACCESSION OF KING FAISAL.

We have received the following statement from the Colonial office:—Further advices from Baghdad state that the ceremony of the Emir Faisal's accession to the Kingship of Irak took place on Tuesday morning, August 23, in the Great Court of the Serai. At 6 o'clock the Emir left his residence in procession, accompanied by the High Commissioner, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, and Sayid Mahmud, eldest son and representative of his Highness the Nakib, President of the Provisional Council of State. As the Emir mounted the dais the immense audience rose to its feet, while the British Guard of Honour, provided by the 1st. Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, gave a general salute. The High Commissioner took his seat at the Emir's right hand, and the General Officer Commanding at his left, with Sayid Mahmud next to him.

The ceremony began by the Secretary of the Council of State reading in Arabic the Proclamation of the High Commissioner, announcing the election of the Emir Faisal by the people of Irak and proclaiming him King, ending with "Long live the King." The national flag was immediately broken on the flagstaff over the dais, a Royal salute given by the Guard of Honour, and a Royal salute of 21 guns fired. Sayid Mahmud then read a loyal address from the Council of State and ended by paying homage on behalf of his Highness the Nakib.

His Majesty then returned in procession to his residence. After a short interval the High Commissioner, accompanied by the General Officer Commanding and Sayid Mahmud, took leave and drove away in state. The ceremony occupied half-an-hour and passed off brilliantly. Simultaneous Royal salutes of 21 guns were fired at Mosul and Busreh, and at all the leading towns the National Flag was simultaneously hoisted on all Irak Government offices.

## THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL.

The War Office announces that Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.P., who recently visited the Dardanelles on behalf of the National Battlefield Memorials Committee, has now submitted a detailed report signed by himself and Commander James Somerville, D.S.O., R.N., representing Admiral Sir John de Robeck, G.C.B. After an exhaustive inquiry as to the most suitable site, Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston has recommended that the National Memorial should be erected on Guezji Babi (called on Turkish maps Kurgi Baba), an eminence about 150ft. above the sea, and 500 yards north-east of the Helles Lighthouse, the highest point on the southern end of the peninsula. He advances very strong arguments in favour of this position, and there is little doubt that it is the one which will be finally adopted. The report also makes various valuable suggestions as to materials for construction, and steps are being taken by the Imperial War Graves Commission to make all preliminary arrangements for giving effect to this report, so that the matter may be submitted by the Government, at its first meeting, in the autumn, when the question of design will be immediately considered.

The International Danube-Commission has definitely decided to make Bratislava its seat for 1922-1927.

A Jewish steamer, the Zion, has just been put into service on a line which includes calls at the Mediterranean ports.

Senator Machado has submitted a proposal to the Brazilian Senate for the creation of legations in Roumania, Serbia, Bulgaria and Turkey.

A message from Smyrna states that it is proposed that a statue to Mr. Lloyd George should be erected in the city, while Constantinople Greeks propose to draw up an address of gratitude to the British Prime Minister.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1921.


## THE ALBANIAN QUESTION.

It is announced from Paris that the Ambassadors' Conference, to which the Supreme Council transferred the question of the frontiers of Albania on the latter's appeal to the League of Nations; has decided in favour of the retention of the frontiers as determined in 1913. If, as may presumably be taken for granted, this decision is confirmed by the Supreme Council and becomes the law of Europe, a definite and important step has been taken in the liquidation of some of the questionable arrangements made by the Allies under the stress of the Great War. By the secret treaty of April 1915 between Great Britain, France and Russia on the one hand and Italy on the other it was agreed that Albania at the end of the war should, in effect, be partitioned between Italy, Greece, and Serbia. It was in accordance with this undertaking that Italy occupied Southern Albania; but when on June 3, 1917, General Ferrero, Commander of the Italian troops in Albania, in a formal declaration proclaimed "the unity and independence of the whole of Albania under the shield and protection of the Italian Kingdom," the participation of other countries in the slicing of the melon appeared to have receded into the distance. Although the term "shield and protection" was liable to interpretation in a variety of ways, there could be no question from the Albanian point of view as to the general intention of the proclamation. On December 9, 1919, Italy's position with regard to Albania was seemingly regularized by the grant of a mandate by the other members of the Supreme Council; but two months later the British and French representatives reopened the question of the partition of Albania. A protest from the United States caused the proposal to be dropped, and in the meantime under General Ferrero's successor the relations between the Albanians and the Italians had changed for the worse. The period of conflict, however, was finally brought to an end by the Italian Government's renouncing all intention of interfering with Albania. A treaty of friendship was signed; the Italians withdrew from the mainland, but were confirmed by the Albanians in their occupation of Saseno, the island dominating Valona.

When, last December, Albania was admitted as a member of the League of Nations it was pointed out in these pages that, in view of the fact that the League pledges itself to defend the territorial integrity of its members, the Council of the League must have regarded the question of Albania's frontiers as a *chose jugée*. The only official and valid ruling on the subject was the decision of the London Conference in 1913, as the League would have no official cognizance of the secret treaty of 1915. As events have proved, the League ignored the boundary question, and Albania was admitted to membership at a time when portions of the territory to which she could lay claim under the 1913 Agreement were in the occupation of her neighbours. When the matter was formally submitted to the League the Supreme Council, as already stated, intervened, reserving the subject for its own consideration. No little anxiety exists in Italy lest the decision to confirm the frontiers of 1913 implies a challenge of Italy's occupation of Saseno. In the face of the unselfish attitude displayed by Italy in her recent dealings with Albania, and in view of the fact that the pact purported to be a free and voluntary undertaking on both sides, it is hardly to be expected that the Tirana Government will seek to go back upon its word in regard to Saseno under the protection of the League of Nations. In such circumstances the fate of the island will not be called in question. Opposition to the decision of the Ambassadors' Conference will come from Yugoslavia and Greece. The former urges strategic reasons for a rectification of the 1913 frontier in the north and is actually in occupation of a considerable extent of Albanian territory. It is understood that she will be confirmed in her possession of some of this terrain by the new decision. Greece, however, is likely to take far greater umbrage than Serbia at the Ambassadors' ruling, as she will have to abandon Argyrocastro and Koritza, both of which were assigned to Albania by the Delimitation Commission of 1913, after investigation on the spot and the most careful consideration of rival claims.

Of these 1913 frontiers, it is not without interest to note, Sir Thomas Holdich writes in his "Boundaries in Europe and the Near East" as follows:—"On the whole the eastern boundaries of Albania, as they now stand, are based on strong geographical features, forming a nearly continuous mountain wall of great significance, in which wall most of the rivers of Albania take their rise and flow westward to the Adriatic." It must be supposed that the advantage of a well defined frontier weighed with the 1913 Conference and prompted it to hand over to Albania's neighbours certain districts which by general consent are regarded as Albanian. Be that as it may, the decision of the Paris Conference to-day to restore to Albania her 1913 boundaries is a logical and defensible course. It is common knowledge that Greece believes implicitly in her claims to Argyrocastro and Koritza, but we hope that she will take an adverse verdict philosophically. She has not been badly treated in regard to Epirus, and by now she must realize that peace and friendly relations with the Albanians are going to be more profitable to her in the long run than a comparatively small accession of territory. The Albanians would never have remained quiet for long under any diminution of their 1913 territory. They have the reputation of being restless neighbours in any case, but in their favour it must be said that hitherto they have been able to plead ample justification. This time they will have a chance, it is to be hoped, of working out their own salvation free from foreign intrigue. Albania cannot be eliminated from the scheme of Balkan development, but she will always be a drag on her neighbours' progress, if she labours under an obvious injustice. The Allies' decision is the first step in the reversal of the unjust provisions of the Near Eastern settlement. May it prove the herald of many other similar steps.

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So thoroughly is each edition of the *Britannica* brought up-to-date (often, indeed, it proves to be years in advance of "current" knowledge) that periods of 30 and 35 years have elapsed before a new edition has been in any way necessary. When the 11th edition was published just before the World War, therefore, it was not anticipated that any fresh edition would be required before 1935 at the earliest.

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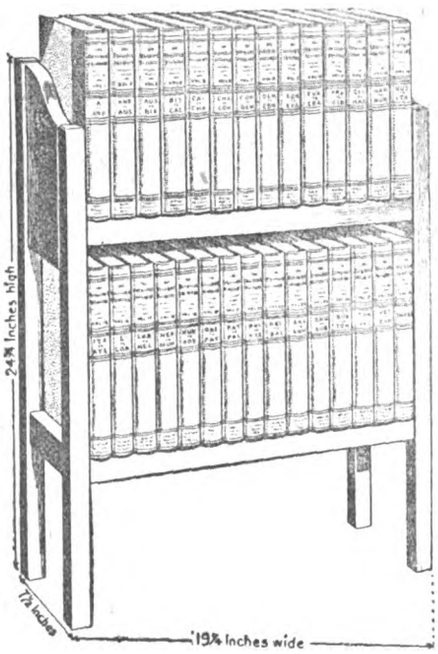
They were selected solely with a view to subjects upon which they were invited to write. For example, a Dutch scientist wrote on light, a Columbia professor on ancient China, a German on the microscope, while the article on Mohammedan law came from the Hartfort Theological Seminary, notwithstanding the fact that the British Empire had more Mahommedan subjects than any other country.

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The following table suggests their standing as scholars, specialists and men of action.

**The Whole World of Scholarship and Expert Authority.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Staff (past or present) of 81 Universities in 21 Countries | 599 |
| Staff (past or present) of 65 other Colleges | 105 |
| Chancellors, Presidents, Principals, etc., of Universities and Colleges | 54 |
| Fellows of the Royal Society | 168 |
| Fellows of the British Academy | 57 |
| Presidents and Secretaries of other Learned Societies abroad | 53 |
| Staff of the British Museum | 47 |
| Members of American Learned Societies | 84 |
| Staff of National Collections and Libraries | 54 |
| Staff of Observatories, Laboratories and Surveys | 47 |

**By Profession or Occupation.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministers, Diplomatists and Government Officials | 126 |
| Theologians | 161 |
| Lawyers | 75 |
| Physicians and Surgeons | 75 |
| Engineers and Architects | 73 |
| Business Men and Manufactures | 62 |
| Naval and Military Officers | 79 |
| Historians and Archaeologists | 327 |
| Sociologists and Economists | 72 |
| Geographers and Explorers | 64 |
| Biologists and Agriculturists | 107 |
| Mathematicians, Physicists, and Chemists | 93 |
| Geologists, Astronomers, and Meteorologists | 65 |

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In order that intending purchasers of the Britannica may have an opportunity of learning what those who already possess the work think of it, we have reprinted a few of these remarkable letters.

It is not necessary to comment upon them: they speak for themselves. But we would like to point out the extraordinary diversity of vocations and occupations represented by the writers of these letters—a circumstance which fully justifies the oft-repeated assertion that there is no man living who cannot be helped to a very great extent by the possession of this "library of all human knowledge."

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# A SIDE-SHOW OF A PEACE TREATY.

In the depths of a musty library at Whitehall the other day I was perusing some documents relating to the Peace Conference of 1919, with a view to adding to them myself in time. Nothing but the fact that I am an old philosopher and an incorrigible lover of stale Government literature could have kept me so long at that dusty work on a warm June day. As it was, there I toiled with my secretary between the shelves dedicated to the problem of the Near East, set forth, explained and annotated, in more or less vehement prose, by writers representing all the races of the Balkans.

Suddenly I came across a pile of neatly- bound pamphlets sent in to the Peace Conference by one of those enemy delegations successively called to Paris by the Allies for the purpose of receiving their respective Treaties. Remembering how long each of these Delegations had in turn been kept waiting, for what must have been to them the Day of Judgment, I did not marvel at the amount of literature this particular group had produced during an irksome inactivity in some pompous residence at the very gates of Paris. I was still less surprised to note, being a Government official myself, that most of the documents had never been cut.

However, as I opened one of the green books, a paper fluttered to the floor, closely covered with erratic characters, looking curiously feminine. As I picked it up I saw that it was a letter written in English, probably the work of some interpreter who had then unwittingly mislaid it in an overcrowded office. This is the letter:—

Chateau de——
Neuilly-sur-Seine, Paris,
8 October, 1919.

My dear Girl,

If I have not written to you for such ages it is because I have been so busy. You see the text of the Peace?-Treaty was delivered to our Delegation last week, and you can easily imagine how overworked we have all been since. It is quieter now because our principal Delegates have left for our own country, to submit the fatal document to Parliament.

As you ask for the latest news, the " day of the Treaty," as we call it, was a perfect nightmare at the Chateau ; though the Conference people found the conditions tame and made bad jokes about the unfortunate victims. By the way I must not depart from my rule of never writing about politics to you. Some of the English papers and Reviews *have* been pretty decent about it, I must say. (Ditto, Sorry !)

Well, there was the ceremony at the Quai d'Orsay, at which secretaries like me did not assist, then the reading of the Treaty here, by our President ; while at the same time people were getting ready to leave for our distant land the next evening. A curious day, really ; work, work, work, noise and grief and trouble ! The tragedy of the side-scenes of a very simple official act ! A dull, grey sky, too, with unexpected cold showers—horrid !

The entire text had to be translated into our own language, during that one day and night left before the journey ; all the experts and secretaries had immediately assembled to hear the text of the Treaty, and pages of a copy were then dealt out to each. I crept up to the Minister present and asked him not to give the pages about the Army to the Army people to translate. I thought, you see, it would mean so much to them—three Captains, all wounded in the last war. But the statesman in question growled : " Why, what nonsense ! Run along ! " and everyone received the clauses they were expected to know about or " odd " things. (I, for instance got Navigation articles !)

Off we went, in grim silence to our rooms—I left my own translation for the night, having plenty of other work to do for my chief, the President of the Delegation, in regard to the journey and the like. Suddenly, I remembered that my favourite secretary was one of the three Captains, and that he must be " feeling it " badly. Thirty years old, unmarried, splendid soldier, three war medals ; in the Regular Army since 1912, tall strong, square, ankles, hands and all that a bit too massive for my taste ; a rather interesting face with firm hard lines ; narrow, grey-green eyes and one beauty ; a charming smile that suddenly makes him look quite soft and young and changed. Not my type, though !

So, I ran up to his room, on the pretext of getting a book I wanted, and knocked at the door. No answer ! I knocked again. " Come in," snarled a voice that was anything but encouraging, and I slipped in.

He was lying back in an arm-chair, with one of his strong brown hands across his eyes and could not see me.

The treaty lay open on the desk beside a clean sheet of paper. " Hullo ! " I said, with apparent calm, " I want the . . . . book, please."

He started and rose rather reluctantly to his feet (all this because you are a writer and a psychologist) muttering something about " not having known it was *me*," " beastly old book," and so on. I was sure, by the way, that he had *not* got the book at all ; he fumbled about for it rather clumsily, and I do not know why, but I did not look at him.

" What's the matter ? " I asked next, " headache ? " He answered yes ; pushed another arm-chair towards me, and sat down again in his own. Then for the first time, I glanced up at him ; white as his collar, with dull, angry eyes.

" You do look seedy," I said in French slang, " lie down and rest." He pointed to the Treaty. I fingered the pages aimlessly feeling rather an idiot, and suddenly discovered his three war decorations, underneath the pages about the army, and you know what those pages are and mean . . . .

It was too pathetic and tragic. I had guessed it would be " like that " in his case, but those medals . . . Then he began to speak, in a voice that cut the words through, like a sword, saying what it meant for him, talking about the war, the past, his own men . . . I durst not answer, I durst not look ; and suddenly, to my horror, he burst into tears—a terrible fit of sorrow, the man-sorrow, that is so harsh, desperate and fearful to witness, with great choking sobs, audible strength, audible passion. The Treaty, the medals, that great strong boy crying stormily in a hotel room at Neuilly ! . . . . I felt as if Clemenceau and the rest of those wise men ought to have seen it all. (They might have understood part of it, at least.)

I must add that this boy is one of the most reserved, iron-nerved men I have ever met, with a power of self- control that is even rather annoying at times, and a fearful amount of pride ! I felt that he would hate me for ever for having "seen" and "heard."

I said nothing. Tell me, please, what *you* would have done in my place ? I just wondered, felt more idiotic than ever, picked up the pages about the army, pulled down the blind, left the room, noiselessly locked the door on the outside and put the key in my pocket.

Then I went to my work with my Chief, got through it as quickly as possible, rushed to my room, and ( with frequent interruptions ) did *his* translation. It took two hours and it was nearly dinner-time when I had finished. I put the pages in an envelope, dashed upstairs, unlocked the door, saw and felt absolute darkness and nothing else, threw the envelope into the darkness and ran away again, leaving the key this time.

He did not appear at dinner, and owing to the general confusion nobody noticed the fact.

After dinner, I had to pack, as I had promised, for several clumsy delegates, who would insist on wrapping up lace and ribbon for their wives in newspapers and stuffing books and ink-bottles among shirts and collars. Then there were more letters

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to write, and I actually began to do my own translation at one o'clock, after having definitely said "good-night" to everybody and locked up for good.

Five minutes later some-one knocked. I opened the door and saw a very sleepy-looking servant with a big envelope in his hand: "Captain X woke me up, Miss, just now and told me to bring you this. No answer. Only work, he said it was, Miss." He shuffled away. Of course you have guessed! It was *my* part of the translation, I mean the pages that he had somehow discovered had been allotted to *me*, and *he* had translated, and there was a crumpled note in French: "To Miss S. You are a brick", and his Christian name, that's all!

Either you have gone to sleep, or you are smiling, or perhaps feeling curious! Tell me!

The next day I met him in one of the offices, looking very white and tired, but quite cheerful, and telling people that he had had toothache! We both said good-morning and stared at the floor, with sudden interest in the carpet!

As *you* always want to hear about *men*, and I happen to have no work to do to-night, you've suffered from both consequences! What do you think of my big brother boy? His name is Cyrill.

Child, life is not an orange to me now, but a lemon! Yet the crushing system is the same; it is only the taste of the juice that is different; but one finally gets used to it!

I feel more than ever that I am wasting my youth. Do you remember all the plans and prospects we discussed together before the war, both meaning to get as much as we could out of this world? But we were at Sorrento then! How far away it seems! And now I live among shabby peace?-delegates from a Balkan land, and my horizon extends from untidy neck ties to coloured socks of bold design! Shall I ever know the knight to whom I shall sing:

"*Quand je mourrai,*
"*Viens a mon chevet*!
"*Regarde-moi*.....
"*Et je ne pourrai plus*.....*mourir*!"

In any case, I should never choose one of my present companions, though some of them are dears!

Your own wild and good
SLAVIANA.

For the old philosopher, who has fallen into a quiet doze, and no longer troubles over the psychology of enemy Delegations to a Peace Conference,

Yours very sincerely,
His Secretary,
NADEJDA KLADENSKA.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

### Bulgaria.

In the first of a series of articles upon "Bulgarian Affairs," published upon August 22, which Lieut.-Colonel Repington is contributing to the *Daily Telegraph*, he deals generally with the position of Bulgaria—an unhappy position, created, he says, by the hate or prejudice of her neighbours. Moreover "the danger of fresh trouble is aggravated by the general ignorance of Occidentals concerning Bulgaria, and by troubles and disorders within Bulgaria herself":—

"We need to be here but a week to discover that we are living in another world, and a world some 200 years behind the West. It is not possible to understand the psychology of the leading personalities here without seeing them and listening to them. It is the same with regard to acts and events which pass here. Things which seem manifest and simple to Western statesmen lead them to make decisions which they would reverse after a week spent here, and if the Council of Ambassadors in Paris would depute a committee to come here with full powers they would be more likely to arrive at a true estimate of the situation than they would at a distance. "Come here and judge for yourselves" is a demand frequently made to Paris by Allied authorities who find their advice ignored. The decisions are sometimes unduly favourable to Bulgaria and sometimes the reverse. The Little Entente authorities form a solid and united body of opinion, but their constant complaint is that the Great Powers are not united on Bulgarian affairs, while the Reparations Commission and the Inter-Allied Military Control occasionally import conflicting opinions into the common stock.

And he proceeds to describe the present political condition of Bulgaria:—

The Bulgarian people remain, as they always were, a good, solid, and laborious population, strongly democratic, better educated than their neighbours, not fond of military service, nor even warlike, but uncommonly good at fighting when fighting is afoot, and with a love of discipline, a sense of order, and a regard for worthy representation which makes them prefer constitutional Monarchy to Republican institutions. They are thoroughly disillusioned by their heavy losses in the war, and by a peace so disastrous to them and their ambitions. If the peasant proprietors were alone in question the country would soon settle down to work on the land. But, unfortunately, there are now almost as many Bulgarians outside Bulgaria as there are within it. The settlement after the war filled the country with half a million refugees, who are not a stable element, but quite the reverse, while the long course of hostilities rendered many others incapable of steady work, and infected them with the poison of savagery. Deserters from the Bulgarian and other armies drifted towards the bands of evil repute, and Turkish Nationalists, as well as Soviet commissaries, found in the country a not altogether unfruitful field for their activities. The secret Macedonian committees, composed of the extreme revolutionary section of some 10,000 out of 200,000 Macedonians in Bulgaria, also continue, by a reign of terror, in which assassination plays no small part, to influence politics and to disturb the calm of the country.

Home politics are also in a peculiar state, because the governing Agrarian party, composed of about 120 members out of double that number in the Sobranje, have so willed that they govern the country without the aid of any of the middle parties, with the result that the best part of the intellect, brains, and experience of the best educated classes is not represented in the Government. There is only one member of the Government who speaks any language but Bulgarian, and there is probably no other Government in Europe less fitted to handle foreign affairs or more ignorant of its rudiments. The Agrarians are better organised than any party, except the Communists, while the middle parties are much split up, and suffer from the rivalries of their chief representatives. So the Agrarians, under their decidedly powerful leader, M. Stamboulisky, do pretty much as they please. Many deny to them the name of a Constitutional Government, and describe them as a tyranny.

After describing the arbitrariness of some of M. Stambolisky's methods of exercising power, he says:—

Bulgaria is, in fact, suffering from a surfeit of democracy. The mass of the people are extremely Left, almost Sovietic, but obviously the extreme Bolshevik theories, including ex-propriation of land and goods, could not be applied to a nation of small peasant proprietors, and the people, finding that their political ideas cannot be carried out in practice, owe the Agrarians and Stamboulisky a grudge. . . . . Politics in Bulgaria can be many things, but they can never be dull.

And his estimate of M. Stambolisky's character is interesting:—

Stamboulisky has one merit, namely, that he prefers plain speaking to beating about the bush, and did not take it amiss when I recounted to him, one by one, the many charges against his Government, and asked for his answers to them. He replied at some length on each charge, but as his answers have already been given in a despatch to the Allied Governments, which has, I believe, been published, I can reserve his arguments until I go into the charges themselves.

Is Stamboulisky genuine and is he sincere? Genuine, yes; a regular son of the soil and of the mountains, full of vigour, vital energy, and resource, but upon the question of his sincerity opinions differ. Some think him sincere at first and alter their opinions later. I think that he is a product of the times and of his surroundings. I do not believe that he is so inept as to risk the destinies of his country by making secret treaties with Kemalists or Reds. But in foreign affairs he blunders along like a bull in a china shop. He is adventurous, rash, headstrong, and quite ignorant of the diplomatic convenances. I think it possible that he plays with fire from sheer robustiousness and love of excitement. I doubt whether any man of his type regards a treaty as a settlement, or as anything more than a jumping-off place for fresh adventures. There is much evidence that he has thrown feelers to the Roumanians, Serbs, and Greeks in turn, and, if he is not trusted, he owes it to his own indiscretions. He seems to think that he has the monopoly of knowledge which every one possesses, and fancies wrongly that his courageous action at the Council has absolved Bulgaria for her past political sins. He does not properly comprehend the delicate and even dangerous position in which Bulgaria stands on these counts, and if he were to hand over foreign affairs to some trained diplomat of the bourgeois parties I think that he would confer a benefit upon his country. All the same, most people like Stamboulisky. There is something engaging about his virility and sansgêne.

### Egypt.

The *Manchester Guardian* of August 26 contains an article, written by an "Egyptian Correspondent," on "The Position on Egypt," the sub-heading of which is "Zaghlul Pasha losing Ground." He comments upon the present lapse into quietude in Egypt, and analyses its causes thus:—

In the first place, the continental attitude to the proposed independence of Egypt, with its unexpected and careful conservatism in view of the Alexandria riots, involves a political experience and understanding beyond the mental horizon of a people consisting of over 90 per cent. illiterates and principally fed hitherto on the intense excitements of purely local affairs,

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The general fact of continental opposition to great change, however, is well understood. In the feeling of disappointment which has crept over the people Zaghlul Pasha has lost still further prestige, not only because he had no immediate solution to offer in the advancement of affairs, but because he has opposed the official delegation to England on peculiar personal grounds. It is noted on all sides that no objection was raised by its oppon ents to the present Delegation until it became quite clear that Zaghlul would not be appointed its president. All this has confirmed public opinion in tending to leave the problem in the hands of the present president of the Delegation, with his more balanced political conceptions and farther-sighted outlook.

A second factor, the writer of the article says, is that the season of the crops, and especially of the cotton crops, is at hand; and "it is appreciated that the cotton situation in Egypt demands stability in the country for the realisation of a successful season." He then states that the desire for political change and administrative improvement has led to schemes for the reorganisation of various Ministries—a delicate task that must perforce be left to experts. And he concludes by pointing out who are the real political leaders in Egypt to-day:—

The limiting condition of Zaghlul Pasha's political work is that he is a fellah. The fellah, whom Kitchener loved, has very great and admirable qualities, especially those of kindliness, hospitality, and humour; but he has not the mental alertness of other strains in the population of Egypt; and he can be supremely obstinate at the wrong time. The political lead in the country is therefore passing to the more agile-minded members of the society who recognise the necessity and value of compromise on occasion, and particularly to the descendants of the old Egyptian-Turkish families, themselves as Egyptian as the rest, as national, and as patriotic, but more fitted by their traditions and their mentality to carry on political service. So far as anything at all may be foreseen in politics it seems to be the case that for some time at least this section of society must serve Egypt in establishing its independence on a sound and workable basis. Unfortunately, Zaghlul, who might have enjoyed a unique position in representing his own people in the supreme councils of the nation, has secured the wilder students and the mob, especially in Alexandria, for his partisans, and has alienated the sympathy of the soberer elements.

It is understood here that the outstanding difficulties are few, but require anxious study. The question of the Sudan must give rise to much discussion in Egypt, but a valuable attempt at solution has already been laid down in the Milner Report. The question of British garrisons in Egypt has altered considerably since that report was issued on account of the Alexandria riots. While some of the natives consider that the riots have been deliberately exaggerated by those interested in the preservation of the capitulations, others are prepared to consider a limited number of garrisons as a price which must be paid for the great benefits desired. Egyptians for the most part have never been ungenerous in according England facilities for Imperial communications. It is assumed also that a duty will devolve upon England in assisting towards the financial stability of the country. But there is much difference of opinion among the thinking part of the population, and an Egyptian statesman with a straight lead and a defined policy is the only hope of providing a stable settlement.

## Palestine.

The *Fortnightly Review* for August contains an article on "The Palestine Government," written by Mr. Horace B. Samuel, and inasmuch as it is written, in the words of the Editor of the *Fortnightly*, "from the standpoint of the Zionist Organisation," it illustrates well the differences between the Jews themselves, and the consequent difficulties in the way of Sir Herbert Samuel. After briefly reviewing the general history of Palestine since the appointment of the High Commissioner, the writer comes to the Jaffa riot, which, he says "was in broad feature an attack by the Arabs on the Jews," and proceeds to comment upon the High Commissioner's recent declaration and to complain of—the way in which the High Commissioner interpreted and emasculated that Balfour Declaration with which it was generally believed that he was in sympathy, which he had been sent by His Majesty's Government to turn from a formula into an actuality, and against which an armed conspiracy had been recently engineered. The root principle of the Balfour Declaration was that Jews and Arabs were parallel nations in Palestine with equal rights, and that the right of access of each Jew, as such, to live in Palestine was as absolute and unrestricted as the right of each Englishman to live in England. The root principle of the High Commissioner's interpretation is that Palestine is not a Jewish and Arab, but an Arab country, and that the Jew exists on sufferance and only in so far as he can help not his brother Jew, but the Arab, to develop the country. It is significant that the phrase "Jewish nation" is not once used, and that the expression "National home" is apologised for, explained and whittled away into some spiritual limbo which can, and preferably should, be enjoyed from the other end of the world, but may possibly be entered by a few favoured ones who enjoy the good graces of their Arab brethren.

## The Balkans.

In the *Nineteenth Century* of August Mr. Noel Buxton writes upon "The Balkans To-day." After lightly touching upon the commercial and political interest which Europe in general must always entertain for the Balkans, he analyses the Paris settlement of these regions. Then he sketches in outline the present political conditions of the various Balkan countries (including in these Roumania, and giving the most space to Bulgaria), and concludes with a hopeful comment on "The New Balkan Outlook:—"

The most important and fundamental change in the Balkan situation produced by the war does not emerge from the foregoing summary. It could not be included there because it is shared by all the Balkan peoples. This change may be summed up in a phrase: while the critics contend among themselves whether or not Europe has been "Balkanised," it is undeniable that the Balkans have been "Europeanised" to an extent which no man dreamt of seven years ago. Geographically, Bulgaria and Albania are now the only two countries which are Balkan countries and nothing more; Serbia, Roumania and Greece have big parts to play on another stage. Intellectually years of co-operation in military affairs with the more highly developed countries of the West have left behind a leaven of knowledge and love of new ways of living and thinking which will constitute a civilising force in the Balkans until the present generation pasess away. The admirable efforts of such organisations as rhe Serbian Relief Fund and the Scottish Women's Hospitals have added their contributuons to this influence. An eager desire for closer acquaintance with Western literature and culture is everywhere to be noticed, and France in particular has already done much, through the subsidised organisation known as the 'L'Alliance francaise,' to place her contribution to our civilisation before the enthusiastic youth of the Balkan countries.

The all- important question which it rests with the future to decide is whether this many-sided movement in the direction of 'Europeanisation' will enable the Balkan States to form a self-protecting group or whether it will involve them in fresh entanglements which will leave them no better off in the long run than they were before the war. From this point of view the tendencies towards a reapprochement between the two main branches of the Southern Slavs are significant, although as yet they are no more than tendencies. One event in recent months, however, provides some concrete evidence that non-Balkan Powers may find some difficulty in future if they attempt to carry out the time-honoured policies of buying the alliance of Balkan States for their own political ends. The so-called 'Little Entente' comprising the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom, Tchecho-Slovakia and Rumania, is in origin a group formed for defence against any possible attempt to restore the Habsburg dynasty. If the recent adventure of the ex-Emperor Karl had met with any success in Hungary the 'Little Entente' would undoubtedly have taken measures to deal with the situation. And it seems equally certain that it would act effectively against any similar *coup*, even if it were counterbalanced or engineered by one of the Greater Powers. Thus the 'Little Entente' may perhaps be looked to for the formulation eventually of a sort of Monroe Doctrine for a portion of the Balkans.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Political Gita," by V. M. Shah (Ghat-Kopar, Bombay).
"La Résurrection Géorgienne." By Paul Gentizon (Paris: Ernest Leroux.)

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# THE CARAVANSERAI.

*Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*
—OMAR KHAYYAM.

* * *

As a true corsair, I am naturally of a shy and retiring disposition, but I am beginning to wonder whether this has not been a mistake on my part. I have been led to this idea by studying the pages of *The Daily Telegraph*. A most assiduous contributor to its columns is a " Diplomatic Correspondent," and as I always believe what I read (writing, myself, only what is absolute fact), I wondered at the marvellous condescension of one or other of our Ambassadors in placing his services at the disposal of the Press. Then I began to study the communications more closely and soon I came to the conclusion that the writer was not a British Ambassador after all, but must be a foreigner, possibly a diplomatist turned out of office by the vicissitudes of party politics, who preferred to stay on in London rather than return to his own country where, possibly, a warm reception might be awaiting him. Once again I found myself wrong, because something was stated which no diplomatist, however unused to the role, could ever have written.

* * *

So I began to make inquiries, and I find that I have been altogether wrong. A " diplomatic " correspondent, apparently, does not mean necessarily a correspondent who is or was a Diplomatist, with a big D, or even tries to be diplomatic, with a little d. No. You become a diplomatic correspondent by calling on diplomatists. To revert, therefore, to my shyness and retiring disposition. My discovery has set me thinking. Up and down the world are a number of Palaces whose visitors' books have been honoured with a bold scrawl that is Corsair's. So far I have always been content to leave it at that; but now, if you find that in future I sign " A Royal Corsair," you will know that I am taking a leaf—or line—out of *The Daily Telegraph's* Diplomatic Correspondent's book. If, however, I still stick to " Corsair " plain and simple, you will know that my name is not Gerothwohl.

* * *

But the reason why I touched upon the subject of *The Daily Telegraph* is to express my admiration of the whole-hearted way in which it plays the game of journalistic ninepins. Comes along " A Diplomatic Correspondent " and solemnly sets out a series of statements calculated to bring the grey hairs of the hardiest old pirate's head with sorrow to the grave. For if there is one thing more than another I set my heart on, it is that a finished war is done with. As far as Germany is concerned, and perhaps Turkey, I have an open mind; but when it comes to Austria, to Hungary and to Bulgaria, surely the Allies can write the word *Finis*. This is not the view of " A Diplomatic Correspondent." Out come his ninepins, day after day. We are bidden to shudder at the very mention of the word Bulgaria. The world's peace is endangered; if it is not ex-King Ferdinand who is responsible, it will be one or more of Bulgaria's monster population (5,000,000). Does M. Stambolisky read a paper? Beware lest it be a secret treaty with Mustapha Kemal or Sun Yat-sen. A formidable indictment, for it is penned by " A Diplomatic Correspondent." For some weeks it holds the field, subtly renewed day by day in three-to-four-inch paragraphs. Suddenly Colonel Repington emerges on the scene to the extent of two columns. He writes from the dreaded country. One by one every single ninepin so carefully set up by " A (gullible) Diplomatic Correspondent " is bowled over by the man who is able to check the fantastic tales on the spot. Will either the D.C. or the D.T. mend its ways? D(oubtful) V(ery).

* * *

A correspondent writes:—The Belgrad *Politika* has secured a copy of the *Kolokol* (" The Bell "), a comic paper which is produced in Russia secretly and is therefore seen rarely in Europe. The number in question included a parable that is worth repeating.

One morning a horse obtained audience of Lenin, and said: " Vladimir Ilitch, I represent the Transport Workers, and have come to demand a Licence to Trade." " Certainly," replied the autocrat. " You have deserved it; " and gave the horse the right to trade in anything he liked. The next day there came a cow and said: " Vladimir Ilitch, I am by profession a mother; trusting in your invarying support of maternity, I have come to ask for a license to trade." Lenin did not seem pleased, but could hardly refuse, and, rather grudgingly, gave the license demanded. But the next day he was very irritable when an ass appeared before him. " What do you want? " roared the autocrat. " A License to trade " said the ass. " The horse and the cow have earned theirs," cried Lenin, " but what the devil have you done for us? " The ass ony replied: " Comrade Vladimir Ilitch, do you really think tht you could have climbed to power by any other means. thln over the heads of us asses O " CORSAIR

## A SERBIAN SHERLOCK HOLMES.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (August 9):—An interesting detective story comes from Tetovo, marked on our maps under the Turkish name of Kalkendelen. A workman named Andon Yeftimovitch came in a great state of mind to the police to report the theft of gold to the value of 50,000 dinars from his lodgings. It seemed incredible that such a man should own so large a stock of gold, but, knowing the Macedonian habit of hoarding gold, the authorities at once detailed a young detective who had recently completed a four months' special course at the police school at Belgrade organised by Professor Reiss. He was a smart and intelligent young officer, for he followed up the tracks in the most approved Sherlock Holmes manner, and in a short time arrested a man named Damian Etsovitch, who at once confessed, and restored all the money. This consisted of 185 Turkish pounds, 90 napoleons, 70 golden ducats, and a quantity of smaller gold coins. The thieves are indignant at the employment of such methods, and wonder what we are coming to with these new-fangled ideas, which makes life almost impossible. It is a feather in the cap of the young detective Tasitch, and incidentally of his teacher Professor Reiss, and is also interesting as throwing a light upon the amount of gold hoarded in Macedonia, where it is a common thing for a casual labourer to carry anything up to a hundred gold coins, chiefly Turkish and French in his belt, a practice which is undoubtedly conducive to wayside murder. British officers in control of labour in Macedonia during the war were frequently asked by the most ragged of workmen to take care of a bagful of gold for them, which made a very sound guarantee of good behaviour.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**The Freights Controversy.**

There has been a development during the week in connection with the cotton freight controversy that is not without interest. Out of 100 exporters 96 signed the Conference Lines contract, and now out of the four remaining exporters two have signed, leaving only two outside the contract. As the American case has been given ample publicity, this action on the part of those who are in a position to know the facts speaks for itself. The controversy, as I have had occasion to point out, arose like the dispute over the Mesopotamia oil-fields from a complete misunderstanding of the position by the Americans. Now that they have had a little time to reflect over it, it may be hoped that they will have realised the error into which they have been led. and instead of pursuing a useless controversy will save their energies for a further attempt to obtain a contract next year.

**The Cotton Syndicate.**

From our Cairo Correspondent's letter this week it will be seen that the syndicate which was formed in Egypt a year ago to keep up the price of cotton has found a new market for its activities. I pointed out at the time the syndicate was formed that it was extremely doubtful whether it could achieve its object, and ultimately it confessed its failure by asking the authorities to do what it had set out to accomplish. It has now come into prominence by issuing a series of memoranda in connection with the cotton freights controversy, and our Correspondent records the interesting fact that the syndicate throughout its memoranda has given publicity to the American side of the case. It is, perhaps, significant of the times that this should be so. From what our Correspondent says it would appear probable that this will not be the last invasion of the syndicate into the political arena, and he suggests, indeed, that it may eventually provide the foundation for an important political party. From conserving the interests of cotton cultivators to politics seems a far stretch; it will at any rate be interesting, to observe the progress of this enterprising body.

**Turkish Contracts.**

Until Turkish finances are on a much sounder footing than they are at present there can be but little inducement to British firms to tender for contracts there. There has just been an adjudication at Constantinople for motor fire pumps and a floating engine, the contract for which has gone to a French firm, whose quotation was far above that of the British firm competing. But, to use the words of the Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States, " at the present time it does not appear as though the successful firm will reap the benefit of the order, as it is not at all clear from what source the Municipality will obtain the money to pay for the engines."

**Opportunities in Yugoslavia.**

I wish to draw the special attention of British firms to the particulars which our Zagreb Correspondent gives this week of the plans of the Yugoslav Government for the improvement of the communications for which purpose the internal loan of 500,000,000, dinars was raised. It will be seen that there is a very comprehensive programme of railway development including the construction of a number of new lines, new stations, and railway workshops, and the repair of rolling stock, while in addition substantial sums are to be expended on dockheads, and the purchase of tugs, launches, cranes and elevators, etc. Naturally a great part of the material needed for carrying out this programme will have to be imported, and if British firms lose no time in showing the necessary enterprise there is no reason why the bulk of the contracts should not be secured by this country.

**Oil Developments.**

The first of the new oil companies that I indicated might be expected before the end of the year has already made its appearance. Brief particulars are given elsewhere of the company, which, it will be noted, is to operate in Yugoslavia. In addition to this company I understand that one, if not two companies, are to be formed for the exploitation of Roumanian oil-fields.

**Housing in the Near East.**

In most parts of the Near East as elsewhere a serious housing shortage has been experienced as a result of the war. It has been much more pronounced in some regions, as for instance at Salonika as a result of the great fire, and at Constantinople and elsewhere in Turkey owing to the great influx of refugees from South Russia and elsewhere. In Turkey, indeed, the question is particularly acute to-day, and it has been rendered more serious by the recent fire at Scutari which destroyed over 700 houses. It would seem that the most ready means of meeting the situation would be by the erection of small portable dwellings, and it is surprising that British firms manufacturing them have not shown more enterprise in introducing them to these markets.

**Commentator.**


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

Cairo, August 11.

**Adverse Trade Balance Growing.**

The June returns issued by the Egyptian Customs Administration reveal an extraordinary shrinkage in the foreign trade of the country. During the half year imports amounted to L.E.30.104.275 and exports to L.E.12.140.021 as against L.E.47.770.586 and L.E.64.623.998 respectively in the same period of the preceding year. There is therefore a reduction of about 40 per cent. in imports and 80 per cent. in exports. Re-exports on the other hand have increased from L.E. 1.137.559 to L.E.4.670.983(due to a greater demand for cereals, agricultural produce, coal, and textiles made by Syria, Palestine, and other parts of the Levant). Consequently as the result of the first six months of the current year there has been a swing over in the trade balance of nearly L.E.32.000.000, the adverse balance being now L.E.16.811.004.

The principal imports during the half year have been: Fresh and preserved meat L.E.208.875, wheat L.E. 1.262.614, flour L.E.4.960.512, petroleum L.E.748.118, coal, L.E.2.573.059, cotton textiles L.E.3.249.754, woollen textiles L.E.M.397.518, silk textiles, L.E. 417.854, manufactured iron and steel L.E.1.321.904, and tobacco L.E.1.046.209. Except as regards coal, wheat, and meat there were substantial reductions under almost every head. In yarns and textiles alone the reduction was L.E.13.346.893, and indication of the manner in which prices have fallen off is afforded by the figures for flour and coal imports, both of which doubled in quantity but only increased by 50 per cent and 33 1-3 per cent respectively in value.

Under exports the main items were eggs L.E.178.295, rice L.E.251.654, cotton seed L.E. 1.139.448, cotton cake L.E.319.979, onions L.E.347.850, sugar L.E. 122 770, phosphates, L.E.107.902, cotton L.E.8.420.682, and cigarettes L.E. 316.203. On this side again every item showed a marked diminution in value, the only exception being rice which increased in value by 50 per cent. Here again the drop in prices is reflected, and an instructive illustration of the cotton slump is afforded by the figures for cotton export, which fell off by 30 per cent. in quantity but the value of which decreased by 85 per cent.

The United Kingdom's share of imports diminished considerably even in proportion to the decrease in the total. This was mainly due to the reduction in textile imports. Reductions are likewise recorded by most other nations, the only increases of any importance being under Argentina, Roumania, Mexico, and the United States. The increases under Argentina and Roumania were mainly due to cereal imports; the reappearance of Mexico was the result of a large increase in oil fuel imports; while the United States jumped from L.E.2 674.762 to L.E.7.102.505 in consequence of cereal imports amounting to over L.E.4.000.000, coal imports of L.E.1.437.000, and railway locomotives valued at L.E.456.000, the latter being in completion of the contract obtained last year from the State Railway. Germany showed marked improvement, her imports being more than double those of the previous year. Although the total figure is only L.E.716.510, she is making considerable headway in stationery, wooden articles, synthetic indigo, worked iron and steel door fittings, locks, machinery, motor cars, toys, pianos, &c.

Under exports there is of course an all round reduction but the share taken by the United Kingdom has increased, contrary to the experience of all other countries, the proportion being 50 per cent. as against 35 per cent. at the end of June, 1920. The United Kingdom took as usual practically all the eggs, cotton seed, onions, and 45 per cent. of the cotton. As regards the latter item the greatest reduction was in the case of the United States which in the previous half-year had taken over 40 per cent. of the total and this year took barely 12 per cent. For similar reasons France, Italy, and Japan all figured with relatively small amounts under exports.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan also fell off considerably, imports to Egypt amounting to only L.E. 511.241 and exports to the Sudan to L.E.1.331.160 as compared with L.E.1.482.875 and L.E.2.032.654 respectively on the same date in 1920. The main import into Egypt was cattle L.E. 135.513, which was about one quarter of the previous half-year's traffic; while exports to the Sudan were wheat and wheat flour L.E.74.443 (a slight increase), sugar L.E. 223.710 (less than half of 1920), cotton textiles L.E.345.621 (30 per cent. less) and tobacco L.E. 121.326 (a slight increase). The decrease in imports and the items which bear the greatest falling off show that the Sudan is suffering somewhat similarly to Egypt from the economic stress.

Cairo, August 18.

**The High Cost of Living.**

The monthly statistical return issued by the Ministry of Finance for the month of June gives some very interesting information not only with regard to cotton and other agricultural products but also in connection with the cost of living, which as everyone knows has been exceedingly high during the last two or three years. Compared with June last year there has been an enormous drop, the index number of the wholesale prices of 22 of the commodities in most general use being 166 as compared with 292 in June 1920, 224 in June 1919, and 100 before the war. This big drop is good news for housekeepers who are justified in hoping that the decline in wholesale prices will soon make itself felt in the retail prices. Unfortunately we are very much in the hands of the retailers, and current prices, although a guide, can rarely be obtained by Europeans. Nevertheless a drop of 66 per cent. in the index number must have its effect in every direction, and we are hoping that provided cotton does not soar to abnormal prices we shall get down to about double pre-war prices, which is what one may consider to be a reasonable post-war level taking all things into consideration.

**The Cotton Freight Controversy.**

While a sign of the effectiveness of American propaganda in connection with the cotton freight dispute has been the fact that beyond one or two letters from the Acting-Chairman of the Alexandria General Produce Association only the American side of the case has been ventilated in the local press, a disconcerting and disquieting feature has been the part played in the controversy by the Egyptian Cotton Growers' Syndicate. The latter, it should be explained, was founded with a great

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flourish of trumpets about a year ago, when the cotton slump set in, for the purpose of holding up 2,000,000 kantars of cotton, and of assisting cultivators until prices should have sufficiently recovered. The syndicate, which is entirely Egyptian, was unsuccessful in obtaining the necessary funds from the Egyptians, and in the end it had to appeal to the Government to take action. This the Government did, but its action was dictated more by political considerations than out of the soundness of the proposals made.

Experienced observers did not look with favour on the formation of this syndicate, which was suspected of being a political move. The attitude which it has adopted in the cotton freight controversy would seem fully to bear out the view of these critics and to justify premonitions as to the future. The syndicate has issued several memoranda on the subject of the controversy, but throughout these memoranda have solely given the American arguments and dealt with the American point of view. The Syndicate has made no effort to ascertain what the views or the explanations of the British interests might be; it has accepted as gospel truth every statement and every accusation made by the Americans; and it has used those statements in order to persuade its fellow countrymen that the British shipping lines have been actuated with a desire to squeeze the Egyptian cultivator for British interests.

It is because of its attitude on this question that its future activities must be watched with attention. The syndicate has its branches and agents throughout the country, and is almost entirely composed of landowners who have grouped themselves to protect their own interests, and we may therefore expect that where in future the interests of landowner and tenant clash, the voice of the former will prevail through this syndicate. We have already had an illustration of the political pressure it is able to bring to bear on the Government and it would not be at all surprising if under the new regime this syndicate developed into a strong political party.

The manner in which the landowner is inclined to squeeze the tenant was evident during the past year, and had it not been for our presence in the country there might have been serious agrarian trouble. As under the new regime, where there will be no British control, this syndicate, through its delegates will possibly be in a position to block in the new Assembly any measure which in the interest of the tenants will be against that of its own members, there will be great danger of a recurrence of this tension between these two elements, and close attention will have to be paid to this question if agrarian trouble is to be avoided.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, August 16.

**Improvement of Communications.**

The following particulars are issued of the estimated expenditure of the recent internal loan of 500 million dinars, a great portion of which is to be spent upon communications, (the figures representing dinars) :—Loop line at India to avoid changing direction Belgrade-Zagreb, 4,000,000; sleepers, points, etc., 32,000,000; briquetting plants, 20,000,000; completion of central stores at Batajnica, 4,000,000; material for Bosnian railways, 1,670,000; repair of locomotives and trucks, 34,000,000; water stations at various places, 8,000,000; narrow-gauge engines and rolling stock, 15,000,000; shops for narrow and standard gauge, at Zagreb, Beckkerek, Nish, and Sarajevo, 12,000,000; shops at Liubliana, 5,000,000; railway buildings, 5,730,000; expansion of Belgrade and Zagreb stations, 12,000,000; expansion of engine accommodation, 5,000,000; doubling lines for crossings at Zagreb, Belgrade, Nish, and Guevgueli, 40,000,000; tracing new lines, 3,500,000; completion of the Nish-Kniazhevatz line, 28,000,000; completion of the Gornji Milanovac-Ugrinovtsi line, 9,000,000; new line Uzhitsa-Vardishte, 15,000,000; tunnel in Ivan Mountains to avoid rack and pinion, 2,500,000; new line Gospich-Knin, 15,000,000; new line Bos-Krupa-


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Bihacs-Ermanja, 30,000,000; new line Titel-Orlovat, 10,000,000; improvement of Subotitsa-Senta-Choka Karlova-Kirkinda line 6,000,000; completing improvements Racha-Uglejevik, 2,000,000; narrow gauge line Parachin-Stalach, 5,000,000; new line Topchider-Mala Krsna-Pozhearevatz, 25,000,000; iron bridge over Drina at Medjedja in Bosnia, 4,000,000; new line Ljutomer-Ormozh–Murska Subota, 10,000,000; also the following expenditure on dockworks:—Barosh Gulf-Matinshitsa, Bakar, 25,000,000; Split and Shebenik Harbours, 15,000,000; improvements of small landing stages, 5,000,000; signals, 4,000,000; purchase of tugs, launches, cranes, elevators, motor boats, etc., 6,000,000; office buildings and dwellings for staff, 5,000,000; highways and roads, 45,000,000.

## SOME ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF TURKESTAN.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

Signs are discernable in Russia that affairs have taken a turn for the better. The Soviet Government recognises the absolute necessity for Russia again to be a factor on the world's markets and for the restoration of her former economic stability by official and unofficial negotiations for the resumption of trade. The decision of the British Government to resume trade with Russia will prove to be a master-stroke of economic policy. Those who cavil at the action of the Government would do well to remember that when the Turks were committing wholesale massacres on the Armenians it did not prevent the Western nations from eagerly bidding for concessions from the Turkish Government; nor did the driving of 10,000 Chinese into the river Amour in 1890 by the Cossacks hinder competition for concessions from the late Imperial Russian Government.

The principles of Bolshevism as a basis for the erection of a new era of prosperity for the proletariat have resulted in national ruin. The fundamental policy of the old regime in governing the people with despotic sway differs only in form; indeed, without dominant severity it would be impossible to govern the Russians. A century of steady progress and educational enlightenment must elapse before the nation will possess the capacity for self-government. The foreign policy is as aggressive as ever, the manner of procedure alone has changed. Russian Governments until recent years have always followed a policy aimed at the extension of Russian influence in Afghanistan, which was regarded as a menace to India by British Governments. At present the Soviet Government is making strenuous efforts to gain the good-will of the Amir of Afghanistan, while at the same time an active propaganda is being carried on in the country. When very recently the writer was at Merv he conversed with emissaries of the Soviet on their way to Afghanistan and India carrying with them literature for propaganda. These emissaries find no difficulty in crossing the Afghan-India frontier. Two years ago a school was founded in Moscow for the training of Asiatic and Oriental students in communistic doctrines. The average number of students was 300. A commissary informed me in Moscow that these students were apt pupils in learning the subtleties of communism. Among the Mohammedan races their propaganda is carried on under the name of Pan-Islamism; thus the simple people are influenced by the vision of the union of all Mussulman races.

As a field for commercial enterprise Turkestan offers excellent opportunities. This fact has not been lost sight of by American and German firms and already their representatives are on the ground. The soil generally is fertile, and grows very many varieties of fruit including the choicest kinds. The grapes are of the finest quality, large and of good taste and colour. The method of drying raisins is very primitive, and does not give an attractive appearance. The wines of Turkestan are well known in Russia, and have obtained a high reputation, being well flavoured and of good body. There is scope for a profitable trade to be done in tinned and dried fruits. The best fruits sold in the large towns of Russia come from Turkestan. The cultivation of cotton has hitherto given satisfactory results. The cotton compares favourably with the best varieties grown in America. Mulberry trees are in great abundance, making practicable a lucrative silk industry. The trade has been carried on with excellent results, but needs to be developed.

Certain districts are well suited for the cultivation of tea, tobacco, indigo, rice, and all kind of cereals as well as lucerne of the best quality. Thus it is possible to carry on sheep breeding on a large scale. In some parts the ground is of a boggy character, and requires drainage to render it suitable for the growth of many products. In other parts where the land is dry irrigation is necessary. Water is easily to be obtained by mechanical power. Efforts have been made by Belgian and English companies to obtain concessions for the construction of drainage and irrigation works, but without success. In 1918 a Russian engineer laid a proposal before the German Government for the undertaking of this work, but owing to political unrest the matter was left in abeyance. Oil is to be found in Samarkand district. A concession was given to a Russian Minister, and the working gave very satisfactory results. There are also to be found gold deposits and rubies of magnificent colour, as was proved when in the year 1885 the officials of the Government visited Bokhara and Khiva, and were met by the Amirs with their suites many of whom were adorned with rich gold ornaments and rubies. This aroused the curiosity of the Russian officials, and it was not long before an exchange of commodities for the ornaments began. These transactions assumed considerable dimensions, but the Amirs became alarmed, and put an end to the business.

It may be hoped that these details of the riches of Turkestan will stimulate interest in that country as a sphere for commercial enterprise. It is only with trade that the present deplorable conditions of the country can be changed for the better.

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## NEW COMPANIES.

**Croatian Syndicate.**

The Croatian Syndicate, Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £130,000 in £1 shares. Objects: To acquire oil-bearing lands in any part of the world and to promote or aid in promoting companies or partnerships in the United Kingdom, the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes or any other country. Solicitors: Linklaters, 2 Bond-court, Walbrook, E.C.

Goods imported into Czechoslovakia will be subject to the general Customs tariff pending the revision of the Customs agreement between Czechoslovakia and other countries.

An experimental farm has been established in Dhrangadhia State for the improvement of the quality of cotton.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

**A New Kinema Lamp.**

As a result of a series of exhaustive experiments a new type of kinema lantern has been designed, which promises to revolutionise the production of moving pictures. The new lamp is of the high intensity type, and will give twice the illumination on the screen that can be obtained by the low intensity lamps used at present. There is no increase in current consumption, and it is said that the special carbons used give a quality of light which entirely prevents eye strain.

Many claims have been made from time to time as to the production of light which resembles daylight, but few of these have been substantiated in practice. It is claimed that this new lamp gives a light closely approximating to sunlight, but whether this be so or not it seems clearly established that the new light gives a clearer definition to the pictures and brings out the true value of the tints where colour photography is used. Especially is this so in the case of blues and greens, which frequently appear muddy when thrown by an ordinary arc.

The lamp operates automatically, with the exception of the initial striking of the arc, and a feature of the mechanism is that only two hand adjustments are embodied instead of five as in the usual type. During normal operation no adjustment of the carbons will be necessary, the only movement required to set the arc at the focus being a longitudinal one which, once determined, never requires readjustment.

The positive carbon, instead of being vertical, is projected horizontally through the positive nose, the negative carbon being at an angle of 60 degrees to the horizontal and so located that its tip is never between the crates on the positive carbon and the lens. Actually 90 per cent. of the whole illumination given by the arc comes from the deep crates in the positive carbon which offers the whole, instead of only a part, of its brilliant illumination, to the centre of the lens. The positive carbon, it is interesting to note, is held tightly by a clamp to the feed screw which, with the carriage, is rotated by a bevel gear and pinion connected to the motor through a worm-gearing. The carbon is fed forwards by means of a star wheel and detent, operated electro magnetically and working on the feed screw itself. The negative carbon is not rotated, but is fed by means of a clamp on the feeding screw which is turned by means of bevel gears, motor-driven through a worm gear train and clutch. This constant rotation of the carbons during the working of the lamp ensures the crates and arc being kept in regular form and in the most efficient state possible. The length of the arc is regulated automatically by means of a motor which is so arranged across the arc circuit that its speed is independent of any fluctuations in the main power supply and depends solely on the arc voltage.

Carbon-changing, when necessary, is a matter of a second or so, as no vertical or horizontal adjustments are required to get the crates at the focus of the lens, it being impossible for this focus, once adjusted, to get out of position. A further point is that the current is only carried through the carbons from the holders, which are fairly close to the craters, to the tips, and consequently the remainder of the carbon does not become hot as it would were the current forced through its entire length. The lamp, although so powerful, is extremely compact, and comparatively light.

**An Interesting Band Saw.**

Horizontal band saws are now being made in sizes suitable for dealing with logs of from 24 to 48 inches square and with rough timber up to 5 feet in diameter. Two cast iron columns, 10 feet in height, carry the pulleys round which the band saw is carried, the centres being about 7 feet apart. The cross slide for carrying the band saw pulleys is bored to slide on these columns, the weight being approximately balanced by counterweights which are arranged to rise and fall inside. The saw pulleys are 5 feet in diameter, and are fixed to ground steel shafts, 3 inches in diameter, revolving in roller bearings, the outside casings of which are bolted vertically to fixed brackets on the cross slide at the driving pulley end, and to adjustable tensioning slides at the other extremity. These slides, which have turned necks fitting into bosses, bored on the cross slide, are independently adjustable, in a longitudinal direction, by means of two internal hand wheels. In this way any desired tension can be given to the band saw, and its transverse position on the pulley rim can be controlled by slightly advancing or withdrawing one of the tension slides as required. Allowance for heat expansion is made automatically by means of a weighted compound lever device, which gives a constant tensioning pressure. Adjustments to suit different widths of timber are made by means of movable brackets with hardwood band saw guides carried below the cross-slide.

The driving pulley of the saw described is 30 inches in diameter by 10½ inches in width, and it absorbs about 50 horsepower on full load. Power for raising or lowering the cross slide and for the feed motion is obtainable either from a small electric motor or an auxiliary belt drive as desired. All movements are controlled by three locking handles in the switch rack and vertical movement of the cross slide is effected by two square-threaded screws driven by gears from a cross shaft, the actuating clutch of which is manipulated by a central hand lever.

**Ball Bearings.**

These are now so universally fitted to all kinds of high speed and heavy duty machinery that they are taken largely as a matter of course and consequently receive in the majority of cases little or no attention. As a matter of fact, although ball bearings, once mounted require little care, yet lubrication is essential, and recognising the careless way in which bearings are usually treated in practice many makers send them out packed with a hard grease that will last for some time. It is to be feared that the use of too dense a grease is not an advantage; in some cases it is evidently a decided disadvantage. A number of ball bearing wheels which had been in use at a high speed, were recently taken down, and it was seen that although the ball races had run quite dry and shewed signs of seizure, the hubs were full of hard white grease which not only had never melted sufficiently to lubricate the bearings, but which had been kept firmly in a position, away from the balls, by centrifugal force. Bearings of this type should be packed unless for use in extremely hot climates, with soft paraffin wax or vaseline and lubricated with a medium body oil similar to that which would be used in the average run of air-cooled internal combustion engines.

**Double-Head Millers.**

An interesting double-headed milling machine for rapidly machining brass work has recently been introduced, and it would seem to be particularly suitable for use in small shops where mass production of parts is being carried out. In this tool hardened steel spindles are fitted to the headstocks and the bearings are of long parallel type, made of special quality hard phospher bronze. These are readily adjustable for wear, and are fitted with lubricators of the syphon type. End thrust in all cases is absorbed by ball thrust washers; the spindles are hollow, and the front ends of these are bored to accommodate cutters with taper shanks.

Specially long bases are fitted to the headstocks in order to ensure rigidity and freedom from vibration, and in this way, provided the tools are kept reasonably sharp, smooth clean cutting is obtained. Operating screws are furnished with suitable indicators, and dead stops, efficient adjustment being provided in each case. A feature of the machine is the rapid dividing capstan, the subject of a patent, which may be indexed for work having four, six or eight faces by the single movement of a lever. This is automatically clamped in position immediately the indexing operation is accomplished.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC IN 1920.

Particulars of the traffic through the Suez Canal in 1920 are contained in a White Paper issued last week. There were 4,009 transits, an increase of 23 on the previous year's figures, while the net tonnage was much greater at 17,574,657 as against 16,013,802. The British share of the transits was not so large as in 1919, the figures being 2,359 as compared with 2,679, while the net tonnage fell from 11,355,067 to 10,838,842. Japan was again second with 385 vessels of a net tonnage of 1,601,468, while Holland was third with 330 vessels, and 1,425,808 tons. The total receipts for the year amounted to 151,867,825 francs. The number of passengers was 500,147, 108,820 being British, 96,133 French, and 43,276 Czechoslovaks. The mean duration of the passage of vessels was 16 hours 28 minutes. 64 passages were made by vessels drawing upwards of 8 metres (27 feet.) with a length exceeding 150 metres (500 ft.) and a beam of more than 18 metres (60 ft.). 441 vessels made the passage for the first time, of which 133 were under Government charter.

## CONDITIONS AT GALATZ.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. Clifton, Acting Vice-Consul at Galatz, on shipping and trade at that port in 1920 :—

The importation of cotton and woollen goods continued throughout the year on a large scale, and competition has been sufficiently keen to bring about sales at prices from 30 to 40 per cent. below cost prices. There are now above 400 wholesale dealers in cotton and woollen goods as against 10 or 12 in pre-war days. Practically every shop in the town has been wholly or partly taken over by dealers in these commodities, and shops fitted out for pork butchery, barbers, druggists, restaurants, wine shops, printers, ironmongery, etc., now display, in large quantities, piece goods, and rentals sufficiently attractive to induce the former occupants to retire from their own trades have been paid. The importation of salted and dried fish has also been a feature of the year, and 2,400 tons of herrings in barrels were discharged from vessels sailings from United Kingdom ports.

Motor vehicles, in fairly large numbers, have also been imported and some considerable activity in motor road transport of goods has resulted. Much opposition to this new method of transport in town has been shown by the workers who have hitherto held the monopoly with oxen and horse-drawn vehicles. Large numbers of the peasantry have practically forsaken their work on the land and have reaped large profits by using their cattle and vehicles for haulage in the port. Very high rates have been and still are paid for transport of high class and expensive commodities by motor lorries from Galatz to the capital and other inland districts. As much as 6 lei per kilogramme is charged for such service.

The export of grain and of other products has suffered very considerably in consequence of the inefficiency of the railway service, and vast quantities of grain are to be seen at the various stations inland exposed to the elements awaiting transport to the riverain ports. For the same reason the dock at Galatz has been and still is in a dangerously congested condition. It has been found impossible to deal with the cargoes of vessels which have arrived. The storage capacity of the dock in question has been found to be totally inadequate to give cover to goods landed with the consequence that merchandise of high value has been dumped on the quay side and left exposed to the mercy of the elements in pools of muddy water. The congestion has been so great that the authorities have been compelled to refuse reception of the parcel post arriving by steamer from the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is understood that an agreement has been entered into by the Government of Roumania for the extension of the warehousing capacity of the Galatz dock, and that greater facilities will be available during 1921.

River transport has shown a decided improvement during the year both as to passenger and goods traffic. The spectacle of large numbers of tugs and lighters help up for want of repairs, as during 1919, is not so prevalent, and quite an appreciable amount of traffic has been observable.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses* :—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 15).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 10); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 10); s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 14); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (London, September 24).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Liverpool, September 14.

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Urquhart for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 3); s.s. Clan Matheson for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 8).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Sea Glory for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Constantinople and Galatz (London September 15); s.s. Tyria for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Novorossisk, Odessa, and Batoum (Liverpool, September 24).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Grodno for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 3); s.s. Falernian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Lverpool, September 10).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 6); s.s. City of Calcutta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 19); s.s. City of Manila for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 3).

*Ellerman's Hall Line.*—S.s. Kandahar for Bombay (Liverpool, September 13).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, September 8); s.s. Glengyle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, September 22); s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 6).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Explorer for Calcutta (Liverpool, September 15.)

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Martaban for Port Said, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 7).


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*Holt Line.*—S.s. Machaon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, September 8).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Pomaron for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, September, 14).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Assiout for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, (Liverpool, September 3); s.s. Siptah for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Syra, Piraeus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 10).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Belgravian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 10).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, September 9); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said and Aden; also (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports, (London, September 9); s.s. Delta for Bombay (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden; also (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports). (London, September 16); s.s. Padua for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden), (London, September 24).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Hatarana for Bombay and Karachi (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports) (London, September 3); s.s. Nardana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London, September 3); s.s. Mundra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London, September 17); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports) (London, September, 23); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) London, September 30).

*Prince Line.*—S.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (Manchester, September 2).

## OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

### Roumanian Oil in 1920.

The report on the economic conditions in Roumania in 1920 of Mr. Alexander Adams includes a report on the Roumanian oil industry by Mr. Louis Johnston, from which we quote the following:—

The records for the year 1920 show an amelioration of the 1919 situation, but not to any extent and certainly not sufficient to afford satisfaction to the Roumanians. During 1920 there have been continuous complaints about the lack of transport facilities, locomotives and tank cars, the unreliability of pipelines, inadequate storage, the costliness of material, the irregular electric supply on the fields, the ridiculously low maximum prices on oil for inland consumption, and the prohibitive taxes on oil for export. Yet in 1920 Roumania produced 1,034,123 tons of crude from 500 odd wells—113,686 tons more than in 1919 from about the same number of wells and more than the half of the record 1913 production of 1,885,619 tons from 944 producing wells. It must be remembered that the 1920 producing wells are for the most part restored damaged wells. Considering that practically all the oil wells and all the then existing field equipment was destroyed in December, 1916; and that it had taken 60 years to build up the equipment that brought forth the pre-war 5,000 tons per day from nearly 1,000 wells, it would be astonishing if that quantity were regained within 4 years after destruction, during two years of which the Germans occupied the territory.

Roumanian oil finance has undergone a remarkable war change. The capital that was invested in it in 1919 was 540,000,000 lei. In December, 1920, the capital invested stood at 1,326,000,000, for in 1920 a large number of companies increased their capitals, and many new companies were formed, including two British. In the capitals quoted above are not included a number of companies, nearly all British, that were apparently formed to exploit Roumanian oil land, but do not appear to have expended any money in the country.

In conclusion, in 1920 the Roumanians feared that the almost complete cessation of drilling for the various causes mentioned would be disastrous. Roumanians consider they have lost five years' drilling, and they know they cannot command such gushers as had been enjoyed in 1920. They are very anxious to see the fields in such activity that the production would not only be maintained, but that they will recover the pre-war 5,000 tons a day and more besides. A well-known Roumanian authority on oil matters was of opinion in July that 150,000 metres should be drilled yearly for the next four years in order to make sure of the pre-war production, that each metre would cost 6,640 lei (as against 411 lei pre-war price), or a total of 1,000,000,000 lei. But it is to be observed that a much greater production has been obtained in 1920 from the few new wells, for most of the 500 that produced in 1920 were old wells that had been repaired. This is natural, because the 1920 explorer has the benefit of sixty years' Roumanian geological and drilling experience behind him, and Roumania will get 5,000 tons a day with only a fraction of the 500 wells that she is now short of.

Our Bucharest Correspondent states (August 17):—The s.s. Venus from Dunkerque is expected to arrive soon to load part of the wheat sold to the French syndicate.

A series of lectures on the economic use of oil for power purposes has been arranged by the Institute of Marine Engineers during the Shipping, Engineering, and Machinery Exhibition at Olympia.

## TENDERS INVITED.

**India.**

Steel axles, etc.—The South Indian Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of (1) steel axles; steel boiler tubes; and (3) steel tyres. (Spec., £1 each) September 7.

Galvanised corrugated sheets, etc.—The East Indian Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of (1) Galvanised Corrugated Sheets; (2) Metallic Filament Lamps; (3) Steel Flat-footed and Double-headed Rails; (4) Steel Material; (5) Wrought Iron; (6) Pig Iron. (Spec. £1 1s. each). September 7.

Rolled Material for Wagons, etc.—The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of (1) Rolled Material for Wagons; (2) Wheels and Axles for Wagons; (3) Helical Springs; (4) Spring Steel; and (5) Acccumulator Supplies. (Spec. 1 and 2, £1, 3, 4 and 5, 10s.each. September 9.

Steel Rails, etc.—The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company invites tenders for the supply of (1) 13,170 steel 85 lb F.F. rails in 39 ft. 6 in. lengths and 841 in 39 ft, lengths, with 14,361 pairs of fishplates; and (2) 58.900 steel fishbolts, etc. (Spec. 10s. each). September 9.

Steel Fishbolts, etc.—The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of 67,070 Steel Fishbolts, Nuts and Washers. (Spec. £1 1s.). September 13.

Cast-iron Pipes.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply of Cast-iron Pipes, Special Castings, Sluice Valves, etc. (Spec., 5s., Messrs. Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria-street, S.W.1.) October 31.

**Malta.**

Electricity Meters.—The Government of Malta invites tenders for the supply of Single-phase Electricity Meters. (Part Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, S.W.1.) September 15

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97½ |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 66–66½ |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 163 |
| Berlin ..... | Mark to £ ..... | 22.43 | 321½ |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 16¾d |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 314-318 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 16¾d |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 555–575 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.65⅝ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 47.55-47.60 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 310–315 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 86⅛–86⅜ |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 450 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 3,100–3,200 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 9,200–9,500 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**The Profit Possibilities of the Italian Lire.**

Under this title our Expert on Foreign Exchanges has completed Article No. 5 in his series "Dealings in Foreign Exchanges from the English Investors point of View." The Article shows — ITALY'S FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES—THE POSITION OF THE SILK INDUSTRY—ITALY'S REVENUE FROM TOURISTS,—etc. The Article explains the PROFIT POSSIBILITIES BY PURCHASING ITALIAN LIRE—ITALIAN 3½% GOVERNMENT LOAN, etc. This Article will be sent free of charge on application to—

Foreign Exchange Department,
THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,
Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London S.W. 1.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been fairly brisk during the week. Currants have been taken up well, especially Vostizzas. Supplies of Persian Dates are very small, and prices have hardened. Smyrna sultanas have been a weak feature, there being a substantial drop in quotations.

Coffee.—A quiet and steady tone has ruled for spot. Costa Rica has been done at from 115s. to 150s. according to quality, Mocha at 125s., Indian at 110s. to 115s., and Columbian at 100s. Futures are :—September 45s. 3d., December 45s. 9d.,March 46s. 1½d., May 46s. 4½d.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good demand at unchanged rates. White Mauritius has come to business at 52s. 6d., Czechoslovakian has been done at 29s. Other transactions include Jamaica at 40s. and Santa Lucia at 47s. 6d. Futures are :—October 17s. 9d., November 16s. 7½d., December 16s. 6d.

Oilseeds.— Indian Linseed is again weaker at 21s. 9d., a decline of 1s. 6d. La Plata is 3d. up at 20s. 9d. Rapeseed has been steady with Toria at 22s. 3d., Ferozepore at 21s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore at 20s. 6d. Cottonseed is firm with Indian 3d. up at 11s. 6d., Egyptian black at 13s. 10½d., a rise of 1½d, and Sakellarides 13s. 4½d.

Seed Oils.—A firm tone has prevailed. Linseed oil at 37s 9d. 1s 1s. 6d. up. Crude rape oil is unchanged at 55s., but the refined is lower at 56s. Cotton oil has been steady. Common edible is unchanged at 52s., while Egyptian crude is the same at 42s ; deodorised however, is 6s. up at 56s. Turpentine is 6d. lower at 63s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—Business has been steady. Transactions have included cotton seed cake at 220s. , Arachis cake at 204s., and Linseed cake at 320s.

## THE WORLD'S CROPS.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute at Rome :—

The production of wheat in 1921 in Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Finland, Alsace-Lorraine, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, India, Japan, Algeria, Tunis, Morocco, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 230,616,000 quarters, or 98 per cent. of last year.

The rye crop of Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Finland, Alsace-Lorraine, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 36,931,000 quarters, or 120 per cent. of last year.

The yield of barley in Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Finland, Alsace-Lorraine, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Japan, Algeria, Tunis, Morocco, Canada, and the United States, is estimated at 71,410,000 quarters, or 102 per cent. of last year.

The yield of oats in Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Finland, Alsace-Lorraine, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Tunis, Algeria, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 198,890,000 quarters, or 82 per cent. of last year.

The maize crop of Bulgaria, Greece, Alsace-Lorraine, Canada, the United States, and Algeria is estimated at 360,363,000 quarters, or 94 per cent. of last year.

The yield of linseed in Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, India, Algeria, Tunis, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 678,000 tons, or 75 per cent. of last year.

## ROUMANIA'S WHEAT SUPPLIES.

*From our own Correspondent.)*

Bucharest, August 17.

This year's wheat production is estimated at about 160 thousand waggons of which 40 thousand will be assigned for export. 40 thousand will be needed for the autumn sowing, 20 thousand for the Army, 10 thousand to supply the capital, and the rest will be required to cover home consumption throughout the country.

A delegation of millers of Temesvar, Transylvania, Arad, and Oradea Mare has approached the Minister of Industry and Commerce with the request that the quantities of wheat and rye destined for export should not cross the frontier except in the form of flour.

According to statistical data 100 thousand waggons of cereals were exported last year and 75 thousand during the first six months of the current year. The aggregate value of the general export of Roumanian produce during this period amounts to about eight milliard lei, the total for the first half of the present year being four milliard lei.

## EFFECT OF DROUGHT IN ROUMANIA.

*(From our own Correspondent.)*

Bucharest, August 17.

The drought has lasted during the past month. While it has favoured the threshing of wheat and other cereals it has been deterimental to the maize plant in certain parts of the country. An official of the Ministry of Agriculture declares, however, that the maize crop is not compromised on account of the sowing having been made earlier than usual and abundant rains having fallen during May and June. He estimates that the yield will exceed the needs of the rural population and that the surplus, added to the old stocks, will provide a large quantity for export.

The exportation of hay and fodder has been prohibited. The scarcity of forage is acutely felt especially in Transylvania and the Banat on account of the large number of cattle. The price for beef has fallen there to two lei per kilogramme wholesale ; whilst a cart of hay fetches as much as 700 lei. On the other hand the fruit crop is very abundant.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows under date August 13 :—Since our last report of July 16, the sales on our market amount to 74 cases (about 11,840 lb.), at 8s. 6d. to 10s. for old and new lower grade manufacturing descriptions and 10s. 6d. to 12s. for soft Yerlis. The exchange has not varied much since our last circular, and to-day we quote 552 piasters per pound sterling for cheque, on London, and 0.68 dollars for one Turkish pound (Ps. 100). The arrivals are 120 cases against 138 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now, 1,178 cases.


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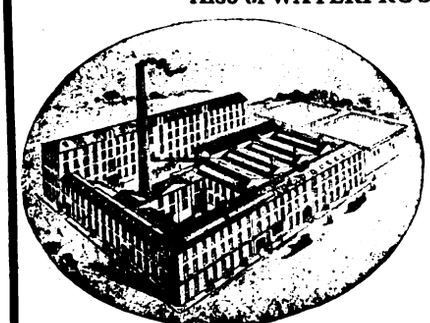

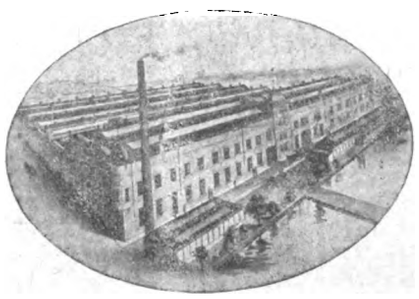

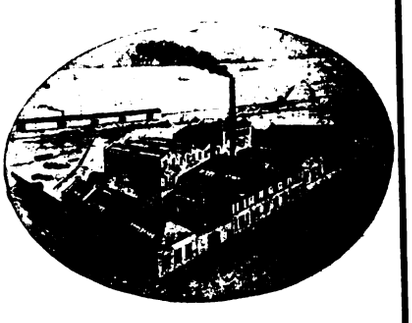

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## LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the National Bank of Turkey for July :—

The Greek advance in Anatolia during the month may be the beginning of the revival of trade which every one hopes will come and the fact that there is a certain amount of business being done with Batoum augurs well for the future.

Prices are beginning to fall in most articles, except rents which are still the heaviest item in the household budget. This fall is due to the world-wide drop in prices and also to the fact that the public have not sufficient money to spend on luxuries. This is a very different state of affairs from a year ago, when there were large numbers of rich Russians here who were prepared to give any price for the goods they purchased.

The tobacco and hazel nut crops are much inferior in quantity to last year, owing to the political situation in Anatolia. The labour question has been a difficult one, as so many of the men are serving with the Nationalists.

Export of produce is still meagre and there are no signs of improvement in the near future. The principal sources of supply have come from the sale of drafts for Greek account of Smyrna and export of gold from Constantinople to France and the United States. These sources of supply cannot be reckoned upon as certain for the future and in the event of their failing the effect on the Turkish exchange would be serious unless a favourable settlement of the political situation was arrived at before then. The economic position becomes steadily worse as nothing is being produced and the wealth of the country continues to be depleted and any appreciable improvement in the exchange can hardly be looked for.

*Flour.*—Arrivals during the month of July amounted to 150,000 sacks from America, Egypt, and Bulgaria, and some 3,000 sacks have been re-exported to the Sea of Marmora. No heavy arrivals are expected in the near future and forward purchases have been small owing to the rise in price in America. Shipments from Roumania and Bulgaria are awaited and this has prevented dealers from buying forward. Stocks on hand are about 60-80,000 sacks.

*Barley.*—The price for Roumanian barley has fluctuated from 7½ piastres to 8 per oke c.i.f. Greece and Smyrna are still buying for the Greek Army and keeping up prices. At the same time prices in the United Kingdom and the Continent have risen some 10 per cent., so that business direct with Roumania has been possible. Reports from Roumania still continue to indicate that their harvest prospects are good, but there is not much likelihood of any large quantity being available for local needs.

*Sugar.*—About 5,000 tons arrived from America, Holland, and Java at prices between £33 and £38 per ton c.i.f. Total exports amounted to 2,000 tons to Batoum, the Black Sea and Roumania. In spite of the steady price and subsequent rise in the centres of production, the market is weak owing to big arrivals. Stocks on hand are about 2,000 tons.

*Rice.*—Arrivals for July amounted to about 800 tons from America and Marseilles at 10.00-10.40 dollars per 100 kgs. c.i.f. and Lstg. 16 per ton for Saigon. Exports are estimated at 250-250-300 tons to Roumania and a small quantity to Batoum. Closing quotations per 100 kg. for American Blue Rose were 10.50 dollars, and for Saigon Lstg. 20 Rangoon Lstg. 22 per ton. In spite of the continual rise in the producing centres the local market is calm. Stocks on hand 600 tons, mostly Saigon.

*Coal.*—The coal market has not been very brisk during the past month. Demands from Greek shipowners have fallen off, owing to the arrival at the Piraeus of several cargoes of American coal. A small parcel of Pocahontas coal arrived on the market during the month and was quickly disposed of. A further cargo is expected to arrive here on August 2, a large portion of which has been sold. We understand that the old stocks of American coal are practically exhausted. The first cargo of best Admiralty large Cardiff coal since the resumption of work in South Wales is due to arrive about August 6, and a further cargo about a fortnight later. F.o.b. price for this class of coal immediately after the settlement of the strike was 47s. 6d., owing to lowness of extraction and heavy demands, but the price has since increased to 50s. per ton. However, every thing points to a reduction in prices in the near future. On the arrival of Cardiff coal there should be an immediate reduction, and both Cardiff and American should be offered at about 70s. per ton, f.o.b. and naturally the various qualities of Turkish will be obtainable at cheaper prices.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 171s. 6d. cwt. ; bacon (Canadian), 150s. cwt. ; bacon (American), 129s. cwt. ; butter (Danish), 267s. cwt. ; butter (Australian), 235s. cwt. ; butter (New Zealand), 265s. cwt. ; cheese (Canadian), 134s. cwt. ; cheese (New Zealand), 133s. cwt. ; cheese (Australian), 123s. cwt. ; lard, 88s. cwt. ; chillies, 150s. cwt. ; eggs (Danish), 30s. 6d. per 120 ; eggs (Styrian), 20s. 6d. per 120 ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2¼d. lb. ; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 81s. cwt. ; coffee (Costa Rica), 137s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (East India bold), 132s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (Central American), 112s. cwt. ; coffee (Jamaica), 62s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (Mocha longberry), 111s. cwt. ; coffee (Santos superior), 61s. 3d. cwt. ; ginger (Washed Cochin), 47s. 6d. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's.), 11½d. lb. ; pepper ( Singapore Black), 4,3-8d. lb. ; pepper (Muntok White), 9½d. lb. ; raisins (Valencia), 82s. 6d. cwt. ; raisins (Sultana Smyrna), 97s. 6d. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 77s. 6d. cwt. ; currants (Calamata), 44s. 6d. cwt. ; sugar (granulated), 59s. 1d cwt. ; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 63s. 9d. cwt. sugar (white Mauritius); 52s, 3d. cwt. ; sugar (West Indian crystallised); 48s. cwt. ; sugar (centrifugal) : 19s. 6d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour, 18s. 3d.. cwt. ; rice (Rangoon), £8 15s. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb. ; tea (Indian, common to good common), 8½d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 3½d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 4d. lb. ; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 10½d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 4d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb. ; tea (Java, common to good common), 6d. lb. ; wheat (Australian), 82s. 4½d. qr. ; wheat (English white), 68s. qr. ; wheat (La Plata), 83s. 6d. qr. ; barley (malting), 75s. qr. ; oats (English), 34s. 6d. qr. ; oats (La Plata) 32s. qr. ; maize (La Plata), 41s. 6d. qr. ; maize (American), 39s. 3d. qr. ; flour, 59s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £150 ton ; antimony (English regulus), £39 10s. ton ; bismuth 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £67 3s. 9d. ton ; copper (electro), £72 5s. ton ; gold bars, 112s. 3½d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 133s. 9d. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 161s. 3d. ton ; galvanised sheets (24g.), £21 15s. ton ; lead (soft foreign), £23 2s. 6d. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s. 2½d. unit ; molybdenite, 43s. 9d. unit ; nickel, £190 ton ; platinum, 365s. oz. ; plumbago, £20 ton ; quicksilver, £10 8s. 9d. bottle ; silver bars 38½d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 19s. 3d. ton ; tin (standard) £152 8s. 9d. ton ; tin plates (20 by 14), 23s. 3d. box ; wolfram 12s. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 66s. 6d. cwt. ; oxalic, 9½d. lb. ; citric, 2s. 5½d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 5½d. lb. ; ammonia sulphate, £13 11s. 6d. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £41 ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 8½d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £16 10s. ton ; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 131s. 6d. cwt. ; Potassium : Bi-chromate, 9½d. lb. ; chlorate, 5d. lb. ; caustic, £32 ton ; nitrate, £52 15s. ton ; permanganate, 1s. 2½d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.) £19 ton ; Sodium : crystals, 141s. ton ; bi-carbonate, £12 5s. ton ; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 7s. 6d. ton ; chlorate, 4d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton ; hyposulphite, £20 ton ; prussiate, 7d. lb. ; nitrate, £18 10s. ton ; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £106 ton ; glycerine industrial (1260 per cent.), £120 ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 9½d. lb. ; quinine, 4s. ½d. oz. ; red lead, £39 15s. ton ; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton ; white ground lead, £53 ton ; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron, 145s. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 8.86d. lb. ; cotton (Egyptian), 14.80d. lb. ; linseed (La Plata), £21 ton ; rape (Toria), £21 18s. 9d. ton ; soya beans, £15 12s. 6d. ton ; palm kernels, £22 12s. 6d. ton ; Oils : Linseed, £36 15s. ; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton ; palm, £40 5s. ton ; rape (crude), £54 15s. ton; soya, £41 17s. 6d. ; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; ground nut, £51 10s. ton ; cotton (crude), £42 5s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon), £53 5s. ton ; turpentine, 68s. 6d. cwt. ; shellac (T.N. second orange), 287s. 6d. cwt. ; shellac (A.C. garnet), 282s. 6d. cwt. ; rubber : plantation No. 1 crepe, 8½d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 8½d. lb. ; fine hard Para, 1s. ½d. lb.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lb. and up, 10½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lb. 10½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lb. 10½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lb., 10d. lb. ; 59 lb. and under, 7½d. lb. (second), 90 lb. and up, 9d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lb., 9½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lb., 9½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lb., 8d. lb. ; 59 lb. and under, 5,7-8d. lb. ; cows (first), 60 lb. and up, 7,5-8d. lb. ; 59 lb. and under, 7½d. lb. ; (second), 60 lb. and up, 5½d. lb. ; 59 lb. and under, 5½d. lb. ; bulls (first), 4,5-8d. lb. ; (second), 3½d. lb. ; Kips (first), 6d. ; (second), 5½d. lb. ; (third), 3,3-8d. lb. ; casualty hides, 4½d. lb. ; Calcutta market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic hides (cows) : Agras, 9 to 1 3: Durbhangas, 6 to 7 ; Patnas, 5 to 6. Salted cows, 3 to 6. Arsenic hides (Buffalo) : 3 to 7.8. Skins : calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. ; goat, 250 to 285 per 100 pieces.

## CZECHOSLOVAK SUGAR PRODUCTION.

During the period between October, 1920 and June 1921, the Czechoslovak sugar factories produced 715,244 tons of sugar. The home consumption amounted to 247,403 tons. The total exports were 302,905 tons, of which 70,657 tons went to Hamburg (transit), 51,039 tons to France, and 48,299 tons to Austria. Lesser quantities were exported to England, Germany, Roumania, etc.

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## AGRICULTURE IN MOROCCO.

Mr. G. H. Selous, H.M. Vice-Consul at Saffi, in his report on the French zone of Morocco for 1920, comments as follows on agricultural developments:—In the first place there are 2,000,000 hectares (5,000,000 acres) of agricultural land yet to be brought under the plough. As the area actually cultivated at the present time is about 2,200,000 hectares (5,500,000 acres) in extent, it will be observed that the area under cultivation can be nearly doubled. and this without encroaching at all upon the 4,700,000 hectares (11,750,000 acres) of pasturage. There are, further, 80,000 hectares (200,000 acres) of marsh land which, after having been drained, will become agricultural land of the highest quality. Such drainage schemes are already occupying the attention of the Administration. There is, consequently, scope, under this heading alone, for the doubling of the country's agricultural output. In the second place, everything is to be done in the way of improved farming methods. Of the 2,200,000 hectares under cultivation only 50,000 (125,000 acres) are farmed by Europeans. In other words, only a small fraction of the cultivated area is farmed in other than patriarchal fashion The native farmer uses more seed than the European and produces less for it. On the other hand, although conservative enough in his habits, the Moor is yet amenable to modern methods and ways, especially when he sees that they pay, and he will, in time, adopt more scientific methods of agriculture. To encourage this, the Administration train a certain number of native apprentices on the Government model farms.

Considerable progress, has been made with viticulture during the year under review, and the area so cultivated is rapidly increasing. There seems every reason to suppose that the French Protectorate will soon be self-supporting in the matter of light table wines of every-day use, and will cease to be an importer, as at present, of large quantities of Algerian and Spanish "Vin Ordinaire."

The Protectorate Government are paying very particular attention to the agricultural possibilities of the country and have established several State farms and gardens for general experimental purposes. There are four such farms, situated respectively at Fez (700 hectares, principally cereals and draught horses), Casablanca (170 hectares, principally vines and cattle), Mazagan (500 hectares, principally forage and sheep), and Marrakesh (300 hectares). They are self-supporting, their upkeep during 1920 being estimated at 20,000 francs and their receipts at 625,000, though this latter figure was expected to be considerably higher.

Up to the present the experiments carried out on the State farms have been chiefly connected with the sugar-beet, cotton, and the vine. It has been demonstrated that the beet can be cultivated in the Protectorate from November to June without irrigation. The return is about 30 tons per hectare (12 tons per acre), and is nearly equal to that obtained in France. Unfortunately, the beet will not keep in "Silos" (underground storerooms without masonry), and is, therefore, only useful for distilling purposes. Experiments with cotton proved unfortunate at Fez where frost was a serious obstacle, whilst at Marrakesh trouble was experienced with locusts. In 1919, however, a return of 12 quintals per hectare (say, 9½ cwt. per acre) was obtained at Marrakesh, and an analysis of the value of this cotton from a commercial standpoint is now being made. Experiments with vines are being carried out at Casablanca. Agriculturally speaking, the future of the Moroccan vine yard is assured, extensive European vine yards having been planted and giving good results in the districts of Casablanca, Rabat and Fez.

Whilst forage forms a speciality of the Mazagan farm, experiments in cereals are carried out on the farm at Fez. Deep ploughing has produced a return of 10 quintals per hectare (8 cwt. per acre), which compares very favourably with the return of 6 quintals per hectare (say, 5 cwt. per acre) which results from the shallow furrow of the native wooden plough.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Tone Generally Dull.

(*From our own Correspondent*).

London, Monday.

The various adverse factors that have obtained during the week have naturally had the effect of even further restricting business. The uncertain Irish position, the disturbances in Malabar, and increasing anxiety with regard to the general financial position here each had their influence, and in view of the general apathy of investors it is, perhaps, a little remarkable in the circumstances that the market should have presented one or two fairly bright features. In view of the economic position it is impossible to be optimistic with regard to the immediate future, and even if there are no unfavourable external influences, one can scarcely anticipate any general improvement in shares until trade is much better.

A variable tone has prevailed in the gilt-edged group. Consols are ¼ down at 47¾. Fundings are unchanged at 70 7-8, but War Loan Fives have been rather strong, and are now 88 3-16, a gain of ¼.

Industrials have on the whole been very dull. Business has been on the smallest scale, and there have been few fluctuations of prices. Shipping securities have been fairly steady. P. and O. Deferred at 340 show a slight decline on the previous week's figure. Furness Withys are 245 ex div. Kaffirs have again provided the bright feature of the week, and in a number of directions advances are to be recorded.

The position is unchanged as regards oils. There has been no renewal of the liquidation of the previous week, and a quiet tone has ruled. Anglo-Egyptian are 1-16 down at 1 11-32, while Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. lower at 11s., but Burmahs at 5 11-16 are 1-8 up.

## BRITISH TRADE WITH TANGIERS.

The following extracts are taken from the recently issued report on Morocco :—

British trade is chiefly concerned with cotton goods and candles. In both these commodities there has been considerable overstocking and the import during the last eight months has not been up to the normal level, but beer, spirits, furniture, and hardware show an increase. Importers generally are being very careful now owing to the unsteadiness in the value of the franc. There has been a large trade in building materials owing to a revival in construction, most of which are, however, imported from Spain and France, although British cement is preferred, and there would have been a considerable demand from Great Britain but for the heavy freight charges. The large imports of iron, steel and machinery are on account of the new water supply scheme. There has been a decrease in the importation of tea during the last six months, although a certain quantity of Shanghai tea has arrived from Marseilles. Belgium is once more competing in the Tangier sugar market and is able to supply it at a cheaper price than France, although it is believed that French sugar is preferred. Sugar too is being sent from Holland. Belgium is also offering paper and glass ware, but the market is overstocked in the latter article. The importation of coal has increased and it is now more easily obtainable and cheaper.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated August 16 :—Monsoon strengthened in Gangetic plain. August 17—Active in North East India and Western Himalayas. August 19—Heavy rain in United Province Provinces of Agra and Oudh. August 20 and 21—Monsoon strengthened slightly in Peninsula and Upper Burma.

Condition of Crops.—August 19—Central Provinces—Rice and cotton very good but cotton now requires break in rains. Crop conditions in Punjab unchanged, *i.e.*, cotton, rice and sesamum normal ; indigo poor.

Markets.—Bombay cotton markets, August 17—irregular. Fine M.G. Oomras September Rs. 318. Cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to August 12, 1921, were 2,814,000 bales, as compared with 3,356,000 bales during the corresponding period of last year. Bombay market during the week ending August 20, quiet. Local goods moving steadily. Calcutta Jute and Gunny markets quiet but steady. Rangoon Customs reports price of special rice to be Rs. 587½ on August 19. At tea sale on August 16 Assams excellent ; Dooars, Cachars and Sylhets good ; Liquoring teas firm ; medium thin liquoring Pekos ¼ to ½ anna lower. 100,079 packages sold to date at an average price of 8 annas 11 pies per lb. Tea out-turn to July 1, 41 million pounds less than that at same time last year. Government of India have prohibited further export of wheat from India owing to recent rise in local prices.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on August 12 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, 4½ ; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6,7-8 ; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½ ; Associated Cotton Ginners, £5-32 ; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 57 ; Behera Ord., £E 8½ ; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr., 78 ; Building Lands of Egypt, £5-8 ; Cassi di Sconto, Priv. Fr. 94½ ; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 45 ; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 35 ; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1 ; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5½ ; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 810 ; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr., 633 ; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 319 ; 1903 Oblig., Fr., 224 ; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., 225½, Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 140 ; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130 ; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr., 78 ; Eaux du Caire, Jouissance. Fr. 105 , Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord. 28s. ; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4,5-32 ; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10,11-16 Gabbari Lands, £13 32 ; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc., an des., £5,15-32 ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord. 110s. ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2,9-16 ; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £4 7-16 ; Kom Ombo Ste, Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex. ; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35 ; Lots Turc., Fr., £40 ; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 270 ; Nungovich Hotels, £6,1-16 ; Ramleh Railway, £2½ ; Salt and Soda, 34s. ; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv, Fr 46 ; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr., 68 ; Union Fonciere d'Egypte. £2 9-16 ; Egypte Hotels, £1 27-32 ; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

## CZECHOSLOVAK COAL OUTPUT.

The output of coal and lignite in Czechoslovakia for the second quarter of 1921 was a follows :—The amount of pit coal produced amounted to 29,253,356 metric quintals as compared with 30,636,056 quintals in the first three months of 1921. The amount of coke produced from pit coal was 3,370,236 quintals, while the amount of briquettes was 176,632 quintals. (The respective figures for the first quarter were 3,974,324 quintals of coke and 176,632 quintals of briquettes). The output of lignite decreased from 54,348,851 quintals in the first quarter to 50,423,510 quintals. The amount of coke produced from lignite was 5,589 quintals, while the amount of briquettes produced from lignite increased by 2,186 quintals to 444,816 quintals.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended August 20, amounted to £6,320.


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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Manchester, Friday.

The market during the past week has not been altogether featureless, but although the tone has been a little firmer developments throughout the market have been very slow in taking place. The opinion has prevailed that it is better to await developments rather than rush into heavy commitments. The financial position abroad is certainly checking business, and if money was only distributed more freely then there would perhaps have been more business done than was actually the case. The cloth inquiry for Egypt has not been on a large scale and only a few miscellaneous sales have taken place. Buyers for the Levant and Constantinople have not been altogether idle. At the beginning of the week quotations for American and Egyptian yarns were slightly easier, but since then spinners have tended to harden their prices, but at the same time it is still possible to purchase most counts on a low scale. The piece goods inquiry for India has not been anything to boast about and transactions have not been of any weight. Buyers for Madras have been the most active. Sales of any weight for China have not been mentioned and standard makes have been practically neglected. Better reports however are being received from that outlet and latest advices show that stocks of dear goods out there are gradually but surely being liquidated. A few minor transactions have taken place for Java and Singapore. South America still lags behind. Quotations for American counts have tended to harden in sympathy with the strength displayed in raw cotton circles. On the whole the tone of the market is rather better than was the case a week ago but buyers generally are in no mood to commence operations on a more active scale.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 25 :—Liverpool cotton has been in fair request during the past week, and estimated sales show a slight increase over the preceeding one. Taken altogether, however, prices here still have a downward tendency, although we are of the opinion that some reaction is about due. There has been quite a spurt on the American side during the past few days, due chiefly to bad crop news, and as usual this advance has been reflected, to a lesser degree, in the Egyptian market. Private advices from Alexandria yesterday reported large purchases of Upper Egyptian in that market for American account, and this will undoubtedly tend to stiffen prices in a quarter which at all times is particularly susceptible to "bullish" influences. C.i.f. business has become very quiet lately, whilst the local demand has been chiefly for Sakellarides 15.00d to 17.00d and Upper 10.00d to 12.00d. Tokar, Sudan and Brown Cottons are neglected. There appears to be a better tone prevalent in Manchester circles, but it is more apparent where yarns are concerned at any rate, on the American side than on the Egyptian. The general impression given, however, is that a slow and very gradual improvement is taking place, and a certain amount of optimism in the future seems not uncalled for. It is satisfactory to note that for the third week in succession the visible supply of Egyptian cotton in Great Britain shows a steady decrease. Total sales 1,500 bales (includes 50 bales Sudan). Quotations of Upper are reduced 25 points, of Brown 50 points, and Sakellarides is unchanged on balance. Fully Good Fair Sakellarides—16.00d.

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The Banca Commerciale Italiana and Romana, Bucharest, have opened a branch at Chisinau, and have also acquired a controlling interest in the Banca Agrara Timisana at Temesvar.

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## GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek debt from January 1 to June 30 (new style January 14 to July 13), 1921 :—

| — | Monopolies, tobacco stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery | Piraeus Customs. |
|---|---|---|
| | Drachmae. | Drachmae. |
| Gross receipts, June, 1921 .... | 6,118,350 | 3,861,111 |
| Do. do. do. 1920..... | 5,247,816 | 4,174,651 |
| Estimated receipts for 6 months (Law of Control)..... | 14,450,000 | 5,350,000 |
| Actual receipts for 6 mhs. 1921 1921..... | 33,605,095 | 25,694,264 |
| Actual receipts for 6 mhs 1920 ..... .....) | 31,010,269 | 29,971,854 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months 1921 | +19,155,095 | +20,344,264 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months 1920 | +16,560,269 | +24,621,854 |

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

The products of the sales of Naxos emery have been paid in paper drachmae since August, 1920. In the case of the Piraeus Customs, the receipts in gold are included in the above statement at par.

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Increasing interest is being devoted to the cultivation of marjoram in the district of Sfax, Tunis.

The Board of Trade have added Italy and Portugal (including Portugese Colonies) to the list of countries included in the new Export Credits Scheme.

## AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

118. Well known Sports Goods House with factory in India, wish to appoint Agents in Near and Middle East where not at present represented.

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*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,'" 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities :—Exports : Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports : Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old, Dundee and Calcutta makes.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 539—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The War in Asia Minor.*

A Greek message by way of Geneva reports the fall of Angora, and even if, as seems probable, this prove to be premature, the fate of the town may be regarded as having been sealed by the course of the recent fighting. In spite of the stubborn resistance of the Turks, the Greeks, who pay a generous tribute to the tenacity of their enemies, succeeded in turning their positions on the south of the extended front. The centre was next pierced, and we must infer that the Turkish retreat became general. The decision not to allow himself to be invested in Angora does credit to Mustapha Kemal Pasha's military instinct; but it remains to be seen how the bulk of the troops left to him take his defeat. Greek reports claim already a large number of deserters. The harder the Nationalist Government is pressed the greater its exactions on the Anatolian peasantry. The Greeks will, no doubt, see to it that those who surrender have nothing to complain of in regard to their treatment.

### *Roumania and the Straits.*

If it were not for the fact that he is generally well informed on international affairs, it might be thought that M. Take Jonescu is flogging a dead horse when he is so insistent upon the freedom of the waterway between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. In stipulating for the Treaties, the whole Treaties and nothing but the Treaties, the Roumanian Foreign Secretary has rather overworked a shibboleth, because Europe wants the best settlement it can possibly get, and there is no virtue in a decision arrived at in 1919 that is shown to be unsound in the light of unprejudiced investigation in 1921. M. Take Jonescu, therefore, would be on safer ground, if he were to insist upon the upholding of the Treaties until a better solution could be produced. In regard to the internationalization of the Straits there can be no question that it is the only satisfactory solution for a problem which was the same yesterday as it is to-day, and must needs continue to be the same as long the sea remains an international highway. This, however, does not imply that Constantinople must also be internationalized. There could be no worse solution of a complex question in the case of a town; but the aim in view is sound, that no Power should be established which might have the strength *and the interest* to close the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Let this aim be kept in view and not obscured by striving after a brief "slogan."

### *The Palestine Constitution.*

With a view to arriving at an agreed Constitution for the new State the High Commissioner of Palestine has invited representatives of the various sections of the population to discuss with him draft proposals. The Executive Committee of the Palestine Arab Congress has refused the invitation on the ground that it is not possible for the Arabs to discuss the framing of a Constitution "while the destiny of the country is hanging in the balance and while the Arab delegation sent by the nation is fighting the Arab cause in London." Such discussion, the committee adds, is in its opinion the business of a body elected under self-governing principles. A more tactless reply could not have been drafted. The Arabs with their vast preponderance in the population of Palestine have nothing to lose by a frank discussion of the future constitution of the country. Their congress has clearly shown that it shrinks from meeting fellow-Palestinians on an equal footing in the Council Chamber. "A body elected on self-governing principles," it seems to think could adopt Jaffa arguments, if the Arab reprresentatives were at any time worsted in debate. The hint will not be lost on the Jewish community, nor on the British Government which is determined to keep the balance even between the different sections. Readiness to discuss a constitution and to accept an equitable adjustment between the intellectual and financial contribution that the Jews are able to make to the country's progress and the numerical superiority, very largely illiterate, as is known, which is the Arabs' chief asset would have influenced the world's opinion in favour of the Arabs more than anything else. It is a matter for regret that the Arab Delegation in London, which has had an opportunity of educating itself, should not have been able to give the congress in Palestine a sounder and more intelligent lead, instead of merely endorsing a blunder of its fellow countrymen.

### *"Sultan of Nejd."*

A *communiqué* issued last week by the Colonial Office announced that "at a large and representative con-

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ference of tribal chiefs, notables and prominent inhabitants of the territories of Nejd, held in May last, it was decided that the Chief, Emir Bin Saud, should be proclaimed and addressed as Sultan of Nejd and its dependencies." Through Sir Percy Cox this resolution was conveyed to his Majesty's Government, and the *communiqué* adds that the Emir has now been informed that the Government recognizes him as Sultan of Nejd. We welcome the announcement for several reasons. Our relations with the Emir Bin Saud before the war were friendly, and during the war they became even more so. The way in which he ejected the Turks from El Hasa in 1913 marked him out as a power to be reckoned with in the Arabian Peninsula and greatly increased his influence with the desert tribes; and though he took no active part in the fighting in the late war, that influence was steadily exerted in our favour. His recognition as Sultan is, therefore, as natural as it is pleasing, and it is to be hoped that our relations with the Sultanate of Nejd will be as friendly as they were with the Emirate. The new Sultanate is much more extensive than those of Lahej, in the south-west, and Oman, in the south-east, and apart from any other consideration its connection with the Wahabite movement lends it considerable importance.

### *Towards Federation.*

The most important part of the *communiqué* quoted is, perhaps, its ending. After mentioning the new Sultan's grateful acknowledgment of the attitude of Great Britain towards him, it concludes: "At the same time he intimates his acceptance of the decision of the people of Irak and his Majesty's Government in regard to the choice of the Emir Faisal as King, and expresses his desire to maintain friendly relations with the new State over which Faisal will rule." Relations between the Hejaz and the Nejd have left a good deal to be desired in the past, and latterly it looked as if serious trouble was to be expected. The selection of one of King Hussein's sons as ruler of Irak cannot, therefore, have been entirely welcome to Bin Saud. King Faisal, however, is far-sighted and broad-minded, and reputed to be a better hand at making friends than his father, King Hussein. He is likely, too, to remember, though others may forget, that while the Desert has overflown the Sown on more than one occasion, the Sown has never yet successfully overrun the Desert. To the detailed observer it seems that Irak has more to gain than the Nejd by the maintenance of the friendly relations to which Sultan Bin Saud—or Abd el-Aziz es-Saud, to give him his his more formal name—refers. If only Irak and Nejd can keep on good terms, a big step will have been taken towards a federation of Arabian States.

### *The Kurds of Mesopotamia.*

The situation in the Rowanduz area is officially described as continuing to show steady improvement, and the effects of the aerial action taken against the recalcitrant tribesmen appear to have gone far towards justifying M. Churchill's hopes. This is satisfactory as far as it goes, and it is to be hoped that the action of those chiefs in the Rania area who have tendered their submission will speedily be imitated by other restless leaders and tribesmen. At the same time it is wise to recognize that the Kurdish problem is not going to be solved at once, or easily. It is satisfactory, therefore, to learn from the final draft of the Mandate for Mesopotamia—which was issued as a White Paper last week—that we are reserving to ourselves the right to establish "a system of local autonomy for predominantly Kurdish areas." The Kurd and the Arab can on occasion live on quite friendly terms side by side, but to put Kurds in any numbers under Arab rule would be a rather risky experiment; and it may very well be that the present trouble is directly connected with the election of an Arab ruler for Irak. Fortunately the difficulty has been foreseen all along, and the provision made for coping with it may, and probably will, prove to be ample. If the Kurds should finally fit themselves into the new State, so much the better; for they have virtues of their own that could be turned to good account. If, however, local autonomy is found to be necessary, it can be granted under the terms of the Mandate, without any risk of incurring charges of treachery.

### *Democracy and Egypt.*

It is announced that certain Members of Parliament, who claim to represent British democracy, have decided to visit Egypt for the purpose of inquiring into the internal affairs of the count y. If they defer their visit for a few weeks, they will doubtless find the trip a very enjoyable one; for in the cool season the climate of Egypt is hard to beat, and Zaghloul Pasha will doubtless take very good care that his visitors have enough 'democracy', in one form or another, to satisfy all their desires in that direction. The success of the extremist leaders in gathering together a mob, and working it into any mood desired is nor to be denied. Nor is it to be doubted that the visit of the self-styled representatives of British democracy will do something towards furbishing up the prestige of Zaghloul Pasha, which has become somewhat dulled of late. But what real good it is likely to effect and how far the inquiries into the internal affairs of the country are likely to take the inquirers, are matters on which opinions are bound to differ.

### *A 'Conducted' Tour.*

Any serious attempt on the part of the British public, or any section of it, to understand the present situatiou as between Great Britain and Egypt would be a matter for congratulation, if the endeavour were made along wise lines. But it would be interesting to know whether the British democrats whom these peripatetic M.P.'s claim to represent have any knowledge at all of the history of Egypt, or of the character of that very likable but very backward person, the Egyptian Fellah. They may, of course, be well instructed on both these points. But on the other hand it is possible that their democracy may be of the "count-the-noses" type, and that their interest in Egyptian politics is confined to the endeavour to embarrass their own Government. Unfortunately it seems to be only too certain that the inquirers might just as well draw up their report now, if it be true, as is reported, that they are making the visit on the invitation of Zaghloul Pasha. It is significant that influentlal Egyptians who have been working to bring about a reconciliation between Adly and Zaghloul Pashas should have done their best to prevent the visit taking place. Unhappily their attempts have failed, and the M.P.'s are to have their trip—presumably as the Zaghloulites' guests.

### *The Indian Frontier.*

*The Times* made a praiseworthy attempt last week to direct the attention of returning holiday-makers to the intricacies of the position on the Indian Frontier, and if nothing very new or startling was said, the

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reason probably is that the question has been long ago threshed out. The essence of the whole thing is that we have some very awkward neighbours in that direction, who will not listen to our arguments, and can be kept quiet only by force; while that statement remains true, the force must be held in readiness, and India must go on paying for it, much as she dislikes the process. It is for the neighbours to change their ways, but they are conservative folk, and, so far as we can see, they are not likely to change until they find themselves enclosed in a ring of civilisation. The key to the position is therefore to be looked for in Afghanistan, rather than in India, and people who are able to take long views are beginning to think that, in spite of distractions on the Russian side, Afghanistan is moving on a path which may eventually lead to a radical change in the situation on our frontier.

### *Changes in Afghanistan.*

The fact is that Afghanistan is experimenting with civilised institutions. There is now an Afghan Press, the effusions of which are interesting if not always convincing; there is talk about popular education; a Criminal Code has this year been promulgated, and a Ministry of Justice has been created for its enforcement. It is easy to ridicule small beginnings, but there is now a distinct possibility that the country may gradually submit itself to the rule of law. and those who realise the change in India, since, little over a century ago, the foundations of that rule were laid, will prefer to wish the new aspirant God-speed. Given a stable and friendly Afghanistan, the inconveniences resulting from the idiosyncrasies of the border tribes would shrink to modest dimensions, and probably in time they too would fall into line. Of course no such readjustment can be expected immediately, but just at present, when India is manifestly impatient under the burden of continuous trouble on the frontier, it is worth while to emphasise the longer view.

### *The Calcutta Munitions Case.*

The considered statement of the Government of India in its corporate capacity should suffice to remove the misgivings aroused by the action of one of its departments in withdrawing from the prosecution of the now notorious case of fraud on the Munitions Board. On the one hand, the doctrine that men could hope to escape the consequences of crime if only they had a sufficient numbe of indigent dependents is emphatically repudiated as inconsistent with the principles on which justice should be administered; on the other, there is no less emphatic condemnation of the procedure adopted by which guilt was alleged in open court against persons who were prevented from defending themselves by the withdrawal of the charge. Lord Reading's Government is satisfied that the regrettable incident was not due to to any defect of system; a mistake was made, and has been acknowledged; and the announcement of the resignation of Sir Thomas Holland, the Member of Council responsible for the withdrawal of the prosecution, closes the incident in what appears to be the best possible way, the Council being left in a position to deal with the problems confronting it without the drawbacks resulting from internal strains.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

### The Irish Negotiations.

The main fact about the Sinn Fein reply to the Government is that it admits that De Valera wishes the negotiations to continue. The admission is certainly made with a maximum of collateral objections, and perhaps even with a minimum of the usual courtesies of debate; but the admission is made nevertheless, and it will not be lost on public opinion here or in Ireland.

The remainder of the letter appears to be irrelevant. Mr. De Valera even seems to manufacture a grievance out of geography as well as history, by his reference to the propinquity of the islands; but in that matter at least both Downing Street and Dublin Castle can plead "not guilty."

The main Irish argument, however, loses a good deal of its strength when examined. It makes a great point of "government by consent of the governed," on which most Englishmen will have a certain amount of sympathy with Irishmen; but as the *Westminster Gazette* remarks acutely, Mr. De Valera has not thought out all that is implied in the phrase. Would he allow Ulster to decide her own government in this way? It is notorious that he does not wish to. It is his principle that Ireland is a single political unit; but the facts are against him. If Ireland has the right to self-determination, surely Ulster has an equal right—it is a distinct political unit with its own government. Mr. De Valera's love for abstract phrases may lead him, as they did President Wilson, into difficulties.

On the whole public opinion is more hopeful this week than last. It has not much to go upon except the fact that the negotiations have not broken down, but it builds a great deal on that.

### The Cabinet at Inverness.

The whole question of Ireland is to be discussed by the Cabinet on Wednesday at Inverness. Mr. Lloyd George has been staying in Scotland for some days as a guest of his old enemy and present ally, the Duke of Athol—the days are gone when he told us that dukes cost more than battleships, and were less useful—Mr. Churchill has also been in the North, and the other Cabinet Ministers have been summoned thither. Cabinet Councils have been held in most parts of England, and even in France, but this is the first time that one has been held so far North.

Mr. Lloyd George is said to be enchanted with the Scottish lochs and mountains, and somebody has cruelly remarked that the Grampians will soon appear in his perorations instead of Snowdon, when the time for autumn oratory sets in. But no doubt that is a Wee Free taunt; the Independent Liberals are more cheerful than usual at this moment, owing to the fact that Lord Grey is to resume an active political career. His moral authority is unequalled, and we shall all hear him with interest and respect; but it is doubtful whether even he will be able to galvanise his old party into real activity.

### Mr. Austin Dobson.

The death of Mr. Austin Dobson at the ripe old age of eighty-one will be very generally regretted. He was one of the most attractive of the minor figures in contemporary literature, an echo of the eighteenth century.; the bulk of his work was not large, but what there was of it was perfect. It is strange to think that this dainty poet spent the greater part of his working life at the Board of Trade, where Mr. Edmund Gosse, now celebrated as a critic, also produced original literature in the shape of notes and minutes on such poetical subjects as port dues, harbour control, and standard gauges. Somebody called the Board of Trade in those days "a nest of singing birds," but they have all migrated now. Even Mr. Gosse could hardly have written a sonnet to "Dora."

### London Unemployed.

A rather difficult situation is developing in the London boroughs in connection with the unemployed. The Government's unemployed scheme having exhausted its funds, those who are still unemployed have turned to the

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boroughs for a dole ; and some of the boroughs, particularly those with Labour majorities, have responded to the cry of " Work or Maintenance." Indeed, in one or two cases they have responded so generously that it pays a man better to " go on the parish " than to work for his living. The demand has now spread to other boroughs where Labour, although not in the majority, is powerfully represented, and one or two of these are showing signs of capitulation. The idea is *au fond* a Labour scheme, but the Liberals are playing with it as a means of discrediting the Government—an old trick recalling the last days of the Balfour administration in 1905. It is a pity that Labour should not have learnt better economics ; it revives the old belief in the State with a bottomless purse ; but in this case the State is a poor municipality like Islington or Shoreditch, and the persons who really pay the dole are not the idle rich or the capitalist profiteers, but the wretched shopkeeper or the struggling householder who can hardly keep his head above water as it is.

Once again Labour is showing its lack of leadership and pluck. There is hardly a man among the Labour leaders in Parliament who does not know that this method will only make things worse by driving up the rates and sending trade away ; but not a man has had the courage to say so. *Quos deus vult perdere* are in these days transformed into Labour politicians. The price will be paid in lost votes, for when the blunder is discovered and acknowledged, both employed and unemployed will resent it.

Very much the same thing is happening in Poplar, where the recalcitrant Councillors have gone to prison for refusing to issue a precept to pay the local share of London County Council and Metropolitan Asylums Board rates. There is a case, and to many minds quite a good case, for equalisation of rates and reform of local government from top to bottom ; but the rules must be obeyed until fresh rules are devised. There is no doubt that Poplar has utilised the London County Council and Asylums Board services, and is in fact still utilising them; nor has any suggestion of extravagance or insufficiency in the conduct of the services been made. Presumably then Poplar must expect to pay for them.

On the other hand a rather damaging statement has been made to show that Poplar is itself extravagant in its local services, and that, if it had not adopted this method as a set policy, its finances would hardly have been in so serious a condition as they now confessedly are. Poplar, under Mr. Lansbury's guidance, has followed the spectacular method of going to prison, apparently in the hope that its grievance will be well advertised—as has been the case—and that it will evoke sympathy and help —a more doubtful outcome. It has been suggested that a " no rent " protest should be added to the " no rate " protest, which is, of course, pure anarchy. In the end the Government may have to intervene.

**The Cost of Living.**

A great deal of dissatisfaction is being expressed at the way in which prices are keeping up, in spite of the fall in raw materials. Wages in the coalfields have fallen, but the cost of coal in the cellar has risen. It is true that export coal has fallen considerably, and the Mining Association has assured the public that that has nothing to do with the price of domestic coal ; but the public does not believe a word of it—particularly as the public still has to pay the subsidy. Bread has not fallen, although grain has fallen ; an organisation of bakers has told the public not to be unreasonable, and that the loaf cannot possibly be reduced ; but the effect of this statement has been seriously diminished by an article in *Milling*, a trade paper, proving that the price of bread could and should be reduced. A pig fetches half the money in the market that it did a year ago ; a plate of ham in a restaurant has not gone down. Eggs have fallen at the farm ; the teashops have not discovered it—perhaps poaching costs more. There is plenty of sugar in the country, but the price has gone up in the shops; the reason given is that it is the preserving season—and it is the fact that the housewife makes more jam because the alleged jam sold in the shops has increased in price and deteriorated in quality.

It is the same in the clothing trade. The price of cloth has fallen, but the ordinary tailor stares blankly, if you suggest that fourteen guineas is too much for a suit. A year ago the tailors blamed the cloth-makers, now the cloth-makers blame the tailors. *Magna est veritas*, we know, but it does not seem to prevail so quickly as one had hoped.

**The End of Cricket.**

The cricket season ended last week in a blaze of glory Interest in the county championship was kept up to the last, when Middlesex, by again beating Surrey, became champions for the second time in succession ; but then Surrey without Hobbs, as somebody remarked the other day, is like Antony without Cleopatra. But the real splendour of the week was that England beat Australia, —a feat that we had come to think impossible. It is true that the team modestly called itself merely " An England Eleven," and that it contained nobody who has taken part in the Test Matches this year—perhaps that was why it won. At any rate, after a miserable score of forty odd by our side in the first innings, things went better and better, and the invincible Australians could not make the necessary runs in the last innings. The result is so cruel a commentary on the judgment of the Selection Committee that, for the sake of our prestige in the Near East, I refrain from further comment.

OCELLUS.

## THE PRINCE'S VISIT TO INDIA.

**Staff Appointments.**

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the following Indian Ruling Princes and Members of the Families of Indian Ruling Princes being attached to the Staff of the Prince of Wales on the occasion of His Royal Highness's forthcoming visit to India :—Major-General His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E. ; His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur ; His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur ; His Highness the Maharaja of Dhar, K.C.S.I., K.B.E. ; Major His Highness the Maharaj-Rana of Dholpur, K.C.S.I. ; Colonel His Highness the Maharaja of Ratlam, K.C.S.I. ; Captain His Highness the Nawab of Palanpur, K.C.I.E. ; Captain Maharaj Kumar Sadul Singh, of Bikaner ; Captain Raja Sir Hari Singh, K.C.I.E., of Kashmir ; Nawabzada Haji Muhammad Hamidulla Khan, C.S.I., of Bhopal.

The following is the list of the staff appointed by the Prince of Wales for His Royal Highness's visit to India :—Chief of the Staff, the Earl of Cromer, K.C.I.E., C.V.O. ; Comptroller to the Prince of Wales's Household, Vice-Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., C.B. ; Chief Secretary, Mr. G. F. de Montmorency, C.I.E., C.B.E. ; Military Secretary, Colonel R. B. Worgan, C.V.O., D.S.O. ; Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales, Sir Godfrey Thomas, Bart., C.V.O. ; Equerries to the Prince of Wales, Captain Dudley North, C.M.G., C.V.O., R.N. Captain the Hon'ble Piers Legh, M.V.O., O.B.E., Lieutenant the Hon'ble B. A. A. Ogilvy, M.C., Chief Medical Officers, Lieut.-Colonel F. O'Kinealy, C.I.E., I.M.S. ; Assistant Military Secretary Lieut.-Colonel C. O. Harvey, M.V.O., M.C. ; Personal Medical Officer to the Prince of Wales, Surgeon Commander A. C. W. Newport, M.V.O., R.N. ; Assistant to Chief Secretary, Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe, I.C.S. ; Aides-de-Camp, Captain E. D. Metcalfe M.C., 3rd Skinner's Horse ; Captain F. S. Poynder, M.V.O., M.C., 9th Gurkha Rifles ; Lieutenant the Lord Louis Mountbatten, M.V.O., R.N. ; Police Officer, Mr. D. Petrie, C.I.E., C.B.E., M.V.O.

## INDIA GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL.

It is officially announced that the riband of the India General Service Medal, for operations against Afghanistan, 1919, may now be worn by officers and soldiers who are entitled to the award of the medal. Officers not now serving should make application for the riband (giving rank, name, and the corps in which the applicant last served) to the Secretary, War Office (A.G. 10), 27, Pilgrim-street, London, E.C.4. Discharged and demobilised soldiers may submit their applications to the Officers in charge of the records of the corps in which they last served. Such applications should give full name ; name of unit and corps and regimental number therein, in which medal was earned and full address to which the riband should be sent. If an applicant served in a corps other than that in which the medal was earned, he should state the name of the last corps in which he served, regimental number therein, and date of discharge or demobilisation.

At a crowded meeting held in Sofia recently vigorous protests were made against the disarmament of Bulgaria.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, August 25.*

### The Cutting of the Khalig.

Last night there took place the celebration of the Cutting of the Khalig, the ceremony which is supposed to mark the highest point in the Nile flood at the Rodah Nilometer. As usual the Governor of Cairo presided over the singing of the traditional "Hodjé" at Old Cairo, and as usual all Government offices are shut to-day. The Nile flood has been very late this year, and a certain amount of anxiety is still felt as to the autumn prospects.

### The Young Offenders Problem.

An important step forward in the solution of the problem of vagabond and young offenders has now been taken by the formation of a special committee under the presidency of the Under Secretary of State for Justice. This Committee, which will be known as the Permanent Young Offenders Committee, is to be entrusted with the task of investigating the causes of criminality amongst children and of proposing proper means for its prevention and repression. It will also examine the existing law and suggest the modifications and additions which it considers it necessary to introduce; it will watch over the legal procedure followed in dealing with young offenders; it will superintend the execution of educative and corrective measures and particularly the running of reformatories and industrial schools instituted for the treatment of young offenders and vagabonds; and it will deal with every institution the object of which is to assist discharged youthful offenders.

The problem before this new committee has been occupying the attention of the authorities for the past thirty years; but for one reason or another, although periodically the Advisers to the Ministry of Justice have given the question their attention, it is only to-day that it has been possible to set up a permanent committee which will thus ensure that progress shall not depend on the enthusiasm or the reverse of one individual. Progress in the past has admittedly been slow. It was only in 1904 that the law was altered and judges were empowered to substitute, for the ordinary penalties prescribed by the law, whipping, detention in reformatory and delivery to parents on their offering personal genrantees in the case of young offenders under the age of fifteen. In 1905 a further step forward was registered when jurisdiction over young offenders in Cairo and Alexandria was transferred to one particular Court in each of those towns. A little later on a judge was appointed in each of those cities specially to deal with these cases. This reform had a most salutary effect, thanks to the great interest taken in the work and sound common sense shown by the first judges appointed. Sir Malcolm M'Ilwraith in his reports at the time put on record the excellent work done by these two judges, particularly in the case of the judge appointed in Cairo, and it is interesting and instructive to note that the two judges in question, Abdel Khalek Pasha Sarwat and Abdel Fattah Yehya Pasha, are repectively Acting Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, and Minister of Justice in the very Cabinet which has approved of the formation of this much-needed Committee. Unfortunately these two judges were soon transferred to other posts; their successors, do not seem to have shown the same interest in the work, with the result that no progress in the solution of the problem was made until early this year, when in Cairo a special Court and prosecuting office were set up to deal with the question, while similar provision is about to be made in Alexandria.

### Looking to the Future.

The task before this permanent committee is no light one, for the problem of what to do with the vagabond children, who are annually growing in numbers, both in the cities and the provinces, and are swelling the ranks of the criminal class, is most difficult. The existing law requires very considerable amendment and a very necessary provision, which will have to be introduced, is punishment for the men and women who live on the earnings of children and send them out into the streets to beg and steal. Likewise provision must be made for housing these young offenders and vagabonds.

There is, it is true, a reformatory at Giza for boys and girls; but it is highly undesirable that youngsters whose sole offence is that they are vagabonds or beggars should mix with the young thieves and pick-pockets who are dealt with there. Under the auspices of the Commandant of Police an industrial farm school was started last year at Khanka, where a small number of boy-vagabonds can be accommodated. There is also an excellent institution of waifs and strays run by the Brotherhood; but beyond those two and the Waif Orphanage there are no institutions in this country.

Considering the number of vagabond children, not to mention young offenders, in Cairo, Alexandria and the Provinces—in the Capital alone the Police say they could arrest four hundred at any time—the above-mentioned provision is obviously inadequate; for it is just as necessary to provide institutions where these young children can be trained to earn an honest livelihood as it is to clear them periodically off the streets. The new committee, which is a strong body, should be able to do much to remedy the present state of affairs; and it is to be hoped that its recommendations will receive proper support from the Government.

### Cairo's Landmarks.

Changes are almost daily taking place in Cairo, and one by one the old land-marks and meeting places are disappearing. The latest to be so affected is the Savoy Hotel, the scene of most of the brilliant assemblies and *fêtes*, which were a feature of previous seasons. From shortly after the outbreak of war until about a year ago the Savoy was the General Headquarters of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, which after a short sojourn at Abbassia was brought back into town to Eden Palace Hotel. (These successive moves, it may be remembered were made the subject of much criticism by Anti-waste spokesmen in the House of Commons). The Savoy Hotel, under the name of "Savoy House," has now been taken over by the Government, to meet the growing needs of some of the newer departments, at an annual rental of L.E. 12,000. In view of the uncertainty of the coming winter season the Nungovitch Hotels have done well to lease the hotel, and I understand that the Board of Directors are jubilant at the handsome rental they will receive.

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## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, August 24.*

**Belgrade and Baranya.**

The Baranya business, which at one time threatened to be a new storm centre, has blown over. The turbulent spirits met with a cold douche when they came to Belgrade, for M. Pashitch is too wise and experienced to be caught in any wild-cat scheme. He told the delegates that the country required peace and rest to organise itself and settle down properly, that it could not be dragged into any policy of adventure, and that, above all, it was essential for the Peace Treaties to be carried out in their entirety. As in the matter of the Fiume question the Belgrade Government has been absolutely correct, probably to the disappointment of the adventurous spirits, and of the enemies of the country, who would welcome a false step on the part of the Serbs. The Government then ordered the evacuation of the Baranya, and did everything it could to avoid a conflict.

This satisfactory conclusion, however, has had an unfortunate aftermath. Practically the entire Yugoslav press has issued reports alleging open and marked partisanship on the part of the Allied Mission. The statements are too categorical to be overlooked or dismissed at once. It is stated that the British officer in command showed himself unnecessarily aggressive in his dealings with the Yugoslav officials, that he boasted of having twice turned the Serbs out of Korushka, and was going to have them as quickly out of the Baranya. As an instance of the attention that is being paid to these reports I may mention that the *Jutarnji List* of Zagreb attributed this hostility to an Ally and partisanship for enemies to inspiration from London, caused by the investment of British capital in Danube navigation, which will be easier to control with that stretch of the river in Hungarian hands, since the British are now all powerful at Budapest. It is certainly most undesirable that Yugoslav papers, in Belgrade and in Zagreb, should accuse a British officer of gross partisanship and partiality in the execution of his duty as a delegate of the Allied Council in dealing with a defeated enemy, and should infer from the absence of any notice being taken of their charges that their accuracy is established. Advantage is likely to be taken of the incident in interested quarters in order to inflict a blow on British prestige, at a time when British business relations with Yugoslavia are becoming more and more important.

The natives of the Baranya are extremely disappointed at the failure of their little republic. A large number of them are migrating into Yugoslavia. It is stated that 3,000 of the miners of the Pécs collieries have left the district to seek work in the Yugoslav mines. The population is very mixed, consisting of Hungarians, Germans, Slovak colonists and Yugoslavs, many of whom are Serbian immigrants from Herzegovina who have accepted the Roman Catholic faith. That the Slavs should flee from Maygar reprisals is not at all surprising. It is also interesting to note that the Austro-Hungarian 6th Regiment mutinied in May, 1918, against Austria, claiming a republic. A number of ringleaders who were condemned to death succeeded in escaping. The Hungarian element is divided between the Horthyists and the Karolyists, who are out for a socialist-republican regime in Hungary and look to Yugoslavia for allies against Admiral Horthy or any possible return of the Hapsburgs.

**The Hapsburgs.**

The Hapsburgs are learning something about unpopularity. The ex-Emperor Karl failed to get back to Budapest, and another member of the family has tried to take up his residence in Yugoslavia, but without success. The Archduke Reiner, the most popular member of the Hapsburg family, son of the Archduke Leopold Salvator, made a morganatic marriage and renounced his rights. His wife is the daughter of Baron Vladimir Nikolitch of Zagreb, and the ex-Archduke has recently been visiting his father-in-law. He has also been in Liubliana and Bled, under a false passport with the name of Karlstein. But he was found out and conducted to the frontier.

**Elections in Montenegro.**

The first municipal elections in Montenegro have just been held, and the results are interesting. There are now, of course, no Communists. The Democrats swept the board with 33 successful candidates, the Radicals came next with 16, and these combined made an overwhelming majority in favour of the Coalition Government. The remaining parties are represented as follows: One Neutral, one Republican, two "Green," i.e. *Zelenash* or reactionaries, and supporters of the Petrovitch Njegush dynasty, and one Councillor who rather pathetically describes himself as an ex-Communist.

**Miscellaneous News.**

The sensation which was caused some weeks ago by the arrest of the Russian General Komesaroff has been increased by the revelation that he was not only in close touch with the Communists, but also a pronounced germanophil, as is shown by documents discovered in his possession. The police are said also to have discovered a certificate to the effect that he was in the service of the Hungarian Intelligence, recommending him to all Hungarian officials.

The Belgrade Consumers Association has succeeded in reducing the price of meat by a dinar and a half per kilo, by establishing their own butchers shops, where they are selling beef and veal at six dinars per kilo, against the 7½ dinars which is the price in the shops. Even this is a reduction on last year's prices.

It is unusual for wolves to put in an appearance in the low ground or near villages except during long hard frosts. It is probably the prolonged drought which is the cause of packs of these animals in several districts along the coast. In one commune they have destroyed about 200 sheep. They are extraordinarily bold and penetrate right into the paddocks of the villagers. The police are organising a wolf-drive and the peasants, who had been disarmed, will have their weapons returned to them.

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## GREECE.

*Athens, August 26.*

**The Death of King Peter.**

The news of the death of King Peter, King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, was received her with much regret. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Baltazzi accompanied by the Director of the Foreign Office, called at the Serbian Legation and expressed the condolences of the Hellenic Government to the Minister, M. Balougdjitch. The sad news of King Peter's death was immediately telegraphed to King Constantine at the front.

A service in memory of the late King was held last Sunday morning at the Russian Church in Athens, in the presence of the Diplomatic Corps, the Prime Minister, M. Gounaris, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Marine, also a large number of Serbians and Russians residing in the Greek capital.

**An Attempt that Failed.**

An attempt to wreck the Dedeagatch-Karagatch train was made on the night of August 15, when two bombs were placed on the railway line at a point about 10 kilometres from the latter town. The bombs exploded a few minutes before the arrival of the train destroying a bridge. Unaware of what had occurred, the train continued its onward run and the engine and one wagon fell into the stream. Fortunately there were no victims.

The authorities have taken extraordinary steps to discover the perpetrators of the dastardly attempt which reminds one of the policy of frightfulness adopted by the *Komitajis* in Macedonia prior to the Balkan wars. The attempt is attributed to members of the so-called Turko-Bulgarian revolutionary organisations which were recently formed in Thrace. Five arrests have been made so far.

**The Crown Prince of Persia.**

On Friday last Athens was honoured by the visit of the Crown Prince of Persia, who arrived from Alexandria accompanied by his uncle, the Persian Prime Minister, and many other high officials.

The distinguished visitors were received by Admiral Malicopoulos and the harbour-master of Piraeus, on behalf of the Hellenic Government, and after spending a few hours in Athens and visiting the Acropolis and the Museums, returned to their ship, which left in the same evening for Smyrna and Constantinople.

**Greece and the League of Nations.**

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Baltazzi, who was appointed President of the Greek Delegation at the second session of the League of Nations, declares that owing to the political situation he will be unable to leave Athens at present. He will be replaced by M. G. Streit. The other members will be M. D. Panas, Greek Minister at Bucharest, M. S. Seferiadis, M. Frangoudis, and M. Lambiris. The military and naval advisers have not yet been appointed. The Greek delegation will probably leave Athens on Sunday.

**General News.**

The Government has denied the rumour to the effect that the High Commissioner of Smyrna, M. Stergiadis, had tendered his resignation.

The Press Bureau of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has issued a statement denying the information published in the French and Italian newspapers to the effect that the ex-Kaiser sent a telegram to King Constantine and Queen Sophie congratulating them on the victories of the Hellenic Army.

An offer by a German firm of 50 aeroplanes, now in Denmark, was declined by the Greek Government.

King Constantine who was suddenly taken ill at Eskishehir is rapidly recovering his health. His Majesty has been ordered by the doctors to stay in bed for a few days.

The Minister of War, M. Theotokis, has returned to Eskishehir.

Colonel Macrycostas has been appointed Quarter-master-General in the place of Colonel Lidorikis, who has been granted leave.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, August 24.*

Outwardly the week has been uneventful in the political world as far as the various parties are concerned in their relations to one another, and the situation remains intricate. In the inner political life the outstanding feature this week is the secession of M. Take Jonescu's partisans at Jassy from the Governmental group of that town; the former have denounced the fact of collaboration and have intimated to M. Take Jonescu to do likewise at the centre within the ensuing two months. This manifestation took place just on the eve of M. Take Jonescu's departure for abroad, and as the Cabinet cannot in present circumstances afford to allow a domestic conflict to grow, M. Argetoyano, Minister of the Interior, has undertaken the task of squaring up matters before Parliament re-assembles. M. Take Jonescu has gone on leave for forty days, and will take the waters at Vichy; his journey has no official character, but he expects to meet various Western statesmen. The Cabinet will be presided over by M. Argetoyano, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be in the charge of M. Antonesco, Minister of Justice; until such time as General Averesco returns.

**Roumania and the Soviets.**

In reply to a note from Tchitcherin, the Soviet Foreign Secretary, complaining about the hostile attitude of Roumania and ascribing to her the intention of declaring war on the Soviets, the Foreign Office has declared the allegations devoid of foundation, and has pointed out that on the contrary, bands of Bolshevists have repeatedly attempted to make incursions on Roumanian territory. The Soviet Government, moreover, has been reminded that M. Tilalitti, President of the Roumanian Delegation appointed to negotiate with the Russian Government, has been waiting for the last four months to be put into touch with the Soviet delegation.

In another note the Soviet Government expressed the wish to be allowed to send a Commission to buy wheat in Roumania. The Cabinet replied that the sale of wheat in Roumania for export is being carried out exclusively by the State, and that as about 20,000 wagons are to be delivered first to France on an old contract, the State will not be in a position to ascertain the available surplus until after delivery has been completed.

**Miscellaneous News.**

An Inter-Allied Commission for the delimitation of the Roumano-Hungarian frontier has arrived, and the members have been presented to Prince Carol. The Commission subsequently left for Budapest, *en route* for Oradea-Mare, where it begins work.

General Rashcano, Minister of War, has been delegated to represent Roumania at the funeral of King Peter of Yugoslavia.

At the invitation of the South-East European Institute, Professor W. Craigie of Oxford, and Dr. A. Wright, Vice-President of the Folk-lore Society have arrived to give a series of lectures.

The Roumanian steamer *Regele Carol* has been put at the disposal of the French University Professors and students who are to leave Naples on August 27, and are due to arrive at Galatz on a visit to Roumania.

Large fires in the forests around the mountains of Colibitzia and Parva have taken place lately. As so frequently proves to be the case, the fires have been found to be the work of shepherds anxious to enlarge the grazing areas for their flocks.

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## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, August 28.*

**The Political Situation.**

The Sobranje assembled on the 25th for its extraordinary Autumn Session, and yesterday the amendments to the law for the trade in cereals, and "Article 4" were due to be brought in. M. Stambolisky is expected back any day and it is not likely that the amendments will be finally approved before he returns.

It is now an open secret that the ranks of the Agrarian Party are divided; and at the meeting of the party which was held at Sofia ten days ago a vote of confidence in the Government was only passed by a small majority. There are two main groups amongst the Agrarians which for purposes of reference may be styled the Moderates and the Extremists. The Moderates have at their head M. Manoloff, President of the Sobranje, who is actively supported by M. Thomoff, the newly appointed Minister of the Interior, and also by three other Ministers, M.M. Radouloff, Boteff, and Tourlakoff. The adherents to this group number about 40 out of a total of 109 Agrarian Deputies in the Sobranje. Their policy may be said to be nearly a "bourgeois" one; and in conjunction with M. Drachioff, who is still living quietly at Stara-Zagora, they aim at the gradual restoration of the economic life of the country, without having recourse to violent and extreme legislation. The extremists count amongst their leaders M. Dimitroff, Minister of War, M. Dashkaloff, Minister of Commerce, and M. Onarchevsky, Minister of Public Instruction, whilst they have a following of some 50-60 deputies. Their policy is an entirely agrarian one and is calculated to favour only the peasants at the expense of the bourgeois.

There remain the Prime Minister, M. Oboff, and M. Bakaloff. The latter two Ministers appear undecided as to their future course of action, while M. Stambolisky is endeavouring to bring about a reunion and conciliation between the two opposing groups.

The fact that there is disunion amongst the Agrarians is, however, a serious menace to the continuance of the Government, as there are indications that the principal opposition parties have at last patched up their petty differences and are ready to show a united front. The Democrats are the chief among the various parties in opposition, although the Communists are numerically stronger, and it is they—the Democrats—who supply the two leading men, viz., M. Malinoff and M. Liaptcheff.

Naturally it is impossible to predict when a change of Government will take place; but it is considered in well informed circles, that the time is drawing very near. For a long while past discontent at the prevailing economic situation has been increasing, both in the minds of peasants and bourgeois, and the idea that a change, no matter what it is, will be for good has been growing.

The Agrarian Government has held office, as a purely Agrarian Government for less than two years, but these years have not been ordinary ones, coming as they did in the wake of a great war and entailing many difficulties in the way of both external and internal administration. In view of the many reforms which the Government has either brought in or attempted to bring in, and the widespread unpopularity of these reforms it would seem that the Government might at least be well advised to appeal to the country for a further vote of confidence. If it took this step, the matter would at any rate assume a clearer aspect and the country would know where it stood. It is, however, to be feared that in certain quarters the love of power is too great to allow of this step being taken and a change will only be brought about by political manoeuvres. There remains, of course, the King, who has the right to demand the resignation of the Government; but for a young Monarch, who is entirely alone, this step offers considerable difficulties.

Meanwhile the chief figure, M. Stambolisky is still abroad, and although he is daily expected back, it is said that his stay will be of short duration, as he is due to attend the Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva on September 5. When he returned from his "100 days tour in Europe," he found that intrigue and disaffection were ripe in his party, but the presence of his commanding personality soon sufficed to dispel the trouble. It is possible that once again he may be able to pull his party together, but it is certain that his task is much harder to-day than it was six months ago.

**The Army.**

On Tuesday, the 22nd, in conformity with the decision of the Council of Ambassadors, 7,000 men were dismissed from the Army and from now onwards 7,000 will be dismissed each week until by the end of September the Compulsory Army is totally disbanded. Meanwhile recruiting for the Voluntary Army is proceeding very slowly, and the total number of soldiers so far obtained is under a thousand. The conditions of service have been made even more attractive, the pay of a private soldier having been raised to 750 levas a month with the promise of 4 months' leave on full pay each year. The officers pay is to be doubled. The amount necessary for the upkeep of the Army now being so large, it is not likely that any further increases in pay will be made. Here the matter promises to rest and on October 1 the country will be without an armed force. Nevertheless, since I last wrote on the same subject, three weeks ago, several new factors have presented themselves. The first is the suggestion that no Army at all should be kept, but that in its place a Gendarmerie should be formed, to be officered by army officers, and to have a total strength of some fifteen to twenty thousand men. The advantages of this scheme are obvious; it will cost much less than the Army, and as the length of service will be comparatively short, say three years, it should not be difficult to secure the necessary numbers. The idea is only in its infancy but is well worth considering, for it must be remembered that the Peace Treaty only allows Bulgaria an army of 20,000 proper, and owing to the relative smallness of this figure it may well be argued that the country would do well to forgo having an army at all, and instead let it be known that she looks to the Great Powers for protection in the event of external aggression.

Apart from this, there is existent an idea that the Council of Ambassadors may allow a delay for the execution of the terms. The reason for this life lies in the fact that the Government, no doubt to a certain extent guided by the views of the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control, always thought that some modifications would be made in the terms. The order for the complete disbandment of the Compulsory Army by October 1 came in the nature of a bombshell.

**Departure of Sir Arthur Peel.**

Sir Arthur Peel, the retiring British Minister, left Sofia on Tuesday the 23rd, for London. A large number of officials and friends were at the station to see him off, and general regret is felt at his departure.

Sir Arthur Peel, and Colonel Baird, the Military Attaché for Turkey and Bulgaria were the guests of King Boris at Euxinograd Palace, Varna, last week, and after the Minister had presented his letters of recall the King bestowed on him the Order of Civil Merit (1st class).

The new Minister, the Honourable W. F. Erskine, is not expected to arrive until the middle of September, and till them Mr. Rodd, Secretary of the Legation, will act as Chargé d'Affaires. This is the third change in two years that has taken place in our Diplomatic Representation at Sofia; Sir Herbert Dering holding the first for nine months from January 1920 to October of the same year while Sir Arthur Peel has only been here ten months. The coming Minister is a younger brother of the Earl of Mar and Kellie and has been Minister at Havana, whilst he has previously held posts at Rome, Athens, and Stockholm.

Sir Charles Stewart Wilson, the Secretary General of the English Delegation on the Reparations Commission, left Sofia on August 27 for London.

M. Radeff, the newly-appointed Bulgarian Minister to Berne, left Sofia on August 20, to take up his post.

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## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, August 27*

**The League of Nations and Albania.**

September 1 is the date fixed by the Secretary General of the League of Nations for the attendance of the Albanian delegates at Geneva, when the Council proposes to consider the relations between Albania and Serbia. The opinion held in Albania is that these relations can quite well be maintained on a correct and friendly footing if the Serbians accept the frontier fixed in 1913 and if Greece subsequently can be brought to accept it as well.

**Serbian Bands.**

According to the information received here the Yugoslav authorities continue to form and arm bands of Serbian *Komitajis* to operate on Albanian territory. These bands are sent towards Luma and Mirdita with the object of creating the impression that the north of Albania is in revolt against the Tirana Government. But in spite of all the rumours which find their way into the foreign press there is no point at issue between the Mirdites and the Government; the chief Marka Gjoni is in Serbia with a handful of followers only. The Mirdites themselves, as well as the other Catholic inhabitants of Northern Albania, are opposed to all insurrectionary movements.

**Relations with Greece.**

For the last few days there has been an appreciable improvement in Greco-Albanian relations. The frontier between Koritza and Florina, which has been closed for three months, has been re-opened; travellers pass without encountering any difficulty, and trade has resumed its normal aspect.

**The Island of Saseno.**

A report has gained currency that Great Britain had proposed that the island of Saseno should be handed over to Greece on the ground that the majority of the inhabitants were Greeks. Commenting upon this the *Drita* of Argyrocastro remarks:—Saseno is an uninhabited rock; there are only rabbits on it, and we do not suppose that these animals are Greek. At the present moment there is a company of Italian soldiers on Saseno. The island, however, is still regarded by the Albanians as an integral part of Albania. The agreement signed at Tirana on August 2, 1920, between the Albanians and the Italians did not give the latter any rights on the island of Saseno. Albanian sovereignty over it is unimpaired. Albania, moreover, can never renounce her sovereignty over the island for fear of disturbing the equilibrium of her frontiers, through seeing herself compelled to make similar sacrifices in other directions. In other words Albania does not wish to recognise any Italian right over Saseno, as she does not wish and cannot consent to any rectification of the frontier in favour of the Serbians.

From an authoritative source I learn that on July 8 last, the British delegate before the Commission on Albanian affairs at the Quai d'Orsay, having asked whether Albania considered the island of Saseno within her 1913 frontiers, the Albanian delegate replied that "the 1913 frontiers admit of no exception." Another argument used by the Albanians is as follows:—Italy wishes to have Saseno in order to guarantee her supremacy in the Adriatic, and, if occasion arises, to use it as a base in any future conflict with Yugoslavia. But in that case Slavs and Italians would be fighting one another on the Albanian coast and would make Albania their battleground. Very rightly Albania has no desire to be ravaged by armies fighting for a cause to which she remains a stranger.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, August 16*

**News from Smyrna.**

Letters from Smyrna (where there are over 1,600 Cypriots one of which is published in the *Phone tes Kyprou*, say that the strongest desire prevails that, after the conclusion of the King's "triumphant campaign" in Asia Minor, when elections are likely to be held in Greece, M. Venizelos should obtain a commanding majority, and will, it is hoped, return to occupy the position to which his splendid services entitle him. The King, it is asserted, speaks in the highest terms of him, and of what he is doing for Greece, and the future should see the official collaboration of these two great saviours of Hellas. The British Consul, it is reported, has appointed a committee to watch over the interests of the Cypriot colony. The greatest order prevails in the city.

**Miscellaneous News.**

The High Commissioner has been paying a visit to Limassol, and has taken advantage of the opportunity for some sea bathing. He has also been to Larnaca, where he received a visit from the new Hellenic Consul, M. Papavasiliou. After proceeding to Nicosia, he has returned to Troodos, accompanied by the Acting Chief Secretary.

The Chief Inspector of Schools, Canon F. Newham, has been requested by the High Commissioner to examine all the school buildings at Nicosia, and to submit a report on their condition. Progress is being made with the rebuilding of the Greek Gymnasium, which was destroyed by fire. In reply to the application for a loan of £10,000, the Loan Commissioners have stated that present circumstances do not admit of the advance of such an amount. This has caused disappointment, but it is hoped that it may be found possible to lend smaller sums annually for a term of years.

## THE ACCESSION OF KING FAISAL.

On the occasion of his enthronement in Baghdad the following telegram was sent to King Faisal by His Majesty King George:—

I offer your Majesty my sincere congratulations on this historic and moving occasion, when, by an overwhelming vote of the people of Irak, the ancient city of Baghdad has again become the seat of an Arab kingdom. It is a source of deep gratification to myself and my people that the combined military effort of the British and Arab forces and those of their Allies has culminated in this memorable event. The treaty which will shortly be concluded between us to consecrate the alliance into which we entered during the dark days of war will, I am confident, enable me to fulfil my solemn obligations by inaugurating an era of peace and renewed prosperity for Irak.

(Signed) GEORGE, R.I.

To this message King Faisal sent the following reply:—

I am profoundly touched and greatly rejoiced at the royal and gracious favour which you have extended towards me and towards my people in your Majesty's message. On this auspicious day, when Baghdad, the city of the Khalifs, has become for the second time the capital of an Arab kingdom, I recall with pride how white has been the hand of your Majesty and of your noble people in the achievement of Arab aspirations. I am confident that the Arab nations will justify your Majesty's reliance on the success of their efforts to regain their pristine glory provided that they continue to enjoy the support and friendship of Great Britain. I doubt not that the treaty which will be concluded shortly between us will strengthen the bonds of alliance, already cemented with the mingled blood of Briton and Arab on the battlefield of the Great War, and that it will be established on unshakable foundations. Finally, I wish your Majesty and your honoured nation continued prosperity and enduring glory.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The *Times* Simla Correspondent states that the Ameer's Kalifa, with 500 Tori pilgrims, have left Kabul for Herat, *en route* to Meshed.

M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Premier, who returned to Sofia last week, left again to attend the Assembly of the League of Nations in Geneva on September 5.

The Bengal Legislative Council has, by a majority composed of the non-official members, passed a resolution demanding an inquiry into the general working of the Calcutta University.

Reuter's Agency learns that, owing to the disfavour with which the proposal to appoint Dr. Streit as Greek representative to the League of Nations Assembly was met amongst the Allies, the Greek Government decided that he should not go to Geneva.

A Reuter's message from Sofia, dated August 26, announces: The Minister of Finance, in his capacity as representative of the Bulgarian Treasury, will hold a watching brief in the suit against the former Radoslavoff Cabinet for the sum of 10 milliard leva (nominally £400,000,000), for damage caused to the State by the entry of Bulgaria into the war as an ally of the Central Powers in 1915.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

## Bulgaria's Future Army.

In the third of a series of articles written from Sofia Lieut-Colonel Repington discusses in "*The Daily Telegraph*" the question of disarmament. After referring to the military clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly, and to the statements regarding the concealment of arms, which place the number of rifles supposed not to have been delivered up at figures ranging from 20,000 to 180,000, he deals with the question of voluntary enlistment.

But these are not the most serious grounds for the marked uneasiness which prevails here on the question of the military articles of the Treaty. The trouble comes from two main causes: first, the inability, or professed inability, of Bulgaria to raise an army by voluntary recruiting, or to pay for it; and second, the passing of a law on compulsory labour, which has a strong affinity to conscription, and could be adapted to that purpose without much difficulty were the necessity to arise.

To deal with the army first, the position is that the Council of Ambassadors in Paris has cut all arguments short by giving a definite order that the army is to be placed on a basis of voluntary enlistment by October 1. Every Bulgarian whom I have consulted alleges that this is impracticable. The argument is that voluntary military service is unknown in Bulgaria; that the peasant proprietor will not enlist, least of all for twelve years; that to ask Bulgaria to raise 20,000-recruits for voluntary service in two months is the same thing as to ask England to raise 200,000 on the same terms and in the same period; that the only elements likely to enlist are the *vauriens* and the corner-boys; that such an army would have no discipline, and could not maintain order; that it might either become a Communist toy, as happened in Austria, or a Pretorian guard which would support some *coup d'etat* and become a public nuisance. The general impression is that 20,000 recruits, or even a quarter of that number, could not possibly be raised in the time, and a serious feeling of anxiety spread abroad when the Paris decision was announced. Lastly comes the argument that if Bulgaria could raise the 20,000 volunteers, she could not pay for them and the Reparations Commission appears to share this view. ..

Despite these opinions, and a statement made to me by a very level-headed British member of the Reparations Commission that Bulgaria had done her utmost to encourage voluntary enlistment and had failed, I am not convinced of her inability to carry out Article 65 of the Treaty, given a reasonable time. A great many Bulgarians go abroad annually to make money, and a great many more enlist in the French Foreign Legion, France having been careful to safeguard her powers of recruiting for the Legion under Article 103. There must obviously be a considerable floating population not tied to the land, while the fact that volunteers may not be so good as those made available by compulsion is common to all States that retain voluntary service.

But it will take time. General de Fourton thinks that Bulgaria may raise some 3,000 or 4,000 men the first year, and a similar number in subsequent years. His proposal is to make up the balance by ballot; to embody the unlucky number for four years, and gradually to replace the conscripts by volunteers as the latter enlist. The process may last some five years before it is complete. This solution seems to me reasonable and to be worth trying, but it has been refused by Paris, which has issued the edict to which I have alluded. How things will now go I cannot say, but it is obvious that to leave this country without the power of maintaining order is to assume a very heavy responsibility, and to bring before us the unpleasant alternative of a foreign occupation, the end of which cannot be foreseen.

I think that we ought to start from the Treaty, and make it abundantly clear to Bulgaria, as indeed Paris has done, that the terms which she accepted must be carried out, and that the Bulgarian army of the future must be voluntarily enlisted. But it is no use to try to fit every nation, regardless of its circumstances, into a bed of Procrustes, and to pretend that the conditions in Eastern and Western Europe are identical, when they are, in fact, totally different. Therefore, I think that, as local conditions must govern our action, we ought to leave to General de Fourton entire liberty as to the time, and what we call the modalités, for effecting the transition and carrying out the Treaty stipulations. Also, I think that it should be a matter for very serious consideration whether 3,000 frontier guards are enough to terminate the raids upon the Greek and Roumanian frontiers. In other words, we must look at facts as they are, and not legislate for a situation which does not exist.


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## Jew and Arab.

In an article entitled "Partners, not Enemies," *Palestine*, in its issue of August 27, seeks to show how the Jew and Arab may develop side by side in Palestine. It says that the Arab deputation in London, in asking the British Government to break its word to the Jews, is not expressing the real mind of the Arab. But it may be, it continues, that the Arab delegation will report on its return to Palestine that a policy of obstruction is against the interests of the Arabs, in which case the Jews could easily find a basis for settlement.

When the promise of a Jewish National Home was made there can be no doubt what was meant. What was in mind was a State of Palestine whose civilisation should be sufficiently Jewish to make a Jew who settled there feel himself to be at home, and to have a nation of his own. There are two ways in which that end could be accomplished. We might have begun by setting up a State in which the Government was entirely in the hands of Jews, and in which the British Government lent this Jewish oligarchy its physical support until such time as Jewish immigrants became a majority, and were able to defend themselves. There are parallels for this way of founding a State. Spain did something of the sort in South America, and England in Australia. But there the indigenous population was weak, divided, and, in the case of Australia, degraded, and this method obviously is not applicable to Palestine, and was never meant to be applied there. What is the alternative? To form a Government out of the elements existing in the country, and to leave the Arab majority and the Jewish minority to settle their own differences as best they can? That seems to be the idea of the Arab delegation, but everyone knows what the result would be. The Arab majority would resist the immigration of Jews and see to it that they never became a majority, but remained so small a minority that Palestine could never be their own or a nation that they could call their own. In other words, the policy of the Arabs would inevitably be to defeat the promise of a National Home to the Jews in Palestine.

Between these two extremes—the immediate establishment of a Jewish oligarchy based on physical force, whether its own or British, and the immediate setting up of a system of government whose policy is determined by a mere counting of heads—the one extreme advocated by a few rash and unwise Jews, the other by bigoted and unfriendly Arabs, there has to be found a middle course, which is both a fulfilment of the promise of a National Home and provides the fullest safeguards of Arab rights. This middle course cannot be found so long as a few Jewish extremists think of their home as a racial oligarchy imposed on an Arab majority, or so long as Arab extremists set themselves to resist the immigration of Jews and their chances of founding in Palestine a home and a nation. There must be no race-ascendancy policy on one side or the other. All Arab rights—social, legal and religious—must be respected, but Jewish rights—both present and prospective—must be guarded with equal jealously.

## "LA VITA ITALIANA."

Last month's issue of this Italian Magazine has two articles dealing with Near Eastern politics, "The Eve of a new Balkan War," and "Roumania and Bolshevism." The former, provocative and tendencious in tone, suggests, indeed invites, a Bulgaro-Serb attack on Greece, for the reversion of Thrace, while Greece is fighting in Anatolia. Apparently *La Vita Italiana* is so jealous of Greater Greece as to forget that Italy, like the rest of the world, is sick of national hatreds. "Roumania and Bolshevism" is a frank and critical exposition of the Roumania of 1921, and a friendly call to the fifth Latin State to "quit you like men" and "be strong." This latter article is an excellent reminder that Italian statesmanship, at its best, is no Cinderella among the Chancelleries of civilization—a wretched but prevalent opinion that every good Italian bitterly resents.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## A GLIMPSE OF TRIBAL CIVILISATION.

**"THE ANGAMI NAGAS," By J. H. Hutton, C.I.E., M.A.** *(Indian Civil Service)* **(London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., £2 net.)**

Assam is separated from Burma by a hilly region which extends from the valley of the Brammaputra to the Bay of Bengal. Its northern portion is occupied by a congeries of tribes who have not yet received the attention they deserve from British anthropologists. Every stage in the progress of mankind, from barbarism to a relatively high degree of civilisation, may be studied in their habitat. Mr. J. H. Hutton, C.I.E., has made the most advanced of those communities the subject of a monograph which possesses absorbing interest. The Angami Nagas, of whom he discourses:—

Pay no house tax, and do no reluctant coolie work; know not the seed of conversion, and the sword of dissension which missionaries bring, nor have been made to eat of that forbidden fruit which drove our first parents into fig-leaves and banishment. The diseases which follow in the wake of civilisation have not yet touched them, and they go clothed with modesty rather than "Dhooties."

It is a mistake to suppose that alien forms of civilisation imply diversity of mental processes; for intensive study reveals fundamental similarity in most branches of the human race. The Angami Nagas are highly intelligent. Their outlook on life is more consonant with the average European's than that of the majority of Indians, whose perceptions have been warped and stunted by the trappings of caste. Truth with them is the rule, and falsehood the exception; and they will serve a sympathetic master with conspicuous fidelity. Their lavish hospitality towards strangers stands in marked contrast with the frugality of their households. They have a keen sense of humour, and are always ready for a joke.——

And yet behind their spontaneous geniality lies a vein of deep melancholy. The thought of death is never far from them, and the fear of it is a potent factor in their lives. This is particularly noticeable in their songs; their music, invariably solemn and dirge-like, being reminiscent of the fifty-first Psalm, even though the subject be love, as it almost invariably is. But this is not all. There is a tendency in the vast majority of their songs to animadvert on the brevity of life and the dread finality of death.

Thus Angami Naga folksong echoes the Horatian plaint:—

We, alas, earth, naughty kings,
We, who promise better things,
Losing soon our happy prime,
Pine and fade in little time.
Spring returns, but not one bloom;
All is silent in the tomb.

A race which is moved by such sentiments has emerged from the soul-crushing level of barbarism. It must be admitted that the Angami Naga has no regard whatever for sanitary science; and was an inveterate head-hunter until British influence compelled him to mend his ways. He is an instructive monogamist, treats his women-folk with kindness, and respects the sanctity of the marriage tie; but does not expect chastity in the unmarried girls of his class. His religion is a mixture of animism, magic and reverence for nature-powers; but idolatry is quite unknown. Great progress has been attained in craftsmanship; spinning, weaving, and metallurgy being practiced with the help of simple but effective machinery. Splendid crops are raised by terrace cultivation, and deficiency in rainfall is remedied by a complex system of miniature canals. The Angami Naga warrior's costume at the ceremonies in which he delights, is as elaborate in its way as that of Louis the Fourteenth courtiers. Indeed, as regards the "scaffolding of life"—to use a happy phrase invented by Sir M. Grant-Duff—the tribes on our North-Western Frontier have made greater progress than their contemporaries on the other side of India.

The folklore of this isolated region proves that many western legends have travelled far afield. Browning's "Pied Piper of Hamelin" has its counterpart in an Angami Naga tale telling how a strong man took refuge from his enemies in a cave, and thereafter enticed their children to his retreat.

By singing and making manifold music; and the parents of the boys sought them but found them not."

Still more curious is the Angami Naga version of the Biblical "Tower of Babel."

Ukepenopfu was the first human being. Her descendants are very many. Instead of dying, she was translated into heaven. Later on her descendants thought to communicate with her by building a tower up to heaven, up which they might go and talk to her. She, however, knowing their thoughts, said to herself, "They will all expect presents, and I have no presents for so many men. The tower must be stopped before it gets any higher." So she made all the men working at the tower to talk different languages, so that they could not understand each other; and while one said "bring a stone," they would fetch water or a stick, and so forth; so that all was confusion, and the tower was abandoned. Hence the different tongues of the various tribes of men.

Mr. Hutton's monograph is illustrated by 54 maps, sketches, and photographic plates. Although he modestly refuses to pose as an ethnographer, he has produced a work of great scientific value, which may serve as a model for future studies of the isolated branches of our race. F.H.S.

## THE DITHYRAMBICS OF NON-CO-OPERATION.

**"THE POLITICAL GITA or THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE." By V. M. Shah, Bombay, "Published for free Circulation among world-thinkers only."**

This is a rather thinly-disguised pamphlet in favour of the non-violent type of non-co-operation. At least we think that is the object, but it may really be meant as a skit; we have tried it both ways, and can make nothing of it. Just at the end, the author explains that it is the result of meditating upon the experiences of (amongst others) Kabir, Nietziche, Rama and Schopenhauer, and perhaps mental indigestion is the most sympathetic diagnosis.

## IN THE TERAI JUNGLE.

**"THE JUNGLE GIRL," by Gordon Casserley (London: Philip Allan and Co. 6s. net.)**

The story of sport in India, particularly in the Terai Jungle, will give pleasure to many readers, and they will follow with real excitement the adventures of Frank Wargrave. He must be regarded as the hero of the tale, as his tangled love affairs form the plot which keeps together the descriptions of his experiences when tiger shooting and so on. But the real hero is obviously the elephant, Badshah, who has apparently played the same part in a former book by Mr. Casserley. The final adventure, when Badshah is the means of rescuing Cassidey and the loyal and attractive Jungle Girl makes a suitably thrilling climax to a story that holds the reader's attention from the beginning.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**
September 8 (New Style).
August 26 (Old Style).
Moharram 6, 1340 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar,
Elul, 5,5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

The King and Queen of Roumania arrived in Paris last Thursday from Dinard.

M. Stancioff, the Bulgarian Minister, has returned to town from the country.

M. Slavko Grouitch, Yugoslav Minister in America, arrived in London last week on his way to Washington.

M. Nicolas H. Lahovary has been appointed First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London.

His Highness the Maharao of Kutch left London last week for Geneva.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer and Lady Plumer have left England for Malta.

The Earl of Bessborough left Southampton last week in the R.M.S.P. Avon for South America.

On August 26, at Alexandria, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Lea-Birch of Khartoum.

Dr. V. Mastny, the Czecho-Slovak Minister, has left London for The Hague to attend the International Law Conference.

On August 25, at Postmore, Simla, a daughter was born to Captain K. H. Noel (Indian Army) and Mrs. Noel.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mrs. Gladys Robinson Duff and Mr. Robert Vansittart, C.M.G., M.V.O., of the Foreign Office.

Prince William of Sweden, travelling as the Duke of Sodermanland, has arrived at Khartoum from a sporting and scientific expedition in Uganda and the Belgian Congo.

A marriage has been arranged between William Stalkartt Morrison, I.C.S., Burma, and Edith Eleanor, eldest daughter of the Rev. Herbert and Mrs. Moore, Acton Vicarage, Nantwich.

According to a Geneva report M. Jean Ghika, the 16-year-old son of the Roumanian Minister in Paris, slipped while making a descent from the Thion crest, and was killed.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant Colonel Pierce Yoyce, C.B.E., D.S.O., Croix d'Officier, Legion d'Honneur, Connaught Rangers, and Miss Colin Murray will take place in Bombay about October 1.

Adly Yeghen Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt, has left London for Paris. The negotiations between the Egyptian and British Governments will be resumed at a later date.

Mr. Norman Bentwich is on his way to London to discuss legal matters concerning Palestine. He will be absent for about two months, during which period Mr. R. H. Brayton will take his place as Legal Secretary.

The engagement is announced of Captain E. V. R. Bellers, 1st K.G.O. Gurkha Rifles, eldest son of Colonel E. V. and Mrs. Bellers, of Bedford, and Nancy, youngest daughter of Colonel H. J. and Mrs. Barnes, of Colyton, Devon.

M. Alex Ludskanof, formerly Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, has arrived in London to act as Bulgarian representative on the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal set up to deal with the private claims of British and Bulgarian nationals.

On September 1, at St. James's, Paddington, the marriage took place of Mr. David Jardine Bethell, M.C., Sudan Civil Service, youngest son of Col. E. H. and Mrs. Bethell, of 18, Hyde Park Square, to Erica Gwytherne de Grey.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain A. G. C. Bidie, 10th. Lancers, Indian Army, and Madeline (Madge), eldest daughter of G. H. Bent, 11, Brechin-place, London, and will take place at the Brompton Oratory on September 12, at 2.15 p.m.

Mr. John H. Humphreys, Secretary of the Proportional Representation Society, is visiting Malta, at the suggestion of the Maltese Government, for the purpose of giving advice with regard to proportional representation, which is to be applied to the coming elections in the island.

On August 31, at St. Michael and All Angels', Chetwyn, the marriage was solemnized of Mr. A. H. Gurney, I.C.S., to Miss Nancy Ward Evans, only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. Ward Evans, of The Old Hall, Newport, Shropshire. The Rev. Charles Peake officiated.

The marriage was celebrated on August 23, at St. Peter's Church, Bishop Auckland, by the father of the bride, between Kenneth Henry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. C. Joly, of Beyrout, Syria, and Ethel Gertrude eldest daughter of the Rev. C. F. and Mrs. Bickmore, of Bishop Auckland, County Durham.

The marriage arranged between Robert Eliot Fryer (late Major, R.E.), eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. C. R. Fryer, 6, Queen-street, Colchester, and Alice Napier, daughter of Leiutenant-Colonel and Mrs. H. N. Jervois, of North Leasowes, Malvern, will take place at the end of November in Bombay.

Queen Olga of Greece arrived in Paris on the 2nd inst. from Brittany, where Prince and Princess Christopher of Greece have joined her from Aix-les-Bains, to make the final arrangements for the wedding of the latter's son, Mr. W. B. Leeds, to Princess Xenia of Greece, which will take place in Paris about the middle of September.

The engagement is announced of Captain Donald Stewart Fraser, 18th Lancers, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Viceroy of India, only son of Colonel P. F. Fraser, of Bedford, and Marjorie Constance Alice, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Moorsom, of Norton Manor, Radnorshire.


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The engagement is announced between Douglas Ward Bell, M.C., the Worcestershire Regiment, third son of the late Mr. David W. Bell and of Mrs. Bell, of Shanghai and Bedford, and Mary Kathleen, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Atherton West, of Cawnpore and Brierfield, Lancs.

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The marriage arranged between Lieutenant C. L. D. Fawcus, Royal Artillery, Punjab, India, son of the late Mr. C. O. Fawcus and Mrs. Fawcus, The Peake, Hythe, and Kathleen, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Graham Swan, will take place on October 6 at Ferozepore.

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M. Venizelos and Miss Schilizzi will be married on Thursday, September 15, at the residence of Sir Arthur Crosfield at West-hill, Highgate. After a short honeymoon on the Continent, M. Venizelos and his wife will go to America. It is their intention to stay a long while in California.

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A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Brian Halsey Tyrwhitt-Drake, only son of the late the Hon. Montague Tyrwhitt-Drake, of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and Miss Constance Letitia (Lettice) Lawrence, eldest daughter of the late the Hon. H. A. Lawrence and Mrs. Lawrence, of 9, Chantrey House, Eccleston-street, London, and granddaughter of the first Lord Lawrence of the Punjaub.

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The *London Gazette* announces that General the Right Hon. Sir Bryan T. Mahon, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., D.S.O., has retired on retired pay as from August 31st. Sir Bryan Mahon was in command of the British Forces at Salonika from 1915 to 1916, when he became Commander-in-Chief in Ireland until 1918. In the South African War he commanded the Kimberley column of Colonial Mounted Infantry at the relief of Mafeking, and in 1903 he was Governor of Khartoum.

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The *Gazette* announces that, under date Aug. 24, 1920, the King has been graciously pleased to ordain that Lucy Anna Maria, wife of John Storrs, Dean of Rochester, and daughter of the late Henry Francis Cockayne-Cust, shall henceforth enjoy the same title, rank, place, pre-eminence, and precedence as the daughter of a baron, which would have been due to her had her father survived his cousin, the late Adelbert Wellington Brownlow, Earl Brownlow, Vicount Alford, and Baron Brownlow, and had therefore succeeded to the title and dignity of Baron Brownlow.

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## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

It is officially announced that His Majesty, upon the advice of the Secretary of State for India, has accepted the resignation tendered by Sir Thomas Holland, K.C.S.I. K.C.I.E., of his office as Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India.

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Mr. Robert J. Thompson, of Messrs. Furness Withy and Co., Newcastle, has been appointed honorary Consul for Roumania at Newcastle. Messrs. Furness, Withy and Co., Limited, some time ago, took over large business interests on the Danube.

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Major-General E. H. Willis has been appointed Major-General R.A., Army Headquarters, India, in succession to the late Major-General C. E. D. Budworth. Major-General Willis was C.R.A., 12th Division and 17th Corps during the war, and subsequently in 1919 was appointed C.R.A., 6th Division Ireland. Recently he has been in command of an infantry brigade in Ireland.

## THE LATE KING PETER.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated for the late King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes on September 5, at 12.15 p.m. in the Church of St. Magnus the Martyr, by London Bridge. The service was arranged for the English members of the Otder of St. Sava, and the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton, the rector, officiated. The Rev. Dr. Hermitage Day delivered the address. His Excellency the Minister of the United Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, was present attended by the Serbian Military Attaché. Also present were the Portugese Minister, Mr. Edward Shortt, the Home Secretary, Sir Eyre Crowe and the Hon. R. C. Lindsay, representing the Foreign Office; Mr. J. B. Monck, Assistant Marshal of the Diplomatis Corps, representing the Marquiess Curzon; Mr. Stephen Gaselee, of the Foreign Office; Mr. Featherstone Whitty, Serbian Consul at Bristol; Sir Albert Kaye Rollit, Consul-General for Roumania; Baron de Santa Maria, Count Mijatovitch, Sir Lewis Newton, Lady Grogan, Sir Thomas Lipton, Captain C. Leveson-Gower, Mr. C. E. Osborn, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, Miss Garrett, M. de Alexyev, M. Smodlak, Archdeacon Potter, Mr. Tomlin, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Marrett Tims, Mr. Stanley Naylor, Mr. Harold Hartley, M.M.D Dimetrieveich, Colonel Lowry, the Rev. E. C. Linton, Rev. R. C. Sampson, Captain and Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. F. J. Egerton-Warburton, Miss Hedges, Miss D. Persse, Dr. Archer Houblon, Mrs, Beale, the Rev. J. Douglas, Mrs. T. C. Sandeman, Mrs. Robert Frank, and he Rev. A. M. Scrutton.

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## OBITUARY.

### M. DEMETRI RALLI,

Our Athens Correspondent writes (August 26):—The passing away of the ex-Prime Minister Demetrius Ralli, which occurred last week, after a long illness and an unsuccessful operation in Paris, is sincerely mourned by the entire country. Born in 1844, Demetrius Ralli completed his studies in France, afterwards returning to Greece where, a few years later, he was elected deputy in the "Boule" at the age of 29. At the age of 31 he became Minister of Education under the Premiership of Charilaos Tricoupis, and had since held almost every portfolio. He was made Prime Minister for the first time in 1897, and then again in 1903, 1905, 1909, and finally in November 1920, after the fall of M. Venizelos' Government.

M. Ralli was extremely popular in Attica, and only failed once to obtain a seat in the Parliament. This happened in 1912, when Panvenizelism reigned throughout the country. He was accorded a State funeral and military honours were rendered by the whole force comprising the Athens garrison.

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The *Basra Times* has been incorporated with the *Times of Mesopotamia*, which was published for the first time on July 11 We wish it every success in its new form.

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## PALESTINE UNDER THE MANDATE.

No fault can be found with the Palestine—on paper—presented to the world by the High Commisssioner, Sir Herbert Samuel, in his interim report on the first year's working of the Civil Administration. It is a simple record of honest endeavour and unostentatious achievement. The High Commmissioner tells his story unaffectedly. He has had no easy task, and he is within his rights in laying stress on the things of permanent value and glossing over the ephemeral ebullitions that are apt to figure so largely in the press presentation of contemporary history. A military administration had been labouring for the last two years at the restoration of the country from the exhaustion caused by the war. Palestine was already showing all the signs of gradually returning life when the Civil Administration took over the work, and at once, leaving out of account the standard attained before the war, set up as its goal a condition of things that would be more in keeping with the potentialities of the land and with its geographical position on one of the important highways of the world. The details are familiar to all who have watched or read of similar undertakings on the part of British officials. A judicial system we are told was established by the Military, and has been developed by the Civil Administration, which dispenses justice with a degree of integrity, impartiality and promptitude hitherto unknown in Palestine. All the railways have been brought under the control of the Government, and the Railway Department, in addition, operates the Sinai Military Railway between Kantara and Rafah. Many improvements have been effected, lines strengthened, gauges broadened, rolling stock provided to meet the requirements of modern travel. Special attention has been paid to the assistance of agriculture, the principal industry of Palestine. Agricultural assistants have been posted in all districts and instructed to tour the villages continually; plant diseases and insect pests are notified immediately and steps taken to prevent their spread; veterinary hospitals have been established; a fisheries service is charged with the improvement of the fishing industry; five meteorological stations have been created; forestry is a special care; agricultural shows have been held; above all, loans to agriculturists have assisted the revival of the country. An active desire for opportunities for education manifested itself at the outset, but the majority of the Moslems are illiterate, and to provide a number of schools sufficient for their requirements is a task of some magnitude. The plan adopted has been to invite the people where the school is needed to provide a suitable building and to keep it in repair. Government does the rest. Under this scheme, we learn, new schools are being opened at an average rate of more than one a week. Under a Department of Public Health progress is being made in combating the two maladies that are the most prevalent in Palestine—malaria and eye-disease. The record is not yet exhausted, but we may leave it with, perhaps, its greatest achievement—"the cost of the Civil Administration has been kept within the amount of the local revenue, and no grant-in-aid is received from the British Exchequer." Unfortunately a garrison of five thousand combatant troops entails a charge on the latter of £2,500,000 annually.

If from the Palestine as reflected in Government Departments we turn to the Palestine that has to be lived in to-day, we find a country far less placid than the report represents and than the Government deserves. Sir Herbert Samuel does not ignore the agitation which culminated in the Jaffa riots last May, but a Commission of Inquiry has investigated the causes, and until its report has been presented, he refrains from comment upon the disturbances. At the same time the Report brings into relief the *causa causans* of the trouble. There are in Palestine some 700,000 people; four-fifths of the whole population are Moslems, 77,000 are Christians, the Jewish element numbers 76,000. Almost all the latter have entered Palestine during the last forty years; the success of their agricultural colonies attracted the eager interest of the masses of the Jewish people scattered throughout the world, and it was not long before the idea of expanding this colonisation and industrial development into a Jewish political and spiritual home took firm root in the practical Jewish mind. "The British Government," writes the High Commissioner, "was impressed by the reality, the strength and the idealism of this movement," and recognising its value in insuring the future development of Palestine, decided to give to the Zionist idea, within certain limits, its approval and support. The Balfour declaration followed. It is well to keep the actual terms of the pronouncement in the memory:

> "His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by the Jews in any other country."

It was natural perhaps that the Declaration should mean one thing to the Zionists and another thing to the Arabs. The latter became uneasy as to its implications. To instal the Jews in Palestine might mean the expulsion of the Arabs, their lands and homes would be imperilled, the Moslem Holy Places might be taken from them. Quotations from Zionist speeches and writings were pressed into service to stimulate an agitation, and the inevitable outbreak followed, in April 1920. Although Sir Herbert Samuel points out that many men of education and enlightenment among the Arabs took no part in this antagonism, and among the mass of the population there were large numbers who, taking no interest in politics, thinking only of the needs of daily life, made no response to the agitation, it is to be feared that the score or so of months that have intervened have not brought about the spread of their wiser attitude or diminished the feelings of anxiety and hostility among the Arabs as a whole.

It should not be necessary to labour the point. The facts are clear; the Arab population has taken alarm

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(whether unjustifiably or not does not matter); if satisfactory relations are to be restored between Arabs and Jews, and the country is to revert to a state of peaceful progress, the Arab must be reassured. No exception can be taken to the High Commissioner's statement of the policy of the Administration. That policy contemplates the satisfaction of the legitimate aspirations of the Jewish race in relation to Palestine, combined with a full protection of the rights of the existing population. The Zionism that is practicable, he points out, is the Zionism that fulfils the essential condition. Jewish immigration is not to involve Arab emigration; the greater prosperity of the country, through the development of Jewish enterprises, is not to be at the expense of the Arabs. We need not stop to inquire whether Zionism started at too great a pace or not. Immigration, whether at the rate of one per cent. or twenty per cent, of the population, is a relative matter, and the only thing that counts is the total effect, whatever may be the causes, on the Arab. It may not be possible to reason with the natives, but the British Government should not have to say the same of Zionism. In the Arab mind the Jewish development of Palestine and British Administration should be identified as parts of a single whole representing progress and prosperity, and no occasion should be given to the Moslems to hold to the one while they resent the other. But unless in this matter Zionism first identifies itself with the British Administration, it will always run the risk of being singled out for attack.

## ARGYROCASTRO.

*By J. Strachey Barnes.*

In view of the recent decision of the Ambassadors' Conference in Paris to attribute Agyrocastro and its district to Albania, the following notes may prove of interest:—

The district of Argyrocastro or those parts of it which at one time it was proposed to cede to Greece had in 1911 unquestionably a majority of Moslem Albanians—and I have never heard it suggested that any of the Moslem Albanians were pro-Greek. The majority may have been a small one in some parts, and in others the Christians were in a majority. But for the district as a whole the proportion of Moslems to Christians was on a conservative computation at least 55-45. No one moreover disputes the fact that a considerable proportion, if not the majority, of the Christians were pro-Albanian. Therefore there is no doubt that in 1911 the district as a whole had a very marked pro-Albanian majority.

Then all authorities concur—even the Greeks admit the fact—that the vast majority of the people in the district are Albanians by race, habits and language. On the other hand it is true that a proportion, possibly a majority, of the Christian Albanians were at one time pro-Greek. This was due to the fact that the Christians were not permitted by the Turks to have Albanian schools, so that very naturally they fell under the influence of Greek propaganda in the Greek schools, which were the only schools permitted them. At the same time all opportunity of advancement was denied the Christian population—at any rate all the plums went to Moslems. It is not surprising, therefore, that many Christian Albanians looked to Greece for their liberation from this condition of unequal opportunity, especially as in the years proceeding 1908 hope of an autonomous, free Albania in any near future was a very shadowy one indeed. New hope, however, came after 1908, and the younger generation in increasing numbers began to look for salvation in an independent Albania and not in Greece. When I was in Argyrocastro in 1911 I went with a completely open mind. I talked with many Christians through an Albanian interpreter, and I was struck by the curious fact that often in one family the older members were pro-Greek, and the younger members were pro-Albanian. Now that Albania's independence is assured there can be no doubt that the pro-Albanian element among the Christian population has largely increased and with the success of the present Albanian Government many of the older generation who doubted whether real liberty could ever be looked for in a country where Moslems were in the majority, have also been converted. I am afraid it is impossible to confirm this by statistics, but the Albanian Government has always been ready to agree to any form of impartial inquiry which may be proposed to establish the facts.

It has been said that the Albanians claim that the pro-Greek element is now reduced to only 10,000 or 13,000. I understand the truth is that there are less than 15,000 Greeks (as distinct from pro-Greek Albanians) in the districts. To these the Albanians are prepared to give minority rights, even though Greece may not do the same for the 40,000 Albanians of the Chamoria, most of whom are violently pro-Albanian.

With regard to the situation to-day as contrasted with that in 1911, there is no doubt that the majority of the people in the district concerned are Moslems again now, in spite of the fact that the blackened ruins of numerous Moslem villages, not yet rebuilt, give evidence of the policy of extermination pursued at the time of the invasion by Cretan irregulars.

That these excesses were committed with the connivance of the Greek Government, is generally admitted, and this point, no doubt, had its due weight when the matter came up for final consideration the other day. But to return to the question of majorities, the facts remain that now as in 1911 the majority in the district is Moslem and therefore pro-Albanian; that it must be conceded that a proportion of the Christians are also pro-Albanian; that this proportion has been on the increase since 1908; and that since the establishment of a stable Government the increase has become rapid. Whether the proportion of pro-Albanian Christians has become a majority it is impossible to prove. But the evidence, though mostly deductive, points unquestionably to that conclusion.

The town of Argyrocastro was in 1911, and is now predominantly a Moslem town. It is the centre of the district. Special weight, therefore, was also given to the consideration that the cession of the whole district to Greece would have entailed the surrender of an important centre—the chief centre of the district—with its predominantly pro-Albanian majority.

Though, during my recent visit to Albania I had no opportunity of going to "Northern Epirus," I had long talks on the subject with Christian deputies of the South. One of them M. Vinyau, deputy for Argyrocastro, is a young man, on whose honesty and truthfulness I would stake my life. He is quite an exceptional individual, is universally respected, is a fine speaker, and is bound to take a leading part in Albanian politics. He was perfectly frank with me, and he assures me that the pro-Greek sentiment among the Albanian Christians of the South is daily on the wane, and that the great majority of these Christians are now pro-Albanian. M. Kaccimbo, the new Minister of Justice—an Orthodox Christian and a native of Argyrocastro—is another typical example of pro-Albanian zeal among the Christian population.

The Greek element and the pro-Greek element in the district concerned is only strong in certain parts of it, and these parts are south of Argyrocastro, except for the isolated district of Chimarra. Even in Chimarra the Greek element is in the minority, and only succeeded for a time in resisting absorption into the Albanian State by making common cause with the autonomists. It was not long, however, before these two parties fell out with one another, with the result that the centralist Albanian minority got the upper hand, and the district

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is now perfectly quiet, policed by Albanian gendarmerie. The only districts, therefore, where the Greek and pro-Greek sentiment is strong may be said to be confined to the Upper Drinopol Valley, close to the frontier, and to the Delvina Plain. Whether the whole district in question could be advantageously partitioned without damaging economic interests is a question. But it would have been manifestly unjust to sacrifice its centre, Argyrocastro, and the pro-Albanian districts to what constitutes a minority in the district as a whole. The 1913 frontier was decided upon geographical and economic considerations, after it had been rightly assumed that the district as a whole possessed an Albanian majority. I am not aware of any independent authority (travellers, Consular Reports, etc.), ever having stated that Argyrocastro was not predominantly Moslem, and, therefore, an indisputably pro-Albanian town. The Admiralty hand-books prepared for the use of the British Government during the war by the Admiralty Information Department, which has certainly no axe to grind, confirm this. The volume on Albania is very well prepared and is obviously based on the reports of British agents with personal knowledge of the district. It is, therefore, difficult to understand on what evidence the Greeks at one time came near to establishing their claims.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

**Women and Music.**

The problem of woman's position in life, of her achievements and of her potentialities is one not easy to determine, and in any case with its larger aspect I am not concerned. But I have just been reading, in the "Proceedings of the Musical Association" (Leeds: Whitehead and Miller, One Guinea net), a paper on "Women and Music," by Mr. J. Swinburne, and since music is but a part of life it is impossible in a discussion of this subject not to allow one's general philosophic views upon woman to form the background of one's specific ideas. If, then, I appear to wander from the straight path of musical criticism, readers will understand, even if they do not forgive.

"What," says Mr. Swinburne, who is speaking generally, "what is the result of all this musical activity of women? Nothing; at least nothing good. They have never done anything of the smallest importance in the art." That, I believe is the pitiful truth. For long years now women have lived "emancipated" lives; they have had, in this country at any rate, unequalled opportunities in musical training; they have been encouraged in a belief in their creative ability; and they have been recognised (during the war) as beings deserving of equal rights with man. Yet the pendulum of male opinion, which for many years was swinging in their favour, is now going back again; for it is as much by what women have done as by what they have not done, that the belief is forced upon one that, creatively speaking, they are inferior creatures. Their sex has, in fact, no significance whatever.

That women have achieved something in music is, of course, admitted; but I think Mr. Swinburne is right when he states that whatever they may have done they have done through their possession of male characteristics—which is merely another way of a French writer's saying: "There are no women of genius. Women of genius are men." Take, for instance, our female composers:—Ethel Smyth (I cannot at the moment think of any worthy other). Her work is full of big, strong ideas, with no trace of that tender imagination, that soulful emotion commonly supposed to be the property of woman. She is, so far as her artistic significance is concerned, a man. Or think of our interpretative artistes (from whom very rightly Mr. Swinburne excludes singers, thinking no doubt of such anti-progressives as Melba or Clara Butt): Jelly d'Aranji, Isolde Menges, Suggia,—are not all these as with the strength of men? Among the smaller artistes there are some in full possession of the smaller and feminine virtues, delicacy, grace, and so on; but these are they who chiefly fail in face of a big interpretation.

Mr. Swinburne looks at the subject from many points of view; he states, for example, that woman has no scientific ability, that she is not interested in mechanics, that, contrary to a belief which man's idealism has created, they are largely devoid of any aesthetic sense, and that the exercise of their minds, which are purely receptive, can do nothing but injury to the art of music. On some of these points I am not competent to speak, but I have little doubt that female "interest" in art has retarded it. What most mars the musical life of England to-day? The ballad-concert, of which the larger part of the audience is composed of women. What has cramped the popular appreciation of art? The pianoforte, on which the most frequent practisers are women. Women at best are but a stimulus to music; they cannot create it, and they cannot properly appreciate it. At all times they are too much interested in the personality of the musician, at the expense of his music, as Tchekhoff (I think) said, "Women are not interested in art, they are only in those interested in art."

And the exceptions that can be brought against this thesis only prove its truth.

Towards an explanation of this inferiority of women I can contribute nothing, being ignorant of any probable one. I merely record these sentiments as the result of my own musical experiences, and in doing so I am not unmindful of the fact that when England was a truly musical country our virginals desired its name from the sex whose achievements I have been declaiming.

ANDANTE.

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The Palestine Arab Delegation in London announces that Arab notables in Jerusalem have declined to discuss the proposed Constitution with Sir Herbert Samuel, the future of Palestine being the question raised by the delegation in London.

The express train from Bucharest to Budapest was attacked on the night of August 27 near Kronstadt by brigands, who entered the coaches and, having used chloroform to render the passengers insensible, robbed them of their baggage. One of the victims was in the employ of the American diplomatic service. The brigands escaped with a sum of 600,000 Roumanian lei (about £2,000).

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**Unemployment and Export Credits.**

The unemployed problem, which has now become the question of the hour, provides one of the most ironical features of these difficult times. If anything is certain it is that there is a potential demand in the world's markets for all that our manufacturers can produce. The trouble is that it cannot be translated into reality because of the lack of producing power expressed in the adverse exchanges. On that account certain countries are unable to obtain adequate supplies of the materials they need for reconstruction; while many of our workers have to stand idle for lack of orders. The extension of the use of the export credits system would appear to be the only remedy, and if the present arrangement does not meet the situation then it is the duty of the authorities to provide one that does.

**The Future of Palestine.**

In his interim report on Palestine for the year ended June 30, Sir Herbert Samuel touches only briefly on economic matters, but he gives sufficient particulars to show that despite the somewhat discouraging conditions encouraging progress has been made with the work of development which in the hands of the British military authorities was carried on with such marked success. Trade and agriculture have been encouraged, and various works of improvement have been carried out, though the most important projects in this connection are necessarily held up until the pending loan has been issued. Of the prospects before the country nnder favourable auspices there is no question ; the geographical position of Palestine and the resources of its soil plainly indicate that. But they can obviously be only realised on a basis of mutual understanding on the part of the inhabitants.

**An Undeveloped Country.**

Developments in Palestine cannot be rapid seeing that the country is to all interests and purposes undeveloped. "The methods of agriculture" to quote the report "are for the most part primitive; the area of land now cultivated could yield a far greater product. There are in addition large cultivated areas that are left untilled. . . . The Jordan and the Yarmuk offer an abundance of water power; but it is unused. Some industries—fishing and the culture and manufacture of tobacco are examples—have been killed by Turkish laws ; none have been encouraged; the markets of Palestine and of the neighbouring countries are supplied almost wholly from Europe. The seaborne commerce, such as it is, is loaded and discharged in the open roadsteads of Jaffa and Haifa : there are no harbours. . . . The country is underpopulated because of this lack of development."

**United Provinces' Loan.**

Particulars are now available of an interesting departure in Indian finance in the shape of a Development Loan to be issued by the United Provinces Government. The loan, subscriptions to which open in India on September 15, is a six per cent. issue, and the amount asked for is two crores of rupees. It is in the form of bonds of Rs. 25 upwards, and the issue price is Rs. 93 per cent. The loan will be repaid at par in November 15, 1941, and can be repaid in any year after November 15, 1931, after three months notice. An interesting feature is the provision that in every year after November 15, 1926, the Government will announce that it is prepared to repay a certain sum at par and will invite applications for repayment. As indicated by its title the object of the loan is development. Among the works for which it is to be utilised are the construction of the Sarda-Kichcha Feeder and Sarda Oudh canals, the improvement of communications capital outlay on industrial development and agricultural expansion, and large building projects.

**The Abyssinian Market.**

Elsewhere in these columns will be found an interesting account of conditions in Abyssinia taken from an Italian contemporary. The country is one about which only too little is known in the United Kingdom which no doubt affords an explanation why we were not more successful before the war in developing trade in that region. The world economic conditions since 1918 have rendered the market a specially difficult one for trade enterprise, but there is no question at all as to the extent of the opportunities in Abyssinia in many directions. The account referred to, which deals with the country from the point of view of immigration, is not without its humorous passages, for instance the statement that Abyssinia is not suitable "for persons with weak hearts"—this, it is carefully explained, being on account of the high altitudes of the inhabited localities.

**The Exhibitions Season.**

Last week saw the opening of the trade exhibitions season, and from now on until next summer there will be an almost constant series of demonstrations of the manufactures of this country. How far these exhibitions will be successful in promoting business will depend to a very great extent on the number of foreign buyers they attract. There is little point in holding exhibitions if they are only attended by our own people, and that seemed to me to be the case in a number of instances last season.

**Commentator.**


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, August 24.

**Miscellaneous.**

It is reported that an agreement has been made between Roumania and Belgium concerning the exchange of all kinds of goods and cereals. It is believed that these operations will be effected through the headquarters of the Peasants' Co-operative Associations.

The Ministry of Industry has received an application from a leading Viennese manufacturer for permission to erect a large plant in Roumania for the manufacture of motor cars and aeroplanes. The Ministry has approved the request, granting the advantages of the law for the encouragement of national industry.

Bulgaria has begun to restore the cattle according to the Peace Treaty. The live stock to be handed over will consist of 60 bulls, 6,000 cows, 5,250 horses, 3,400 oxen, 50 mules, and 15,000 sheep.

From the 20 million marks which Germany has to pay for the restitution of the horses taken during the occupation—besides the 50,000 horses, which will be restored in kind—a sum of five million marks has been put at the disposal of the War Ministry for sundry supplies and 15 millions at the disposal of the Ministry of Communication for the purchase of locomotives.

A tax of 15 lei per kg. and one leu commission will be levied on the export of "*Cashaval*" cheese.

The rumour of a fresh internal loan in the autumn is contradicted. On the other hand, the press reports that an arrangement has been reached between the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank, respecting the sum of about 600 million lei, advanced at various times and which has now been consolidated into a loan bearing the interest of 1 per cent. per annum.

A large stock of paper money for the National Bank has arrived from France.

The Minister of Industry has made an appeal to the authorities, manufacturers, and the public to encourage home industry, thus contributing also to the improvement of the rate of exchange.

The negotiations for an economic convention with Austria have been postponed *sine die*, and the departure of the Roumanian delegates for Vienna has been countermanded.

The Government has given a new order for 100 locomotives to the Skoda Works. 75 locomotives of the first order are ready, and 35 of them will arrive here shortly.

During July the shipments of cattle through Constantza were: 643 oxen and 12 cows for Constantinople, 159 oxen for Italy, and 11 oxen for Greece.

An artesian well, bored at Osnat-Avatza, Banat, was found to contain lead, iron, and radium. Experts are investigating this discovery.

## GREECE.

Athens, August 26.

**General News.**

The Athens Chamber of Commerce has requested the Minister for Foreign Affairs to approach the Yugoslav Government with a view to abolishing the additional duty recently imposed on Greek wines entering Yugoslavia.

A telegram has been received from the Greek Minister at The Hague stating that the Dutch Minister of Finance has withdrawn the Bill increasing the duty on Greek wines and currants imported into Holland.

The Swiss Government has decided to appoint a Consul-General in Athens.

It has been decided to establish Chambers of Commerce in the towns of Adrianople, Kirk Kilisse, and Gumuldjina.

## ALBANIA.

**The Oil Quest.** *Tirana, August 27.*

Two weeks ago agents of the Standard Oil Company of America arrived in Albania, enjoying, so it is said, the official support of Italy. The chances of finding rich sources of petroleum are claimed to be more and more certain, and already the fields are credited with the richness of the Roumanian oil belt. The Standard Oil Company is trying to obtain a concession on conditions more favourable to Albania than those offered by the Anglo-Persian Company.

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THRACE.

(*By Our Sofia Correspondent.*)

It is doubtful if there is any other part of Europe whose statistical details are so incomplete and old as are those of Thrace. The reason for this is that during the last 10 years Thrace has been the scene of several wars, intermingled with constant guerilla warfare, which prevented law and order from being established. The province has been alternately under the rule of Turks, Greeks, and Bulgarians, and also under French administration for a short period in 1919-1920. In view of the circumstances it will be understood that the figures given in this article must be regarded as purely nominal.

Thrace to-day is a country of 28,143 sq. kilometres, which shows a decrease of 14,857 sq. kilometres since 1912, when the Turks were ruling. Of these 28,143 sq. kilometres, 65 per cent to 68 per cent. can be cultivated, the rest being mountainous ground. Cultivation has, however, been on a very restricted scale, and in 1908 there were only 4,378 sq. kilometres under cultivation which then represented a tenth of the whole country. This year the Greeks claim that about 16 per cent. of the cultivable land is actually being utilised.

The country is not rich in forests, and the total area of wooded land amounts only to 1,500 acres, whilst lakes cover an area of 500 acres with another 150 acres of inundated land. Hitherto Thrace has not been fertile land, although under able and competent administration it is undoubtedly capable of becoming so.

At present no cereals are being exported, and it has even been necessary to purchase small quantities of flour and other similar commodities from abroad. In this connection it is curious to note that American flour has so far secured the market, owing to it being cheaper than that supplied by Bulgaria, in spite of the proximity of the latter country. The Greek administrative authorities are hard at work trying to improve the agricultural situation, and have instituted an Agricultural College at Adrianople, and are distributing motor tractors amongst the farmers. There is also an efficient service of Greek agricultural specialists who have been recently making a thorough survey of the country with a view to the construction of a large irrigation scheme.

In 1920 only 25 million kilos of all kinds of cereals were produced, but this year there is an increase of 600 per cent., viz. to 150 million kilos, of which two thirds represented wheat. The 1921 crop, although a great improvement on 1920, is not nearly so good as it might have been, as it has been considerably affected by the drought. Apart from cereals, the chief products ar cheese, honey, tobacco, and wool.

There is at present a great shortage of live stock, and the Greeks have imported a considerable quantity from the ports of Greece for distribution amongst the popu-

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lation. For statistics of live stock we have to go back to 1908, when there were 107,000 horses, 382,000 oxen, and 20 million sheep. The population has always been a changing one, and thus most difficult to assess. Thus, while in 1906 there were 1,160,338 inhabitants, in 1913 the figure had risen to 1,365,626, to drop again to 671,301 in 1920.

During 1921 the population has, however, again begun to increase, and it is now estimated that the total has reached 800,000. Of this number approximately 80 per cent live in the villages, as Thrace is not rich in towns, Adrianople with a population of 60,000 being the largest. The country is very largely populated, there being only 25 people to the square kilometre. One cannot go fully into the question of religion and nationalities unless one has spent a considerable time in the country, but it is safe to say that in the villages about 60 per cent. of the inhabitants are Mussulmans, the rest being Christians. Very few Bulgarians have remained in Thrace, a liberal estimate of the number now in the province gives the figure as 10,000, of which the majority are to be found in the area north of Gumuldjra.

Thrace has a large sea-coast, but the railway facilities are very poor, the only place on the coast which actually has railway communication with the interior is Dedeagatch, and here there is no port, either natural or artificial. During the summer a certain amount of merchandise is landed at Dedeagatch, but the winter winds are too strong for it to be possible for ships to discharge cargo. There is little that can be said as to Thrace's economic future, as everything depends on political events and above all on the result of the war now being waged in Anatolia. For the sake of the inhabitants, no matter what nationality they are, it is to be hoped that they will henceforth be allowed to till their land and live a life uninterrupted by strife caused by the political aspirations of Turkish, Greek and Bulgarian statesmen.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commission has issued the following cabled news received from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated August 29:—

Season.—August 22—Monsoon weak except in North East India and Burma. August 23—Strengthened in Gangetic Plain. August 24—Stronger in Central Provinces but weakened on 25th. August 26—Increase of rain in Upper Burma and Southern Madras but monsoon continues very weak in Peninsula and North West India. August 27 and 28—Strengthened in North East India and Burma. Break persisting in Peninsula and North West India.

Condition of Crops.—August 26—In Punjab rice good; other crops unchanged. Break in rains continues. In Central Provinces, cotton very good to excellent but break in rains required to facilitate weeding operations. Assam, August 29—Weather very favourable to harvesting autumn rice and jute. Out-turns of these poor, but prospects of other crops generally good.

Markets.—Bombay Cotton market, August 25—Strong: merchants and mills have bought very largely both forward contracts and ready cotton. M.G. Oomras Rs. 334 December January, Rs. 363 September. Cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to August 19, 1921, were 2,843,000 bales, as compared with 3,367,000 bales during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay Piece-goods market quiet but steady. Prices in some staple lines easier, particularly in low narrow width mulls. Calcutta jute market, August 26—Quiet but steady. August 27—Hessians steady; heavy goods steady to firm with fair enquiry. Rice market, August 26—Specials Rs. 625. At Tea Sale on August 23, good selection from all districts, particularly from Assam and Dooars. Well-made orange pekoes were half to one anna dearer. All other grades unchanged. 115,177 packages sold to date at an average price of nine annas per lb.

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The output of crude oil of Roumanian companies during June amounted to about 78,000 tons, as compared with 98,000 tons for the previous month.

The stocks of tobacco in the Alexandria Customs at the end of June amounted to 222,792 bales.

The Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt notify that the date for depositing for payment coupons of the Ottoman 4 per cent. Unified Converted Debt, due March, 1915, to March 1920, by allied and neutral holders, has been extended from September 1 to March 1, 1922.


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## MESOPOTAMIAN OIL.

### POLICY OF SHELL COMPANY.

The following letter has been addressed by Sir Robert Waley Cohen to the Press:—

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to some statements relating to Mesopotamian oil which have been recently circulated. The statements are sometimes connected with attacks upon the Shell Company and its friends, and as such would be as negligible as their predecessors were it not that the suggestions utilized on the present occasion might damage British interests, for foreign Governments and peoples are not always able to set as true a value upon such things as we are at home.

If these statements were taken seriously it might injure not only the 60,000 shareholders of the Shell Company, which I think I may claim to be generally recognized as the leading British oil company, but what is perhaps even more serious, they might also add to the difficulty of restoring that confidence among our friends abroad in the good faith of British commerce which has done more than anything else to give us as a nation the leading place that we hold in the world's commerce and industry.

The suggestions made are mainly of two kinds—first, that Sir Henri Deterding and the great organization of which he is the head have, in the past, looked to Germany rather than to Great Britain as their home; and, secondly, that the Turkish Petroleum Company was a mysterious organization in which we and our friends sheltered ourselves behind German intrigue. These suggestions, of course, are utterly false.

In the group of companies over which Sir Henri Deterding presides there has never been the smallest vestige of German influence of any sort or kind. Sir Henri himself had, before the war, a clearer insight than most of us into the dangers of Germany's commercial methods, and since the day when war was declared there has been no truer and more far-seeing friend of the British Empire.

Just before the declaration of war, he, writing on behalf of the whole group to a British Secretary of State, placed our resources at the disposal of the British Empire, and public acknowledgment has been made on many occasions by statesmen representing this country and France of the immense factor which the fulfilment of this promise constituted in the achievement the final victory.

An endeavour is apparently being made to create bad blood between my company and our friends and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. There are many foreign interests who would like to achieve this end, because they do not find it convenient to see British interests working together. One of the common methods used is to represent the petroleum industry as in the grip of a "trust," by means of which the Shell Company and its friends bleed the consumers of petroleum products, and from which the Anglo-Persian Company are to deliver them. Fortunately these methods have never had, and will never have the slightest chance of success, either by means of that ancient falsehood or by the newer method now adopted.

As the foremost British oil group, it has always been our policy to work in friendship and co-operation with our our younger competitor, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company; indeed, without our help it would have been as difficult for them to achieve their steady progress in production as it would have been for us without their help to effect the reduction in petrol prices, which are now at such a level that the motorist in Great Britain is obtaining his petrol supplies to-day at a price which would not cover the cost of bringing them to him from America.

As far as Mesopotamia is concerned, it is well that the world should know that it must be at least a decade before oil from Mesopotamia could hope to render any serious help in meeting the world's demands, and even that will only be achieved if Mesopotamia proves to be a great oilfield—a prophecy no responsible person could make with any certainty to-day. Experienced oil men are familiar with sanguine expectations of what will be found in an oilfield that has not yet been subjected to the drill, and with the very different picture usually presented by the actual result of development.

There have been no negotiations, and no agreement has been signed or discussed in regard to Mesopotamia with the Shell Group in recent months.

The fact is that the Turkish Petroleum Company, which had been formed by Sir Henry Babington Smith, was reconstituted in the beginning of 1914, and the shares allotted as to 50 per cent. to the Anglo-Persian, 25 per cent. to our group, and 25 per cent. to the Germans. These arrangements were entered into at the invitation of the British Government, and in association with partners invited by them to join in this enterprise. At the San Remo Conference it was agreed that the German interest should be handed over to the French, and that is the only change that has taken place, and there has been no struggle or fight connected with it.

We do not believe in mixing up politics with business; it leads sometimes to corruption, always to inefficiency, and it tends to convert what should be mere commercial rivalries into national animosities—a very serious disadvantage. Therefore we would have preferred to enter the Mesopotamian field, as we have every other oilfield in the world, by means of a free association with friends in a purely commercial enterprise, but in the circumstances we could only accede to the wishes of the British Government and join in the arrangement of the Turkish Petroleum Company.

Then came the war, and afterwards a rearrangement was suggested—again by the British Government—as a result of which one of our British companies, of which Sir Henri Deterding and I are managing directors, was to take the management of this difficult enterprise. Politics are as dangerous to business as to an army, and just as the British Army at the greatest crisis in its history was placed under the command of a tried and trusted foreign friend of Great Britain, so the Shell Company, realizing Sir Henri Deterding's genius, have won their victories of commerce and industry by placing their forces under the command of an equally tried and trusted friend.

The policy of this company has been and is the traditional policy of Great Britain in commerce. It is to work in harmony with our neighbours, to encourage foreign interests to associate themselves with us, so that we may work together to our mutual benefit, and create international friendships with nations like the Dutch, whose character and history fit in so closely with our own.

In our view no greater injury can be done to British commerce than to create the impression that we are unwilling to work together in friendship with other nations, and it is because misconceptions of the kind I have mentioned fan the flame of international rivalry and bitterness that I am glad to take this opportunity of exposing the entire falsity of the whole basis of these assertions and suggestions.

I would take the opportunity of saying once more that the Shell Company, the foremost British oil company, stands for and will maintain its policy of inviting the co-operation of all those, whether they be British or foreign, whose sole purpose it is to develop the oil industry, so that it may serve the needs of the world in the peaceful years of international trade which it is our hope may be characteristic of the epoch ahead of us.

Your obedient servant,
R. WALEY COHEN.

St. Helen's-court, Great St. Helen's, E.C.
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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

**Bronze Casting.**

A certain amount of trouble is apparently being experienced in metallurgical work in obtaining a bronze alloy suitable for using in the production of some of the peculiarly thin parts required for special purposes in modern engineering. Some of these parts are barely one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness and have to withstand a pressure of from 40 to 50 lb. per square inch. A number of experiments have been made recently in one of the largest works in the country, and it has been found that an alloy of 87 per cent. copper, 7 per cent. tin, and 3.0 per cent. each of lead and zinc will give extremely good results. Castings of this alloy will "peel" or leave the sand readily, and will prove remarkably strong and tough. The next problem to solve in this direction is to find some addition that will cause the castings to leave the sand with as clean an appearance as die-castings. This is, of course, asking a good deal, but experiments are being made in the direction of adding traces of aluminium and of silicon to the alloy, but so far little progress has been made.

**Mountaineering Up-to-Date.**

A 1921 Rolls Royce, touring body with four passengers and luggage has just completed an exacting tour through the Alps during which it passed over the most severe road gradients in the country. Actually it climbed over 50 passes, with a average height of 5,723 feet. In one case eight passes were covered in a single day between Grenoble and Geneva.

The most difficult journey of all, however, was that over the lofty Col du Parpaillon, a strategical road which is practically never used, and proved to be in a terrible state of disrepair, the surface being either grass or loose stones throughout. The road is only 8 feet wide, and has gradients up to 15 per cent. Four large avalanche deposits in turn had to be cleared by labourers to enable the car to proceed, but the crumbling edges of the primitive roadway were the chief danger. Moreover in the tunnel (over 1,500 ft. long) at the summit the floor was found to be covered with ice.

As indicating the difficulties of the route, and the long waits while the road men worked with pick and shovel, it may be mentioned that it took the car nearly 12 hours to cover the 29 miles of ascent and descent, although subsequently, on an open road in France, it attained a speed of 77 miles an hour with a full load, and finished the tour of 3,150 miles in perfect mechanical condition.

The car was driven by amateurs throughout, and they have informed Messrs. Rolls-Royce, Ltd., that its ease of handling was truly extraordinary, even at hairpin corners, the long wheel base being more than compensated for by the wide lock and beautifully balanced steering. The suspension, too, was found to be not only equal as regards strength to the well-known post-war condition of continental roads, but was also the acme of comfort, and the passengers did not experience a single jar. Despite the collossal number of mountain descents, moreover, the brakes were amply adequate, and were only once adjusted, and at the conclusion of the tour were still fully equal to all emergencies. In short, the car answered every requirement of long-distance touring to the most satisfying degree.

**A Remarkable Retread.**

Some little time ago I was writing in these columns regarding the advantages of re-treading motor car and motor-cycle covers, and mentioned that I had obtained excellent results from tyres re-treaded by the Beldam Tyre Co., and also by the Almagam Co. I mentioned at the time that I had a cover under observation and test which had been re-treaded, and which was giving really exceptional results. As the cover now shows signs of wear, the canvas being just visible in two places about the size of a three-penny piece. I have had it taken off for a certain reason although in the ordinary way I should have had it run for another hundred miles or so and then fitted with a liner. The history of the cover is little short of amazing. In the first place it was a light, 3-ply ordinary plain treaded motor-cycle tyre, 26 x 2½ inches, and it was fitted on the back wheel of a 4h.p. fixed gear Triumph motor cycle, where it ran for 1,000 miles during the test of a new type of speedometer. It was then put on the front wheel and in a further 700 miles it was really worn-out and had had a bad burst. It was repaired and retreaded by Beldams in the ordinary way with their ordinary re-tread, and was put back on the back wheel of the same Triumph to carry out a 1,000 mile oil test. About that date a tyre firm sent a new cover for test and the Beldam re-tread was removed from the back wheel and put on the front wheel of the same machine. Since then, to date it has done 2964.6 miles, or a total of 3964.6 miles since retreading as compared with 1,700 as a new cover. The reason I have had it taken off now is that I intend to ask Beldam's if they would like to try retreading it again! I may add that the machine has not been used on ideal roads and specially driven in order to get a long mileage. On the contrary practically all the miles have been done on country roads in Cornwall, Devon, Wilts, Berks, Herts, and Norfolk, and as regards speed I may add that to my personal knowledge the rider of the machine had a late lunch at Brandon and tea at Willesden Green.

**Commercial Vehicle Exhibition.**

Practically the whole of the available space at Olympia has been allocated for the fifth International Commercial Motor Exhibition, which will take place from October 14 to 22, inclusive. The organisation is being carried out by an Exhibition Committee representative of all the sections interested, under the chairmanship, of Mr. F. Churchill the Chairman of the Commercial Vehicle (Petrol) Committee.

The exhibits will comprise petrol, steam, and electric vehicles for goods and passenger transport and general utility purposes. Many new and interesting developments in commercial motor traction will be shown. In connection with the exhibition, the Institute of Transport is organising two conferences at Olympia for Monday October 17. In the morning there will be a paper on "Roads," and a second, on "Commercial Vehicles," will be presented in the afternoon.

The Institution of Automobile Engineers is arranging the following conferences:—October 19, 11 a.m. paper, "The Scope of the Farm Tractor," by E. H. Arnott; 2.30 p.m., paper on "Agricultural Tractors," by H. G. Burford (Chairman of the Agricultural Machinery Section of the Society) and H. Scott Hall. October 20, 11 a.m., paper on "Coke as a fuel for Commercial Vehicles," by T. Clarkson, M.I.C.E. M.I.M.E., M.I.A.E.; 2.30 p.m., paper on "Loading devices for Commercial Vehicles," by W. D. Williamson.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been rather brisker. Currants have come to business well at firmer rates. Sultanas have been in good request.

Coffee.—A steady tone has prevailed during the week. Costa Rica has been done at 130s.; Mocha at 125s.; Indian at 114s.; and Columbian at 110s. Futures are:—September, 48s.; December, 47s. 3d.; March, 48s. 3d.; May, 49s.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good demand at lower rates. White Mauritius is 2s. 6d. lower at 50s., and Czechoslovakian at 28s. has shed 1s. Other transactions include West Indian crystallized at 44s. 6d.; Jamaica, 40s.; and Santa Lucia at 47s. 6d. Futures are:—October, 17s. 6d.; November, 17s. 3d.; and December, 16s. 9d.

Oilseeds.—Indian linseed has gained 1s. 3d. at 21s. 9d. La Plata is 3d. up at 21s. Rapeseed has been steady with Toria, 3d. up at 22s. 6d.; bold Ferozepore unchanged at 21s. 6d. as also brown Cawnpore at 20s. 6d. Cottonseed is unaltered with Indian at 11s. 6d.; Egyptian black at 13s. 9d.; and Sakellarides 13s. 3d.

Seed Oils.—A firm tone has characterised the market. Linseed oil has gained 3d. at 38s. and crude rape oil is the same at 55s., but the refined is lower at 51s. Cotton oil has remained steady. Common edible is 1s. down at 51s.; while Egyptian crude is unchanged at 42s. and deodorized at 56s. is the same.

Oilcakes. Business has been brisk. Cottonseed cake has come to business at 240s.; Arachis cake at 290s. and Linseed cake at 320s.

## CYPRUS CAROB HARVEST.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

*Nicosia, August* 16.

The gathering of carobs (locust beans) is about to begin. This is one of the busy seasons of the Cypriot farmers' year. Villagers in the carob growing areas—in five of the six districts go forth in groups, armed with long sticks, like fishing rods, and proceed to beat down the pods, which by Mid-August have turned from bright green to a deep chocolate colour, from the trees. In ordinary years large numbers of labourers are hired to assist in the gathering. This year while on the one hand the yield is to be an exceptionally large one, village growers on the other hand are in a very unhappy plight, as owing to the still high prices of all commodities and of labour, and to the very low price of carobs (12s. to 14s.) the Aleppo *Kantar* (180 okes), they are unable in many cases to meet the cost of collecting. In a great many instances they will only be able to employ members of their own families unless some help is forthcoming. There is a general cry that the merchants should raise the price which is paid for the beans, in order that sufficient labourers may be hired. It will be to their advantage, as otherwise their store will remain unfilled in what is a bumper year. They have made, the villagers say, sufficient profit in late years to enable them to show some generosity in hard times. The merchants on the other hand complain of the low prices they obtain, and are hardly likely, as a rule, to advance money except on the usual ruinous terms, which is exactly what the peasantry is hoping to escape. The tribe of money-lenders will probably profit considerably from the occasion.

## EXPORT OF ROUMANIA'S CEREALS.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, August 24.

The Cabinet has decided on the monopoly of the exportation of wheat and rye and their derivatives. The export of other cereals is free. The exporting firms will, however, have the obligation of selling to the state an equal quantity at the fixed maximum prices, which are, for home consumption, wheat 18,000 lei; maize and barley, 16,000; oats, 14,000; beans, lentils peas, 18,000 per waggon of 10,000 Kg.

The Ministry of Agriculture reports that the showers that fell this week in various parts of the country have been beneficial to the vegetables.

## TRADE IN THE PHILIPPOPOLIS DISTRICT.

The British Vice-Consul at Philippopolis reports that the general commercial stagnation continues, and that very little business is being done except in the sale of foodstuffs of local production. A small amount of merchandise from Allied countries is being delivered, but considering the needs of the country the total is very small indeed. Generally speaking merchants are not seeking to increase their purchases in the United Kingdom, though in some cases they are delaying orders in the hope that the rate of exchange will improve, in which case it is thought that orders might be diverted from Germany to this country.

On the other hand the Vice-Consul states that large quantities of Czechoslovak goods are being delivered and that the chief article imported from that source at present is a small rotary hand-worked fan for grain. Several trainloads of these have been delivered at Philippopolis alone, and wagons of them are being delivered at every station in Southern Bulgaria.

German goods are finding their way in but not in large quantities. Many orders are placed with German firms, but delivery is very slow and in consequence the total of orders placed is small compared with what might reasonably be expected. The Germans are carrying on organised propaganda in favour of their goods.

An important feature of the commercial stagnation is the great decrease in the value of the leva. Most business men, and also the banks are not anxious to buy foreign money on this account. Merchants who have to remit cheques to England to settle pre-war debts are, however, buying English cheques at a rate 20 or even 30 points above Bourse rate. This latter question is worrying merchants a good deal at present.

Merchants seem particularly anxious to export through or to United Kingdom firms, not from any idea of paying lower rates of export duty, or even of obtaining facilities in the Customs on the assumption that United Kingdom firms will not be kept waiting as long as Bulgarians would, but merely because they are of opinion that they will secure fair treatment by this procedure.

Agricole et Industrielle d'Égypte.—For the year ended March 31, there was a profit of 343,050 francs, as against a loss of 1,408,064 francs for the previous year.

Banque des Pays Serbes.—This capital of this institution is to be increased from two to five million dinars.


**Travellers to the Near East**

Can obtain all information as to the journey from Continental Traffic Department, Victoria Station (S. E. & C. R.), S.W.1:


COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION of the OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

NOTICE to HOLDERS of the OTTOMAN FOUR PER CENT. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT.

The COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION GIVE NOTICE that the DATE for DEPOSITITING for PAYMENT COUPONS of the Ottoman Four per Cent. Unified Converted Debt, due March, 1915. to March 1920, by Allied and Neutral holders has been extended from the 1st SEPTEMBER to 1st MARCH, 1922.

26th August, 1921.


WONDERFUL EXHIBITS at the

**CONFECTIONERS' EXHIBITION**

(*Royal Agricultural Hall, Sept. 3rd to 9th*, 1921.)

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Actual working models will be on view showing how the finest aerated fruit drinks are automatically manufactured at a *minimum* of cost and trouble. The Flugel Soda Fountain automatically filters every drop of water and each drop is aerated while it is being filtered. Every one interested in the production and sale of mineral water drinks should ensure seeing this remarkable machine, and if unable to visit the Exhibition they should send for the special free illustrated booklet (now ready) giving a full description of these exhibits. You will be more than interested. Write to -

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## ABYSSINIA.

### AN ITALIAN POINT OF VIEW.

This country, which has a very great significance for us Italians says *Oriente Moderno*,* as there we made, such as it was, our first experiment in colonial politics, and which is the most advanced and best organized nucleus of Central Africa, situated between two of our colonies, is almost outside the range of Italian public attention at the present moment. The observations which follow are drawn from various German and Austrian sources. The official and semi-official ministerialists of these two States have continued the active relations which they had with Abyssinia before the war, and they study it to-day especially with regard to the point of exports and labour-supply.

Abyssinia has a population of 15 millions, and, given its area of 1,200 miles in length and 1,200 in breadth, it is calculated to be capable of supporting 30 millions. It is mainly an agricultural State whose principal products, coffee, skins, wax, ivory and civet, have only recently acquired commercial proportions. But it offers large possibilities of development for other important products, such as rubber and cotton. The Abyssinian subsoil is still unexplored, but it is held to contain extensive deposits of iron and coal. The climate generally is good, being that of a mountainous country.

Immigration prospects are various according to the professions: an agriculturist with 5,000 dollars could obtain, on favourable terms, ground to cultivate for himself and family, and especially gardening in the vicinity of the large towns could be profitably undertaken by Europeans. Also viticulture offers prospects of development, Until now wine has been wholly imported from France, but vineyards are beginning to be planted, According to the missionary, Munzenberger, the lands in the vicinity of Lake Tana are specially suitable for vine culture. So also coffee could be more intensively cultivated, Abyssinian coffee being comparable with the best Arabian.

Similarly all small trades, such as carpenters, shoemakers, &c., have openings in Abyssinia, as also printers and expert masons able to direct native or Indian labour. In a country so rich in timber there is only one saw-mill, instituted in 1918. Sugar is imported from Europe to an annual value of 200,000 frs.; whereas a national beet-sugar industry might be created, the beet growing well in many localities, and labour being procurable very cheaply.

The possession of land is regulated by local laws, which differ essentially from European. The juridical status of landed property in Abyssinia may be epitomized in the following terms: all the land of the State is the property of the Emperor; the Emperor, however, cedes the use to the grand court dignitaries (Ras and Dejak) who in their turn sublet the lands to private persons against rent in labour or payment of taxes or produce in kind. The sublease is always revocable, and in any case ceases to be valid on the death of the Emperor or of the Ras of the particular territory unless his successor confirm the title. The dues in labour or in kind assume various forms according to the region, and do not exempt the owner from the direct taxes imposed by Government, which imposts are very light. Besides possession by way of rent, foreigners may acquire land directly from the Emperor, but such is conceded only exceptionally. According to a law of May 14, 1913, all foreigners who establish themselves in Abyssinia must register within three months at their respective consulates, or demand Abyssinian naturalization.

The capital of Abyssinia, Adis Abeba has about 100,000 inhabitants of whom about 1,000 are Europeans of all the social classes. There are no theatres or *cafe-chantants* as yet, but two cinemas have been opened. For persons with weak hearts Abyssinia is not suitable, as the inhabited localities are fully 6,000 to 9,000 feet in altitude, so before visiting the country it is advisable to consult a doctor.

To enter Abyssinia that Government's permission is not necessary, but whoever goes by way of Jibuti or Aden must be provided with a French or British passport. As to the voyage there is no direct line of communication from any Italian port to Jibuti; Italian ships touch only at Massowa or Aden, and a steamboat leaves Massowa for Jibuti only once a month, and from Aden once a week; but in each case the voyage is rendered longer and more costly by transhipment and stoppages. On the other hand the Messageries Maritimes and other French Companies have liners sailing direct from Marseilles to Jibuti, thus obviating the journey from Massowa or Aden which alone costs £2. By third class the voyage from Marseilles to Jibuti costs 1,260 frs, all found and lasts about ten days. From Jibuti the train leaves twice a week for Adis Abeba, Sunday and Wednesday, the second class fare costing about 160 frs. (only natives travel third). The journey takes two days; the first evening one sleeps in Diri-Dowa in an Italian hotel (Albergo Montaperto) at 10 frs. the night, and the second evening one arrives at Howash in Abyssinia. While Jibuti has a tropical climate, that of Adis-Abeba is European Abyssinia, under existing economic conditions, is not fitted to receive a very large immigration; what it needs above all is the influx of skilled workmen, professionals and industrials. Chiefly to be recommended is immigration into Adis Abeba which on account of its central position and climate is susceptible of great commercial development; it is calculated that more than 50,000 men attend the Saturday market. Food-stuffs (meat, potatoes, flour, tomatoes vegetables, &c.) are cheap; in years of drought water become scarce and it is necessary to beware of typhus. The hours of work are normally from 8 to 12 and from 2 till 3. Foreigners are subject to no special taxes. The best season for reaching Abyssinia is November, as the rainy season commences in July and lasts about four months.

*Oriente Moderno. No 3 August 15, 1921. Rome, Institute per l'Oriente.

## THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROPS.

Messrs. H. N. Bathgate and Co. in their report on the world's wheat crops state:—

We are now able to give our summer's estimate of this season's world's wheat crops, embracing those countries which we included in pre-war years. Necessarily there are some omissions; for we have no authentic information about Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The lines of demarcation are not yet so long settled that it is possible to discriminate between one state and another. Therefore to some extent there is an appearance of a greater shortage than actually exists; but future investigations will throw some light upon this feature. Of Manchuria we have said nothing statistic, for the very simple reason that we have nothing that we would like to put into print; but we understand that it will again provide some contribution towards international supplies.

Taking the chief growers seriatim, we find first that the total crop of the United States is very little more than in 1913; though it must be remembered that the year was the pre-war record for America. In Canada the yield is not the largest on record; but it easily surpasses anything raised before the war, and is fully 10,000,000 quarters greater than the crop of 1913.

The Indian crop this year, (harvested before the opening of our new season) is a short one, leaving nothing for export. In fact, wheat exports have been prohibited, and nothing more can be expected from that quarter until next June, supposing that the crop of 1922 be a very good one. It is customary to speak of this year's Indian shortage as though it did not matter. That is an entirely fallacious view, because although India's pre-war average exportable surplus was little more than 5,000,000 quarters, it was quite enough to quote as a "bearish" influence whenever it suited the occasion.

Turning to France, with which is included Alsace-Lorraine, we find that the result cannot be described as disappointing, when we consider the immense loss of life suffered by that country during the war, and the great dislocation to her agricultural and mechanical industries. Still, the shortage is material and can only be met by increased imports or the practice of rigid economy in the consumption of wheaten bread. It may be noted that about the crop of 1913 there was a good deal of conflicting evidence in the summer of that year; but we think our final estimate was about accurate.

The figure for Hungary is taken from the official estimate provided by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. In the old days it was our custom to give a combined total for Austria-Hungary and dependencies—dependencies then meaning Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Croatia. These are all now included in the new state of Yugoslavia, for which we have no figures. But part of this omission is made up in the estimate for Balkan States, which of course included Serbia.

Italy comes out quite well in comparison with her pre-war average, and our estimate is practically the same as the official figure for that country, about which an Italian correspondent informs us that it is difficult to get private estimates, but that he thinks the Government statisticians are not far out. Germany —reduced Germany—shows a sad falling away—a thing of no wonder when we remember the limbs lopped off. Still, if there is less wheat there are fewer mouths to eat it, and less money to buy withal. Roumania now includes the former Russian provinces of Bessarabia, and one may expect that in time she will become once more a very important factor in the world's markets. We have never included Roumania under the heading of Balkan States, and these latter have therefore no cause for jealousy on that account of their northern neighbour; and their estimated crop of 8,000,000 quarters allows a margin for any

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little internal troubles and occasional official negligence. No special comment is required on Spain and Portugal; but if the total for "Other European Countries" be considered large it is because we have had to allow something for Austria, though nothing like equal to her pre-war average.

As for the Southern Hemisphere, it is impossible to do more than anticipate more or less intelligently. The estimated total is slightly more than for 1913, and though it might be considered safe to be more optimistic, we have to remember that Australia has had two comparative crop failures since the beginning of the war, and is agriculturally a land of great vicissitudes.

The grand total of the world of course shows a very big reduction owing to the exclusion of Russia. This however, does not mean that there will be an equivalent deficiency in importing countries, but only that we shall be short to the extent of Russia's average exports, except that there is the possibility of other countries having to supply grain for the starving abjects of Lenin.

## SUMMER ESTIMATE OF WHEAT CROPS.

(Including Indian crop harvested 1921.)

| | Quarters. |
|---|---|
| U.S.A. | 96,000,000 |
| Canada | 35,000,000 |
| India (crop harvested 1921) | 31,000,000 |
| Russia | |
| United Kingdom | 9,000,000 |
| France (with Alsace-Lorraine) | 32,400,000 |
| Hungary | 5,240,000 |
| Italy | 22,500,000 |
| Germany | 12,500,000 |
| Roumania | 8,000,000 |
| Balkan States | 8,000,000 |
| Spain and Portugal | 19,000,000 |
| Other European countries | 8,000,000 |
| North Africa and Sundries | 9,500,000 |
| | 296,140,000 |

FORECAST MID-SEASON CROPS—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Australasia | 13,000,000 | |
| Argentina and Uruguay | 24,000,000 | |
| Chile | 2,000,000 | |
| | | 39,000,000 |
| Grand Total | | 335,140,000 |

The final estimate of Messrs. Bathgate for 1913-14, including the Indian crop reaped in 1913, is given in the report, and we reproduce it by way of comparison. It was as follows (the figures representing quarters):—U.S.A., 94,000,000; Canada, 25,000,000; India (crop harvested 1913), 45,000,000; Russian Empire, 90,000,000; United Kingdom, 6,650,000; France, 39,000,000; Austria-Hungary and Dependencies, 28,000,000; Italy, 24,000,000; Germany, 19,000,000; Roumania, 9,000,000; Balkan States, 10,000,000; Spain and Portugal, 14,500,000; Other European countries, 4,000,000; North Africa and sundries, 6,000,000; Total 414,150,000. Mid-season crops—Australasia, 12,500,000; Argentina and Uruguay, 18,000,000; Chile, 2,000,000—32,500,000. Grand total, 446,650,000.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 171s. 6d. cwt.; bacon (Canadian), 137s. 6d. cwt.; bacon (American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 263s. cwt.; butter (Australian), 245s. cwt.; butter (New Zealand), 265s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 131s. cwt.; cheese (New Zealand), 128s. cwt.; cheese (Australian), 123s.. cwt.; lard, 88s. cwt.; chillies, 150s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 30s. 6d. per 120; eggs (Syrian), 20s. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2¼d, lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 82s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica) 142s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East Indian bold), 132s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Central American), 115s.; coffee (Jamaica), 62s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 113s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 61s. 3d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 47s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 9½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 82s. 6d. cwt.; raisins (Sultana Smyrna), 96s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 79s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Calamata), 48s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 57s. 1½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 62s. 3d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 51s. 3d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 47s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (centrifugal), 19s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 18s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 23s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £8 12s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 8½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 3½d lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 4d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 10d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 4d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; wheat (Australian) 75s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 66s. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 79s. qr.; barley (malting), 80s. qr.; oats (English), 30s. qr.; oats (La Plata), 31s. 6d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 39s. 4½d. qr.; maize (American), 39s. 3d. qr.; flour, 62s. 3d. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £67 11s. 3d ton; copper (electro), £71 10s. ton; gold bars, 11s. 8½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 133s. 9d. ton; hematite (mixed number) 161s. 3d. ton; galvanized sheets (24G), £21 15s. ton; lead (soft, foreign), £23 1s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 2½d. unit; molybdenite, 41s. 3d. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 8s. 9d. bottle; silver bars, 38½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 ton; tin (standard) £152 2s. 6d. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 22s. 6d. box; wolfram, 13s. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 9d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 5½. lb.; ammonia sulphate, £13 11s. 6d ton; arsenic (white powdered), £41 ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £16 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 128s. 9d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 9½d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic £32 ton; nitrate, £48 10s. ton; permanganate, 1s. 1½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.) £19 ton; Sodium: crystals, 140s. 6d. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 15s. ton; bichromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 7s. 6d. ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £19 ton; prussiate, 7d. lb.; nitrate, £18 10s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £85 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £120 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 9d. lb.; quinine, 4s. 1½d. oz.; red lead, £39 15s. ton; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton; white ground lead £53 ton; sulphate of copper, £31 ton; sulphate of iron, £145 ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 10.00d. lb.; cotton. (Egyptian), 15.82d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £20 10s. ton; rape (Toria), £22 2s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £15 12s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £22 15s. ton; oils: Linseed, £37 2s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; palm, £40 10s. ton; rape (crude), £55, ton; soya, £41 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol. 2s. 1d. gallon; ground nut, £51 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £42 3s; ton; cocoanut (Ceylon), £53 10s. ton; turpentine, 63s. 9d. cwt.; shellac (T.N. second orange), 287s. 6d. cwt.; shellac (A.C. garnet), 292s. 6d. cwt.; rubber (plantation No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 6d. lb.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lb. and up, 10½d,, lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 10½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb. 10½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb. 10d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 7¾d. lb.; (second), 90 lb. and up, 9d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 9½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 9d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 8½d, lb.; 59 lb. and under, 6d. lb.; cows (first) 60 lb and up 8d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 7½d. lb.; (second), 60 lb. and up 6d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 5d. lb.; bulls (first), 4½d. lb. (second), 3½d. lb.; Kips (first), 6d. lb.; (second), 5½d. lb,; (third), 3½d. lb.; casualty hides, 4½d. lb.; Calcutta market; Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 8 to 2; Durbhangas, 6 to 7; patnas, 5.8 to 6.4. Salted cows, 3 to 1. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 5.8. Skins: calf, 8 to 10; goat, 250 to 285 per 100 pieces.

Major H. A. Chisholm, M.C., has been appointed the first Canadian Government Trade Commissioner to India, with headquarters at Calcutta. Major Chisholm has recently been Trade Commissioner to Cuba and will proceed to Calcutta during the autumn.

952,633 kilos of margarine and oil margarine were imported into Greece during 1920. The United States supplied 785,355 kilos, while the United Kingdom was second with 92,584 kilos.

The Government of India have stopped the export of flour and atta (*i.e.*, coarse wheat flour used by poorer classes) from India except in small quantities to certain countries in Indian Ocean.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97½ |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 65½–66 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 160-170 |
| Berlin ..... | Mark to £ ..... | 22.43 | 336-337 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 16¼d |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 324-327 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 16¾d |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 555–575 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.72-3.73 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 48.35-48.40 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 307–312 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 8½–85½ |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 425–475 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 3,100–3,200 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 10,700–11,000 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**The Profit Possibilities of the Italian Lire.**

Under this title our Expert on Foreign Exchanges has completed Article No. 5 in his series "Dealings in Foreign Exchanges from the English Investors point of View." The Article shows — ITALY'S FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES—THE POSITION OF THE SILK INDUSTRY—ITALY'S REVENUE FROM TOURISTS,—etc. The Article explains the PROFIT POSSIBILITIES BY PURCHASING ITALIAN LIRE—ITALIAN 3½% GOVERNMENT LOAN, etc. This Article will be sent free of charge on application to—

Foreign Exchange Department,
THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,
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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## SHIPPING AT THE PIRAEUS.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Athens, August 26.

There were 539 arrivals of various steamers at the Piraeus during July (O.S.) of the following nationalities:—Greek, 422 (129,220 tons); British, 37 (67,586 tons); Italian, 29 (31,527 tons); French, 13 (19,152 tons); American, 10 (29,431 tons); Roumanian, 8 (7,546 tons); Dutch, 6 (5,397 tons); German, 5 (9,704 tons); Spanish, 3 (2,245 tons); Belgian, 2 (3,673 tons); Russian, 2 (1,687 tons); Norwegian, 1 (1,600 tons); The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the month was 471, of the following nationalities:—Greek, 464 (15,167 tons); Italian, 6 (808 tons); Albanian, 1 (112 tons).

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 15); s.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 4).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 10); s.s. Stockwell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 14); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 24).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Liverpool, September 14); s.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Liverpool, September 28).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Sea Glory for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Constantinople and Galatz (London, September 15); s.s. Tyria for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Novorossisk, Odessa, and Batoum (Liverpool, September 17).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Calcutta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 19); s.s. City of Manila for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 3).

*Ellerman's Hall Line.*—S.s. Kandahar for Bombay (Liverpool, September 13); s.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay (Liverpool, October 1).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glengyle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, September 22); s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 6).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Explorer for Calcutta (Liverpool, September 15); s.s. Professor for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden etc. (Birkenhead, October 6).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Arracan for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 21).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Troilus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, September 15); s.s. Rhesus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, September 15).


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CASTALIA, SEPTEMBER, 15;
MASSILIA, OCTOBER 4,
ELYSIA, OCTOBER, 19,
CIRCASSIA, NOVEMBER, 2,
OLYMPIA, NOVEMBER 18.

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*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Pomaron for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, September 14); s.s. Cranmore for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna Volo, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina,, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 1).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Siptah for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Syra Piraeus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna' Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 24).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Belgravian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 10); s.s. Bosnian for Tangier, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, September 17).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said and Aden; also (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports, (London, September 9); s.s. Delta for Bombay (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden; also (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports). (London, September 16); s.s China for Bombay (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden; also (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports) (London, September 23); s.s. Padua for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden) London, September 24).

*P. and O. British Line.*—S.s. Mundra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London, September 17); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports) (London September 23); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London, September 30); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (also taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports) (London, October 7).

## TENDERS INVITED.

**Bulgaria.**

Window Glass.—The Administration of the Bulgarian State Railways, Sofia, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 11,000 sheets of ordinary and 500 sheets of opaque carriage window glass. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Water Closets, etc.—H.M. Legation, Sofia reports the receipt of an enquiry for quotations for 1,000 water closets complete and 500 lavatory basins which are required in Philippopolis for the equipment of new constructions. The enquirer is also desirous of receiving catalogues for machinery of all descriptions, including dynamos, motors, flour milling plant, pumps (hand and power), stationery and portable electric sets, sausage machinery, etc. (D.O.T.).

**Morocco.**

Waterworks Contracts.—Tenders are invited in connection with two contracts for the construction of the Ain Sebzar-Petitjean Waterworks as follows:—(1) The supply and fixing of material, pipes, valves, etc.; (2) The construction of earthworks, etc. The public adjudication of tenders will take place at the office of the "Direction Generale des Travaux Publics" at Rabat, Residence Générale, on September 29.

Railway Rolling Stock.—H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that tenders are invited for the supply of rolling stock for use on the Ceuta-Tetuan Railway in the Spanish Zone of Morocco, as under:—(1) Two first-class coaches. (2) One second-class coach. (3) Three third-class coaches. (4) Ten closed vans. Delivery is to be made at Ceuta within six months of the adjudication of the contract. The latest date for the receipt of tenders in Tetuan, Morocco, is September 24, 1921, but it is understood that tenders may, alternatively, be presented in Madrid up to September 14. Tenders must be accompanied by plans of the coaches and vans, together with documents proving the good faith of the tenderer, and certifying that a deposit of 3,000 pesetas has been made at the Bank of Spain, which deposit must eventually be increased to 10,000 pesetas by the firm whose offer is accepted. Tenders may be addressed direct to the "Delegacion de Fomento," Tetuan, Morocco, but United Kingdom firms who are represented in Spain may care to instruct their agents to submit tenders to the Ministry of Public Works in Madrid. In any case, in view of the conditions of tendering, local representation either at Madrid or Tetuan is desirable. (D.O.T.)

**India.**

Cast-iron Pipes.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply of Cast-iron Pipes, Special Castings, Sluice Valves, etc. (Spec., 5s., Messrs. Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria-street, S.W.1) October 31.

Copper Plates, etc.—The South Indian Railway Company invited tenders for the supply of (1) Copper plates for locomotive fireboxes. (2) Volute and Helical Springs. (3) Steel boiler plates. (4) Wheels and axles. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1., September 14.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Mersina.

The report for July states :—The commercial and financial crisis recorded in our previous report continues with the same intensity. Because of the complete absence of business and the stringency which obtains here numerous bills remain unpaid, goods ordered abroad remain a long time in the Customs or are refused on most specious pretexts, and merchants, experiencing serious difficulties in meeting their engagements, demand continual extensions of time.

A very marked improvement has taken place in the price of cotton during the second half of the month under review. This rise has been caused to a great extent by the demands of the spinners of this region. The prices are Ps. 125-150 per *batman* of five kilos as against Ps. 115-140 at the end of May and June.

Wheat, which at the end of June had risen to Ps. 12-13 per oke., as against Ps. 9-10 in May, has fallen to Ps. 11-12 as a result of arrivals. To the same reason is to be attributed the fall in barley which at the end of June showed a slight tendency to rise. This article during four months has recorded the following prices : April Ps. 8-8½, May Ps. 7-7½, fallen to Ps. 18-20 per cent. as against Ps. 20-22.

## ROUMANIA'S TIMBER TRADE.

The timber exports of Roumania, especially sawn white-wood, which finds its markets principally in the Levant, Italy and Spain, although before the war shipments were also made to Rotterdam and the United Kingdom, seem to offer a prospect for British importers, says the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Bucharest in his recent report. There are certain advantages in dimensions which Roumanian shipments have over those coming from Scandinavia, although it must be borne in mind that the majority of Roumanian timber men are not accustomed to sawing for the English market, and in many cases the interior dispositions of the sawmills would have to be altered in order to allow the cutting of whitewood in those lengths and sizes suitable for the United Kingdom. Roumanian oak is shipped to some small extent in France, and it is probable that it would find a market in the United Kingdom. Bellywood, for use in the manufacture of pianos, is also a product of some of the Roumanian mills, and the question of its purchase for Great Britain might well be studied by interested firms.

Shipments of timber could, of course, be purchased f.o.b. the Danube port of Galatz, but it would be more profitable, and probably more satisfactory to the British buyer, to purchase the timber f.o.b. railway trucks (ex-mill), and organise an agency or branch in Roumania, or the port of reception in the United Kingdom. The branch or agency instituted could take delivery of the timber at the mill, and thus the representative of the British firm would be able to see that all timber shipped was in accordance with the standards demanded by the British market before any expense of transportation was incurred. This seems a very important matter as, with Roumanian shippers unaccustomed to the grading demanded by the English market, the deliveries if effected in any other way, would possibly produce friction. Once the shipper has become thoroughly habituated to the standards desired, this system would, of course, not be necessary.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

London, Monday.

There has not been much in the past week to distinguish it from any of the dozen or so that have preceded it. Generally speaking there has been very little business, though one or two markets notably Kaffirs, have made some show of brightness. A point worthy of note is the small quantity of stock about. When there is any real buying this factor will make its presence felt.

Gilt-edged stocks have been firm. Consols are 47,5-8 ex div., while Fundings are 71¼, a rise of 3-8. War Loan Fives have gained 1-16 at 88¼. India 7 per cents have been strong, and close at 102,7-8.

In Near Eastern securities which rank as British funds Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are 67 ex div., Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are 66, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1865 are 69.

A rather better tone has been in evidence in the industrial group, and most of the leading securities are a trifle harder. There has not been much doing in shipping shares. P. and O. are unchanged at 340, while Furness Withys are the same at 24s. ex div.

Oils have been variable. Anglo-Egyptians are 3-32 up at 1,7-16, but Roumanian Consolidated are 6d. down at 10s. 6d. Steaua Romana are 10s. 9d., and Phoenix are 8s. 9d. Burmahs are 5,13-16 at which they show a gain of 1-8.

Bank shares have been quiet. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are 52¾, while Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are 54¾. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 8, National Bank of Egypt 20, Bank of Athens 2,3-8, and Ionians 3¼.

There has been little change in Greek securities. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 43, while the 5 per cent. 1884 issue is 42. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is 35, while the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 42½ ex div.

Land shares have made a strong showing. Beheras are 9,5-16, and Behera Prefs are 3,1-8, and in both cases there are unsatisfied buyers. Egyptian Delta Lands are 8s. 6d., while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s. 1½d. New Egyptians are 24s. 6d., Sudan Plantations 2,13-16, and Union Foncieres 2,11-16.

Among miscellaneous descriptions Egyptian Markets are 19s. Egyptian Salts and Sodas 35s., and Alexandria Waters 6,13-16.

## TRADE CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

The Bulgarska Bank in its report dated August 1 says:—During the past month the difficulties of commerce due to various causes indicated in previous reports have increased as a result of the sudden fluctuations in the leva. The depreciation immediately brought about a marked rise in the prices of merchandise especially manufactures, skins, and colonial produce. The decline which followed the rise in the exchange did not bring prices to their previous level. Merchants are bewildered not knowing on what to base their calculations, and they continue to abstain from giving orders, although this is the great time for ordering merchandise for the autumn and winter.

The Consortium has not succeeded in making considerable sales abroad during the past month. The business community is impatiently awaiting the establishment of free trade in cereals. As regards tobacco there is no change; the stagnation is complete. The tobacco harvest has commenced in some regions. Some activity is to be recorded in cocoons. Transactions have taken place at 140-180 levas per kilogramme. The Agricultural Bank of Bulgaria has sold in Italy the stock deposited in the warehouses by the producers—estimated at 65,000 kilogrammes—at 185 levas. Business has been brisk in skins, without any appreciable rise in price. At a meeting of the producers of attar of roses at which a representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Philippopolis was present the price of attar of roses was fixed at 90 levas per five grammes which is equivalent to 18,000 levas per kilogramme. There have so far been no transactions, and exports are absolutely insignificant. Offers are round about 16,000 levas per kilogramme.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on August 19 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 7-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 7-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £3; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 57; Behera Ord., £E 8 3-8; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 78; Building Lands of Egypt, £5-8; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 45; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 35; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5½; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 810 ex.; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 631; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr.; 318; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110 ex.; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr., 78; Eaux du Caire Jouissance. Fr. 105, Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 28s.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, 4,5-32 ex.; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10 5-8; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 7-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2 9-16; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £4 3-8; Kom Ombo Ste., Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37½; Lots Turc, Fr., 37; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt., 270; Nungovitch Hotels, £6½; Ramleh Railway, £2 ¾; Salt and Soda, Pt., 33s. 4½d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 49 Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 68; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2 13-32; Egypt Hotels, £1 27-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

The Bank of Athens announces an interim dividend of 5 drachmae on Ordinary shares (coupons No. 41), free of all Greek taxes, leaving 9,053,048 drachmae to be carried forward.

The transfer books of the National Bank of India have been closed until September 21.

The forthcoming Bulgarian internal loan is to be a 6½ per cent issue, redeemable in 40 years by half-yearly drawings at the price of 120.

Odessa Tramways.—A general meeting will be held at the company's offices in Brussels on September 13.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from August 20 to August 25 amounted to 2,550,000 francs as against 2,170,000 francs.

Ionian Bank.—Interim dividend at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of tax, for half year to June 30 last, payable September 20.


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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From our own Correspondent*).

Manchester, Monday.

All events in the market during the past week have been overshadowed by the violent fluctuations in raw cotton rates. Although values for the staple have been greatly advanced on last week's prices most buyers have adopted a waiting policy pending more settled conditions. Lancashire as a whole is sceptical as to the unsatisfactory news relating to future supplies in the raw material, and there is no fear of any shortage. The higher level of values should it be maintained would not be a bad thing for Lancashire as it would enable dear stocks of manufactured goods to be cleared on a more favourable basis. With regard to the cloth section a fair inquiry has been about for Egypt and the Levant, but on the whole, actual transactions have not been of any weight. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have been irregular and spinners have not obtained adequate advances. Only a small offtake has been registered. The cloth inquiry for India and China has been rather disappointing, and most of the bids received from the first named outlet have proved entirely impracticable. For the latter market a few sales in greys and whites have taken place. South America still lags behind. Taking the market as a whole a feeling of optimism prevails with regard to future trade developments, and if the values for the raw material keep advancing steadily then it will not be very long before all the Lancashire factories are working at full time.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 1 :—Spot cotton has again been in slightly improved request. The reaction we have been expecting has taken place; in fact, there are many who believe it has been overdone. The two factors chiefly concerned in forcing our market up—we use the word " forcing " deliberately—have been the important purchases made in Alexandria for American account, and the very active and " bullish " markets we have lately experienced here on the American side, both spot and futures. It was very disappointing when the recent rise failed to attract the trade in any strength, but there are distinct signs that spinners are at last taking more interest in the situation. A number of Egyptian spinners are on the short side as regards actual cotton, although they still hold large stocks of yarn, and the position they find themselves in as the season draws to a close is not an enviable one. Speaking broadly, they cannot sell their yarn, and until they sell yarn they cannot buy cotton, and in the meantime they see the price of the raw material being pushed up against them, and American, fearful of a deficiency of staple in her own crop, absorbing rapidly the visible supply in Alexandria. This evening, the Washington Agricultural Bureau Report, as to the condition of the American crop, is due here, and it promises to be an event of considerable interest to the trade. A figure of anything under 50 should be followed by a series of good, active markets, whilst a figure of 52 or above would probably result in a rapid decline, the effects of which would be felt immediately in the Egyptian market. Taken altogether, we are of the opinion that prices have been elevated rather too much by outside influences, and that there is not sufficient trade buying to warrant any further advance. However, if these outside influences continue to exist, or become even more pronounced, as, for example, the production of a very " bullish " Bureau Report, and a sustained buying for American account in the Alexandrian market, then the value of the home trade as a factor in the situation will become proportionately less, and the technical position will automatically right itself. Manchester reports have not been brilliant, but have improved somewhat in tone during the last few days. The usual enquiry for Fully Good Fair to Good Sakellaridis on the spot has been experienced, and a feature of the week has been the renewed interest displayed in brown cottons, even Tokar and Sudan enjoying a certain amount of popularity. C.i.f. business shows no improvement at the moment ; in fact, the unsettled markets in Alexandria made the offering of cotton from that quarter a somewhat hazardous undertaking. Estimated sales 2,100 bales (includes 250 bales Sudan). Quotations are all advanced, Sakellaridis 200 points, Uppers 200 points, except fine and extra fine, which are raised 240 points; brown 175 points, except fine and extra fine, which are raised 200 points. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 18.00d.

## EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt desires to call attention to the fact that contracts for the supply of goods to the Egyptian Government have been lost through the failure on the part of British firms to comply with the conditions of tender. These conditions stipulate that tenders can only be submitted by firms having a resident agent in the country and that tenders should be accompanied by a provisional deposit of 2 per cent. of the value of the offer in money. This provisional deposit may be replaced by a letter of guarantee from an approved Bank in Egypt and does not therefore necessarily involve any outlay of capital.

Copies of the general conditions of tender which form the basis of the conditions which apply to all public tenders, may be obtained on application at the Department of Overseas Trade together with a memorandum of information for the use of those United Kingdom firms who are desirous of submitting tenders for Egyptian Government contracts.

## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at June 30, 1921, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each.) | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund | |
| Statutory Reserve | 1,462,509 |
| Special Reserve | 585,000 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | 11,906,326 |
| Mixed Tribunals | 1,791,396 |
| Egyptian Government | 530,918 |
| Bankers Accounts | 726,534 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | 285,900 |
| Sundry other Accounts | 1,021,014 |
| Sudan Government | 197,945 |
| | £E21,432,531 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | | 7,283,633 |
| Sundry Securities | | 216,289 |
| Advances on Merchandise | | 1,155,754 |
| Advances on Securities | | 1,824,671 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | | 536,566 |
| Sundry other Advances | | 1,447,846 |
| Bills of Exchange | | 476,068 |
| Local Bills Discounted | | 234,197 |
| Buildings and Furniture | | 238,972 |
| Money at call and at short notice | | 936,000 |
| Bankers Accounts | | 882,964 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 500,155 |
| Egyptian Government | | 3,948,832 |
| Cash : | | |
| Notes | 1,495,341 | |
| Gold | 24,637 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. | 230,606 | |
| | | 1,750,584 |
| | | £E21,432,531 |

### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Notes Issued | 32,700,000 |
| | £E32,700,000 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Gold | 3,339,573 | |
| British Treasury Bills | 13,010,427 | 16,350,000 |
| Securities : | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | 379,473 | |
| British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds | 15,970,527 | 16,350,000 |
| | | £E32,700,000 |

By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold (See " Journal Officiel " of 30th October 1916).

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 540—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1921.

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### *An Extended Horizon.*

With the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire the sharp line of cleavage that formerly divided the Balkan States from the rest of Europe has gone. The Near East finds itself overlapping Central Europe; the Danube and its tributaries, instead of dividing the nations, now serve as a bond of union between them. In these pages we must needs adapt ourselves to the new conditions. The fortunes of Hungary, Austria and Czecho-Slovakia are too closely linked up with the future of the the Balkans Proper to remain outside the purview of "The Near East." The same policy that alone will bring peace and prosperity to the undeveloped countries of South-Eastern Europe is needed no less imperatively for the States whose life revolves about such world-centres as Budapest, Vienna and Prague. For the moment the jibe that Europe, instead of civilising the Balkans, had allowed itself as the result of the war to become Balkanised would seem to be in some measure applicable to the territories of the old Dual Monarchy; but some allowance must be made for the inevitable upheaval of a world struggle and the disturbing effects of a long delay in the settlement of the terms of peace.

### *Towards Federation.*

The Allied nations are being urged in many quarters to see to it that their friends are treated as friends and their late enemies as enemies. There is everything to be said for wary treading in regard to Germany, who as a nation remains potentially as powerful as she was before the war. It is not so clear that the advice represents any great measure of statesmanship when it is applied to the others among our late enemies. There is no powerful Austro-Hungarian Empire to-day to disturb the sleep of European chancelleries. In its place are left two comparatively small States, shorn of their capacity for any serious mischief, and, in addition, inclined to be hostile to one another. As it would be foolish not to have some guarantee for the good behaviour of the smallest community, we welcome the appearance on the scene of the Little Entente as the policeman of Central Europe; but we prefer that this guardian of the peace should model his bearing on that of the London policeman rather than on that of the *Schutzmann* of the former Prussian kingdom. Statesmanship, it would be imagined, ought to be directed towards encouraging Austria to link up her destinies with South-Eastern Europe rather than with Germany on the north, and towards making it possible for Hungary to win content in a great Near Eastern federation of inter-dependent progressive States.

### *Hungary and Austria.*

For people still smarting under the memory of Magyar oppressions it may well be that their former taskmaster retains something of his old terror. If this be the case, the greatest service that can be rendered them is to help them to see that their fears are no longer necessary. No doubt, the leopard does not easily change his spots, but with teeth extracted, claws cut, and in a strong cage he may have in him something to excite admiration. To-day, it is true, the Magyars are making it difficult for any one to see their good points. They are challenging the terms of peace imposed upon them after they have accepted them. The particular items on which they have fastened cannot be regarded as vital to Hungary's existence, and they have chosen the worst method of urging their case. To appeal to force at this stage is effectually to place themselves in the wrong, and to strengthen the hands of those who claim that the Magyar must always be regarded as a danger to European peace. In the years to come Hungary is not going to live to herself; her material existence will depend on her good relations with her neighbours, including Austria. If she feels that a real injustice has been done her by the Peace Treaties, and that its removal is more important than friendly relations with Austria, she will be able in due course to submit her grievance to the League of Nations. She has no chance of establishing her claims by mere filibustering; but she may entirely ruin her case by such means. The better way would be to trust to arriving at an understanding with Austria, which could be presented to the League of Nations for subsequent ratification. In the meantime her neighbours in the Near East will do well to show that they are ready to respond to a correct attitude on the part of the Magyar Government, but that they cannot be bluffed or intimidated. In this way they will hasten the time when Hungary will realize that her true interests lie in peaceful relations and economic co-operation with them.

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### *Albanian Frontiers.*

The decision to restore the Albanian frontiers of 1913, which the Ambassadors' Conference is said to have taken a short while ago on the advice of a territorial commission, is not to be allowed to pass unchallenged. It is noticeable, however, that those who are in favour of perpetuating injustice and unrest in the Near East have no more convincing argument to adduce than the plea that the question was settled two years or so ago by the Paris Conference. Without going closely into the matter, the world at large has formed the shrewd opinion that, in regard to the Near Eastern settlement, any decision of the Paris Conference is *a priori* evidence in favour of reopening a subject. The "Diplomatic" dictograph of *The Daily Telegraph* unwittingly gives the case away when he refers to "the foreign claims to territory hitherto Albanian." If peace is to be restored to the Near East, these foreign claims must no longer be countenanced, still less recognised, and territory must be adjudicated according to the national instincts of the population. An international commission examined on the spot in 1913-14 the frontier problem of Southern Albania. It is ridiculous to contend that the recommendations perfunctorily endorsed in Paris in 1919-20 under conditions associated with "a seething cauldron of human passion and greed" can carry any weight against the dispassionate findings of the more qualified judges. Europe to-day is not concerned to know who of the four members of the Supreme Council in 1919 held one view one day and another the next: it wants to make sure that a district with a strongly developed consciousness of a certain nationality is not going to be handed over to any alien jurisdiction.

### *Concessions to Yugoslavia.*

When it was announced that the Ambassador's Conference had recommended the retention of the 1913 frontier in Southern Albania it was understood that there would be certain rectifications of the Albano-Serbian frontier. The Albanians, however, according to our correspondent, are not prepared for the drastic revision that it is now believed finds favour in Paris. Perhaps the fears of Tirana to which he refers will prove to be unfounded; certainly the alleged changes suggest something more than minor rectifications. In view of the fact that the delimitation of 1913 was reached after a careful investigation of rival claims as well as of strategical considerations, it is to be hoped that violence will not be done to the former decisions without adequate cause. The goal to be kept in view is peace in the Balkans; it will never be reached by creating a variety of Alsaces-Lorraines in the Near East. Albania's neighbours can, no doubt, point to the unsettled condition of that country in the past. But the Albanians to-day claim to have broken with their past and ask to be allowed to make a fresh start, as an independent country free from outside intrigue. They are entitled to be given their chance. How difficult things are likely to be made for them, unless the Powers protect them, is indicated by the attitude of the Yugoslav delegate at the Council of the League of Nations. As Albania, on the representation of the Tirana Government, has been admitted as a member of the League, his slighting reference to that Government is an affront to the Council, and should be taken note of by the Government which accredited him.

### *War in Asia Minor.*

A further lull has taken place in the fighting in Asia Minor. The Greek official statement is to the effect that, after a march of ten days and a battle lasting fifteen days, the Greek Army inflicted defeat and severe losses on the Turks. It has occupied the enemy's strongly fortified positions, and established itself firmly on the East of the Sakaria. "During this pause," the statement continues somewhat abruptly, "it is strengthening its lines of communication and remedying their defects, whilst preparing to continue its successful operations until the object of definitely defeating the adversary is attained." Mustapha Kemal's report on the fighting has not yet reached the outer world, but a Constantinople message, which probably reflects his view, states that as a result of the battle for Angora the Greeks are withdrawing westward, with losses that are put at 18,000 as compared with the 12,000 casualties suffered by the Turks. From the two versions it is evident that both sides have fought themselves to a standstill, and in so doing have confirmed the cynicism of the Supreme Council, which counted on a settlement of the Asia Minor problem proving easier after the intransigence of the disputants had been chastened by further fighting. It remains to be seen whether the Allied Governments are now prepared to stop the useless bloodshed, which, as is known, is not confined in the Near East to battlefield casualties.

### *A New "Policy" in Persia.*

The Teheran Government is still as bent as ever upon dispensing with foreign advice or assistance—or, to be more exact, with advice and assistance from those quarters whence Persia formerly received them—and, apparently upon undoing nearly everything that has been done in the last few years to bring something like order into the country. It has cancelled the contract of Mr. Armitage-Smith and other members of the Financial Commission, dismissing them with six months' salary in its eagerness to be rid of them; and it is now disbanding the South Persia Rifles as rapidly as possible. The Government, we know, has several times announced that Persia can manage her own affairs perfectly well; and the Persians as a whole appear to be of the same opinion. The wish, at any rate, is a very natural one, especially in these days; and if effect could be given to it without disastrous consequences for the country, and especially for the bulk of its people, the policy of Teheran would find plenty of sympathisers in Great Britain. But, frankly, anyone who knows the country as it is to-day is sure to feel very sceptical on the point. We all remember that the new and democratic Government of Seyyid Zia ed-Din and Colonel Riza Khan—the first to insist so strongly on Persia's fitness to do all things for herself—found it necessary to imprison a very large number of their predecessors in power, to say nothing of some hundreds of governors and lesser fry; that Zia ed-Din's term of power was brought to a sudden end by the manoeuvres of his colleague; and that several of the imprisoned statesmen have found their way back to power. And one cannot help wondering whether what has happened before will not happen again; whether the politicians at Teheran will not forget their duty to their country in settling up accounts with one another.

### *Whither?*

So long as the Persians persist in misunderstanding, or pretending to misunderstand, Great Britain's attitude

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towards their country, we can surely do no more to prove our friendly feeling for them. Indeed, in face of recent events, it must be increasingly difficult to keep that friendly feeling alive. For it would be idle to deny that while the dismissal of the members of the Financial Commission was, in itself a small incident, the method of performing the act appears to have been distinctly unfortunate, and, taken together with other incidents, seems to point to a deliberate intention of showing unfriendliness to Great Britain. The disbanding of the South Persia Rifles, too, it is difficult to avoid suspecting, is prompted largely by the feeling that that very promising force was a British conception and a British creation. That some body of the kind was needed, and badly needed, in South Persia, is not to be denied by anybody having any acquaintance with the facts; and while British trade, owing to its leading position in that region, certainly benefited by the preservation of order, the greatest gainers by far were—as they certainly ought to be—the Persian Government and the Persian people. Yet the force is to be scrapped, although our own Government made one final effort to save it for Persia by proposing a scheme under which all British officers would within six months have been replaced by Persians. Meanwhile the Teheran Government has the trouble in Khorasan upon its hands, and has lately offended the Bolshevist Minister in Teheran by allowing a Commissary (rejoicing in the name of Israelenko) and a former Russian Consul-General (M. Pokhutanoff) to evade arrest on Persian soil. Upon the whole, the Ministers of His Imperial Majesty the Shah seem to have plenty of work of one kind or another before them.

### *A Trans-Jordanian Incident.*

An incident, small in itself, but not without importance as indicating an unsatisfactory state of affairs in Syria, is reported from Jerusalem. A Syrian named Ibraham Hannano, and described in some messages as an 'anti-French demonstrator,' recently arrived in Jerusalem from Trans-Jordania: and was then arrested at the request of the French authorities. This led to a meeting of protest being held at Amman, at which a British officer—Colonel Peake, Inspector of Gendarmerie was roughly handled by the crowd. The Emir Abdullah dealt with the matter promptly and correctly, insisting upon an apology to Colonel Peake, the dismissal of the culpable officials, and the arrest of those guilty of the assault; and the usual commission to inquire and report has been appointed. It is to be feared that incidents of a similar character to this one are likely to occur for a long time to come. The Arabs have not forgotten, and are not likely to forget, the departure of the Emir Faisal from Damascus, or the events that led up to and immediately preceeded his departure, and while those memories last they will chafe at the presence of the French in their land, and will work, in the only way open to them (as they consider) to put an end to a state of affairs which they heartily dislike. The extradition treaty between Syria and Palestine is, therefore, sure to be frequently invoked.

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An urgent appeal, addressed "to all peoples," is issued by the Georgian Information Bureau in London on behalf of the Georgian people "groaning under the yoke of the invaders, suffering all the horrors of famine, typhus, cholera, and plague and reduced to the last stages of despair." The Bolsheviks says the appeal, are exacting fresh contributions reaching the enormous total of 50 milliard roubles and considerable quantities of commodities and wool.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

### Inverness and Ireland.

The Cabinet met at Inverness on Wednesday, to the great excitement of the Highlanders, and despatched its answer to Sinn Fein. The document has been closely scanned both here and in Ireland, and its combination of firmness and conciliation has generally been approved. Sinn Fein is invited to a general conference at Inverness on the 20th; no conditions are made, except that the Irish delegates must be "prepared to ascertain how the association of Ireland with the community of nations known as the British Empire can best be reconciled with Irish national aspirations." In other words, separation is excluded, but the form of union is open to full discussion.

Irish organs accept the invitation as not merely satisfactory, but generous, and it is recognised that Sinn Fein can hardly refuse the conference. It is noticeable that Mr. de Valera's language in his public speeches has been more conciliatory during the past few days, and generally Ireland is more optimistic. But it is doubtful, according to Dublin opinion, whether Mr. de Valera will himself attend the conference; it is thought more likely that Mr. Arthur Griffith will be delegated to discuss the question with the British Cabinet. This is probably all to the good, for Mr. de Valera has not been altogether a success as a note-writer or a speech-maker; he has been both irreconcileable and desirous of compromise, and it has been difficult to gauge exactly what his attitude implied. Moreover, it has apparently been quite impossible to get him to discuss details: he is too wedded to phrases and abstract propositions. Yet if the negotiations are to result in settlement, resounding phrases will do little, and details will have to be discussed. The idea is growing that the more inadequate and constructive elements of Sinn Fein are now attempting to get control of the movement.

It is accepted on all sides that the negotiations will be prolonged. There is not only the relation of Ireland to Britain, but also that of the South of Ireland to Ulster, a more difficult proposition, to be considered. It is easy to construct an academic constitution, but to frame one that will work takes time. It is doubtful whether the discussions will be completed before the assembly of Parliament in the middle of October—if they are successful, the autumn session will have to be given to Irish legislation—and in any case it is assumed that Parliament will not now be called together before that date, as at one time seemed likely. Few will regret the breathing-space.

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ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON.

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CAIRO: 48, Place de l'Opera. M. G Harris, *Gen. Man.*
ALEXANDRIA: Societe Generale de Pressage et de Depots.
CYPRUS: Najem Houry & Sons.
CONSTANTINOPLE: Messrs. J. W. Whittall & Co., Ltd.
SMYRNA: Messrs C. Whittall & Co.
JERUSALEM, JOPPA } Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited.


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**Unemployment.**

The unemployment figures are diminishing week by week, but they are still serious, and there is likely to be a good deal of distress during the coming winter. The Cabinet has been denounced for not doing more, but the fact is that artificial remedies for unemployment are usually found to aggravate the disease, and the bulk of the existing unemployment is directly due to the prolongation of the coal dispute, which was not happily handled by Labour. Indeed, Labour at the moment appears to have no constructive ability. At the Trade Union Congress held last week, the only remedy suggested in the presidential address was shorter hours. The speaker betrayed not the least recognition that this would merely mean a lowering of the standard of living all the way round. But it is noteworthy that Labour has entirely abandoned its belief in "one great union." At the Congress any suggestion for diminishing the existing autonomy of the unions was voted down.

**The British Association.**

The papers read before the British Association at Edinburgh this year seem to have been less interesting than usual, or else the reports have been excessively curtailed. Perhaps this is partly due to there having been no element of controversy in the proceedings: one may be interested in the structure of the atom, but one does not get wildly excited over its positive and negative elements. After the last meeting a year ago there was some correspondence as to the declining interest in the meetings, which was reflected in diminishing attendance. Several remedies were suggested—some of them contradictory—but I doubt if any real advance has been made this session.

**London Changes.**

While part of the Strand as well as of Oxford Street is being pulled down for rebuilding purposes, and great blocks of offices are still being erected in the City, Central London is beginning to wear an oddly different appearance. It is due to the notice-boards of offices and shops to let. A year ago it was impossible to get in anywhere, and City landlords were profiteering in the most shameless fashion, but the depression of trade has blighted their outrageous appetite, and there is now a good deal of vacant space. This is likely to continue for some months, the demand having diminished at the same time that the supply has increased. But while there is no longer any shortage of offices, the shortage of houses in the outer suburbs has not been fully remedied.

**Food Prices Falling.**

The indignation over the excessive prices charged by retail dealers, to which I referred last week, has had some effect. Ten days ago the bakers declared that it was quite impossible to reduce the price of bread; the price of bread has now fallen. The coal merchants declared that it was impossible to reduce the price of coal, and the Mining Association impertinently rebuked the public for its belief that, as wages had fallen at the coal fields, prices should fall. The public, however, refused to buy coal, and it laughed at the rebuke; the price of coal has now fallen. These reductions, which will probably be followed by similar outbursts and capitulations in other trades, will have some effect on the cost of living. This greed on the part of retailers is an important contributory cause of Labour unrest.

**Rate Summonses.**

A good many local authorities are becoming perturbed over the question of local rates remaining unpaid. In the poorer boroughs people sometimes cannot pay them; in the richer they delay payment until the last moment, and pay only with emphatic protests against the extravagance of the local administration. There is very little doubt that there has been far more waste in local than imperial Government, and I imagine that the anti-waste movement would have more chance of success in municipal than parliamentary elections. In the field of higher politics, although it has frightened both Coalition and Labour, it has become ridiculous by splits within the anti-waste party itself; when Lord Rothermere secedes from Mr. Bottomley, and one picture paper attacks another in a by-election, sensible people fight shy of such absurdities; but in municipal matters I should think this particular movement should do some good.

**"Mr. Chaplin."**

It was comical to see *The Times* devote a grave leading article last week to "Mr. Charles Chaplin," the celebrity of the day, who is now with us in the flesh after having been with us on the films continuously for years. All the world loves Charlie, but more particularly London, for his career is of the kind that the Cockney most appreciates. Born in Kennington—where schools dispute for the honour of having educated him—he failed as a young actor, went to America, and made his name and fortune on the pictures as the typical cockney. He is said to be of a grave and serious disposition, and to cherish the desire of studying philosophy in some quiet retreat, where bowler hats and baggy trousers are unknown—but this will not really happen. He is rather shy and nervous of the uproarious welcome at present, but no doubt he will get used to it.

**Another Australian Defeat.**

English cricket has been saved. Another scratch eleven, raised by that old veteran Mr. C. I. Thornton, has beaten the Australians at Scarborough; as somebody once said of us in war, we win very little except the last. I fancy the Australians are going a little stale—they have been playing continuously since May—but we seem at last to have found players who are not dazzled by the prestige of their opponents. If we pick teams for the next series of test matches from players under thirty who have never been tried for their county, we may stand a chance of winning.

**The Grand Trunk Sensation.**

The decision of the arbitration of the Grand Trunk of Canada that the shares of that railway are practically worthless has caused a sensation on the Stock Exchange. The decision is so obviously unjust, in view of the past history of this undertaking and the relations of the Canadian Government with the Corporation, that it is to be appealed against, and the market is relying on the minority report of Mr. Taft, the American ex-President and Judge of the Supreme Court, to force the Canadian Government to act. If it does not, all Dominion securities—and the standard of Dominion ethics as well—will receive a rude shock.

**The Week's Books.**

One of the most interesting books I have read for many a long day is "Miscellanies, Literary and Historical" (Hodder and Stoughton) by Lord Rosebery. There are papers on Gladstone, Randolph Churchill, on racing, on Burns and R.L.S., and a dozen other subjects; all with a certain distinction of thought as well as style. Lord Rosebery has been compared by Mr. Gosse to the eighteenth century, and there is truth in the comparison, but his style reminds me at times of the great Elizabethans. His oratory deserves that rare tribute, that it reads as well in the study as it sounds on the platform.

"Portraits of the Nineties" (T. Fisher Unwin) by E. T. Raymond, is in one sense a continuation of the author's "Uncensored Celebrities," which was so popular a couple of years ago. The nineties of last century are rather the middle ages to many of the younger readers of the day, but they had great names, and Mr. Raymond on the whole treats them with more respect than his contemporaries. His gallery includes Lord Salisbury, Sir William Harcourt, Cecil Rhodes, Creighton, and other prominent figures of the Diamond Jubilee time.

"The Control of Life," (Melrose) by Professor J. Arthur Thompson, who is one of the few scientific writers with the gift of popular exposition, discusses our natural inheritance, the biology of health, the biological control of life, the individual life cycle, and the kingdom of man in an informative and instructive fashion. It is likely to prove a useful little book in what may be called practical eugenics.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, September 8.*

Reports are arriving here from Geneva and London which arouse the gravest misgivings among Albanians. It is stated that the British Government is prepared to cede certain Albanian territories to Yugoslavia. Mention is made of frontier rectifications in three directions, the cession of Kastrati, north-east of Scutari, of an important district south-west of Prisrend, and of another west of Dibra. It is pointed out here that the result of these cessions would be to enable Serbia to dominate the whole of Albania; for Tirana, Scutari and Elbasan, and even Koritza, would be rendered to all intents and purposes defenceless against Yugoslav aggression. A prominent Albanian with whom I have discussed the subject expressed himself as follows:—"Are there then no qualified judges in the capitals of the Great Powers? If there are, how comes it that a judge hands over the victim to the one who has done him ill?" For these are the precise districts where the Serbians have carried out their raids and where the population has laboured under such terrible hardships.

It is perhaps fair to add that a considerable section of Albanian opinion refuses to believe in these reports and retains its faith and a blind confidence in England, which has already guaranteed the independence and sovereignty of Albania.

**The Gathering of the Eagles?**

Apart from the immediate practical disabilities that the suggested cession of territory would impose on Albania, it might be pointed out that one effect would be to strengthen the opinion of Yugoslavia, Italy and Greece that Albania after all is a State destined to be partitioned sooner or later. It would seem to be in anticipation of such an event that Italy has once more insisted upon a form of mandate, as well as upon the Isle of Saseno, and perhaps also Valona. With the same aim in view the Serbian Committee at Podgoritza has been created, Yugoslav bands violate the Albanian frontier and the Belgrade Government has set up Marka Gjoni—a worthy successor to Essad Pasha.

To lay hands on the territorial integrity of Albania at this moment—such is the opinion here—would be to encourage Albania's neighbours to intrigue and conspire against her life. The attitude of the Great Powers will have a demoralising effect when they ought at this time to be giving to all the nations a lesson in morality by accustoming them and compelling them to respect the liberty and life of neighbours.

**On the Greek Frontier.**

A report has been current for the last week that bands are being formed on Greek territory, in particular at Kastoria, with the object of attacking the Albanian frontier. As might be imagined, it is believed here thar the Hellenic Government is offering pecuniary inducements to those who are willing to enrol themselves in the bands. The Albanian authorities have taken certain measures of protection, and to-day it is reported from Koritza that a small Greek band, on trying to enter Albanian territory, came into conflict with Albanian gendarmerie; one Greek was killed and another wounded and taken prisoner. The latter, it is stated, is a man in close touch with Bishop Jakov, the Orthodox Metropolitan of Koritza, who is famous for his anti-Albanian attitude. But such is the anxiety of the Albanians to give no cause for complaint that they have not yet deported the Metropolitan, who is, I understand, a Greek from Smyrna.

The fear is expressed that Greece is encouraged by the favourable attitude adopted by the Powers towards Yugoslavia, and their intention to make a fresh grant to the latter of Albanian territory. Greece, it is pointed out, is consequently inclined to be jealous, and is anxious that she too should have a share in the spoil.

On the top of all these sinister reports which are exercising public opinion here comes another in regard to Italy. It is persistently alleged that the Consulta is continually talking of certain rights, of an economic hold on Albania and of the possession of the island of Saseno. In some quarters it is believed that Italy hopes to secure recognition for her claims as a *quid pro quo* for her silence in regard to the frontier rectifications in favour of Serbia. Are we back again, it is asked, at the partition of Albania, decided upon in the dark days of 1915, but fortunately abandoned later, when more honourable counsels prevailed?

M. Marquart, delegate of the International Red Cross of Geneva, has been in Albania for the last three weeks with a view to seeing with his own eyes the miserable state of the children and women refugees at Tirana, Kavaja and Elbasan, who fled from the districts devastated last year by Serbian bands. M. Marquart has already sent in two reports to the Red Cross, and these, it is hoped, will be formally communicated to the League of Nations.

**The League of Nations Session.**

September 2 was the date fixed by the Council of the League of Nations for the consideration of Albania's request for the settlement of her difficulties with Yugoslavia. Before the discussion opened Mr. Balfour, the British delegate, read a resolution according to which the Albanian request was to be sent back to the Assembly to which Albania wished to submit the question which had remained without solution at the last session—June 25. The Albanian delegate is understood to have supported the resolution, but the Yugoslav delegate intervened with a question purporting to ask for information as to which of the two Governments of Albania—that of Mirdita, or that of Tirana—really represented the country and the nation, and with which of the two Governments the League ought to enter into relations. The Yugoslav delegate went on to suggest the despatch to Albania of a committee of enquiry for the purpose by the League of Nations. The Albanian delegate replied that the seat of the Government of Mirdita was at Prisrend, that is to say, in Yugoslav territory, while the seat of the Government of Tirana was in Albania itself; moreover, he pointed out, while the Government of Tirana represented the country and the nation, that of Mirdita consisted of a single individual Marka Gjoni, and was paid and created by Yugoslavia. At the conclusion of his remarks the resolution of Mr. Balfour was adopted unanimously.

It is understood that the inquiry into Albanian affairs will be conducted in the 6th Committee, which will probably refer it to a sub-committee. The League of Nations, before investigating the matter, will, no doubt, wait for the decision taken by the Ambassadors' Conference in Paris regarding Albania's northern frontiers.

**Education.**

A technical school, called the Vocational Training School, has just been established at Tirana. Funds

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for the purpose have been furnished partly by the Albanian Government and partly by the American Red Cross, which has undertaken to appoint certain of the staff. The School will supply a great want in the country. The Minister of Public Instruction has just established at Scutari a school where 120 children from the Albanian highlands (Maltsors) will be brought up and educated.

It is interesting to note that the number of students supported by Albanian State funds in European capitals now amounts to 130. There are, as well, 150 others who are prosecuting their studies at their own expense. The Albanian Society 'Vatra' in the United States has offered to contribute an annual sum of 2,000 dollars towards the support of a dozen young Albanians studying in America.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, August* 30.

**The Baranya Question.**

The press is still very disturbed about the Baranya question. The evacuation appears to have been carried out in a proper and satisfactory manner, but the Magyars have in a few instances overrun their rights, and driven off some cattle from the wrong side of the line. These are trifling matters. What is more serious is the statement in all the papers that the British officer commanding the Allied Mission has asked the Belgrade Government to withdraw the frontier some distance to the south. The Government have decided that the line must be maintained as set forth in the Peace Treaty, and quite naturally refuse to consent to this withdrawal, which would bring the Hungarians still nearer to the important town of Subotica; and they have given orders to defend the proper line by force if necessary. If the Mission encourages the Magyars to take this line, a conflict can scarcely be avoided; which may lead to serious consequences. Public opinion is strong on the point, and it is especially regrettable that this unfortunate business should be associated with the name of a British officer, as the incident has gone far to damage in Yugoslavia our reputation for being supporters of fair play. The Belgrade *Politika*, commenting upon the report in the Paris *Temps* that the British officer in question sent a telegram of hearty congratulation to the Hungarian general, remarks that one would think that from 1914 to 1918 it was the Hungarians who were the sturdy allies of Great Britain, and the Serbs a bitter and savage foe. At the same time, the Zagreb *Novosti* gives prominence to a telegram from its correspondent to the effect that Admiral Horthy has decorated the British officer in question with the highest order possible, in recognition of his services in connection with the evacuation of the Baranya.

The Zagreb *Jutarnji List* reports (with big headings) that the officer has come to Belgrade, where he will be received by M. Pashitch, to "justify his attitude on the occasion of the evacuation of the Baranya, which has so disturbed public opinion throughout the country."

**Kemalist Propaganda.**

Kemalist propaganda has reached Yugoslavia. Mohammedan armed bands are harassing the Orthodox population in the old Sandjak and in the Kossovo district and what is known as Old Serbia. As the Christians have been disarmed, they are unable to help themselves. It is reported from Prijepolye that the Mufti recently made a speech in the local mosque and encouraged his co-religionists to hold out, for in a month Kemal Pasha would come with his victorious army to liberate them from the yoke of the Giaour. The gendarmerie, even with the help of volunteers and irregulars, cannot deal with the situation, as the Mohammedan bands are very numerous and strong; and troops have been sent to deal with the matter properly. One powerful band, after being hunted in the wilds of the Sandjak, has withdrawn into the mountainous district of Herzegovina, but it can only be a matter of time before it is crushed.

**For Tariff Reformers.**

In these days of tariff revision it is interesting to see the figures of the tariff of Prince Milosh, when Serbia was still a pashalik, with Turkish currency and measures. Thus, the import duty of coffee was 7 grosh (20 centimes, a piastre) per 100 okes, an oke being about 2¾lb.; on sugar, 3 grosh; on rice, 3 grosh and 12 paras; on hempseed, 2 gr., 20; on cotton and wollen goods, 13; on new copper 15; on old copper 7.20; on guns 55 grosh per 100; and 4 grosh on a box of scythes. Milosh also had an export duty, curiously enough, with the same tariff. It is interesting to note that in those days, about a century ago, there was not a surplus of food in the country, and its export was discouraged; for at the end of the tariff there is a note that wheat, maize, barley, oats and beans pay duty when going to another pashalik, but are duty free on importation.

*Belgrade, September 7.*

**Montenegrin Irreconcilables.**

Although Italy recognised the fusion of Montenegro in Yugoslavia by the Treaty of Rapallo, the surviving adherents of the Petrovitch-Njegush dynasty keep up a semblance of a government. The official *Glas Crnogora* is printed in Rome, and a recent number proclaimed the shuffling of the four "Ministers," Plamenats, Vuchinitch, Vujovitch and Shoch, signed by the Regent-Mother ex-Queen Milena, in the name of "His Majesty King Michael I." The Yugoslav press has welcomed the news that the Italian authorities have searched the premises of the "Montenegrin Consulate" in Rome, on the ground that they have news that the Montenegrin exiles in Rome, Geneva and Basle were plotting anti-union disturbances in Montenegro. This Italy, as an ally of Yugoslavia, cannot tolorate within her territory, especially as the "consulate" of a defunct State can have no extra-territorial rights.

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**An Impressive Ceremony.**

A sad ceremony took place at Nish on Saturday. The remains of no less than ninety nine Serbian priests, who died at the hands of the Bulgarians between the 12th and 18th of November 1915, at Yelashnitza, Surdurluk and Bela Palanka were buried. The remains were reverently collected and conveyed to Nish, where, with a touching and impressive ceremony, they were interred in the Cathedral. A marble slab will be erected to perpetuate the names of these martyrs in their country's cause.

**The 'Alkari.'**

One of the most interesting deputations to the funeral of King Peter was the "Alkari" from Sinj. These were four strapping men in picturesque uniform, richly decorated with gold and silver, with long plumes in their caps, and swords by their sides. Their home, Sinj, is a picturesque and romantic town in the backhills of Dalmatia. For years it was the refuge of the *haiduks* and and "uskoks" the Robin Hoods of Dalmatia, who were described by Sir Gardiner Wilkinsoh ninety years ago. Tired of this wasps' nest, the Turks sent a considerable force to wipe them out in 1715, sixty thousand men under the Serasker Pasha, who laid siege to the town. But the "uskoks" defeated the Turks, who left eleven thousand on the battlefield and withdrew. In this desperste fight the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Serbs fought sid by side, the latter led by a friar. To perpetuate the memory of this great victory they formed a guild of knighthood, of which each member owned a horse and was escorted by his orderly. They maintained a military organisation, and celebrated tournaments, at which the chief item was tilting at the ring or "alka" from which they called thenselves "alkari." The guild still survives, and maintains its plcturesque and striking uniform designed two centuries ago, and its members are to-day as much inspired with the flame of patriotism as when they sent the Turks headlong.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, August* 30.

**Political.**

Had it not been for a meeting which the 'Tzaranists' (Peasant Party) held, we should have had the unusual gratification of recording a blank week with regard to internal political affairs. At the meeting referred to, M. Michalake, the chief of the Party, gave an account of his and his followers' parliamentary activity up to their retirement from the House. *Inter alia*, he denied the rumours afloat about negotiations for eventual collaboration with the Cabinet, affirming the necessity of a new democratic Government, and of fresh elections which should be conducted by an interim and neutral Cabinet. He made their return to Parliament conditional on the Cabinet apologizing for the insult offered by one of its members to one of his partisans.

General Averesco is expected to return soon, and political activity will certainly revive after his arrival. A section of the press which claims to be "in the know" regarding the Government's plans, discloses its intention of bringing the existing political crisis to an end by securing the collaboration of the Tzaranists, Ardeleni; and Bessarabians (under Stere). There will be allotted to them a fair share of portofolios in the Cabinet, which will be reconstituted in the autumn, in order completely to isolate the Liberals, whose seats in Parliament will be declared vacant, should they persist in their abstention from the sittings.

This version although somehow bearing the stamp of "fabrication" deserves to be mentioned, because it expresses the general impression that the viability of the Cabinet depends on a compromise with the Opposition mentioned, also because it contradicts the other version that the Cabinet will be re-arranged with some fresh elements of the governmental party. If accomplished, it is believed that this would prove, after all, only a palliative..

**Miscellaneous.**

The intentionally misleading report published in a Viennese paper stating that General Averesco, after completing his cure at Kissingen, will go to Berlin for the conclusion of an economic accord, has been officially contradicted. The report about the conclusion of a concordat whith the Vatican is also denied.

The Coronation of the Sovereigns which was to take place on September 27, is officially postponed. It will presumably be celebrated on May 10, this date being also the anniversary of the Coronation of the late King Carol.

The Roumanian-Yugoslav Commission for the frontier delimitation according to the Treaty of St. Germain, has resumed its work, after a short interruption on account of its President, a Serbian General, having had to attend King Peter's obsequies.

M. Panas, Hellenic Minister in Roumania, who has been appointed his country's representative on the League of Nations' meeting, has left Bucharest. During his absence, M. Satrellaropoulos is acting as Chargé d'Affaires.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, September* 4.

**The End of Article 4.**

The Sobranje has repealed Article 4, and a very much abused and unpopular measure has thus disappeared. The Reparations Commission, who advised the Government to repeal the article, have now achieved their object, and the thanks of the country are due to them. They have, however, allowed the trials which are pending against 60 persons to continue; but the majority of those affected by the article, numbering about 1,500, will be free.

The consequences of this legislation should be far reaching, as many capitalists who during the last two or three years have been forced to live abroad will now return; and, with them will come at least a portion of the capital, which left the country with them. Recent events in Russia will convince anyone that capital is a vital necessity for the economic life of a country, and the return of capital to Bulgaria is surely one of the best things that could have happened.

At the same time, even although the Article is definitely repealed, fears are entertained that the Government, whilst honouring the repeal in theory, may not altogether observe it in practice. The reasons for this fear are not far to seek; the political rivalry between the Agrarian and Bourgeois parties is running very high at the present moment, and the majority of the persons who suffered under "Article 4." belong to the Bourgeois parties. It is thus evident that it is not in the interests of the Government to have many wealthy men whose ideas and politics are opposed to theirs returning to Bulgaria; whilst on the other hand it is doubtful if a number of the aforesaid Bourgeois will deem it worth their while to come back as long as the present Govern-

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ment is in power. "Article 4" has unfortunately become rather more of a political weapon than a means of punishing those who illegally made large fortunes during the war.

Nevertheless the repeal of the Article is a step in the right direction, and if the moderate section amongst the Agrarians can exert their influence on the whole party, and prevent the extremists from waging a ceaseless war against capital, there is every reason to hope that an improvement in the financial and economic situation will soon take place.

**Relations with Roumania.**

There have of late been signs that Roumania is sincerely desirous of a *rapprochement* with Bulgaria, and the news that the sequestration of the property and rights of Bulgarians in Roumania, and especially in the Dobruja, may be raised is hailed here with great satisfaction. The action of Roumania in renouncing her right to judge Bulgarian war criminals was also favourably commented on, and the appointment of General Fitcheff as Bulgarian Minister to Bucharest will, it is hoped, further help to increase the good feeling, as the General is both known and respected in Roumania. M. Langa Rascano, the Roumanian Minister at Sofia, also enjoys great popularity both in official and unofficial circles, and his declarations to the Roumanian newspaper *Dacia* last month are significant and interesting. The Minister said *inter alia* that the rumours regarding Bulgaria's efforts to evade carrying out the terms of the Peace Treaty, in so far as they affected Roumania, were without foundation. The Sofia Government, he said, was doing its best to live on good terms with its Northern neighbour, and although there was still a regrettable amount of *Komitaji* activity along the frontier, the joint action of the two Governments in having all trees cut down at a certain distance from the actual frontier should greatly minimise these outbreaks. Economic relations were improving daily, and the Roumanian petrol had succeeded in ousting the American product, whilst the Bulgarian railways were themselves using the Roumanian oil. If only the other neighbouring countries would follow Roumania's example, and enter into more complete and intimate relations with the Sofia Government, there would be a real chance for peace and order in the Near East.

**The Press Censorship.**

An article, which appeared in the Sofia newspaper *Zora* this week, commented on the Press Censorship in Russia. Towards the end of the article the author began to discuss the Press censorship in Bulgaria and the rest of his article was completely censored. On the other hand, the newspaper *Den* published ten days ago a most violent attack on England; incidentally this article has since been strongly criticised by many leading men here. These two cases, of censorship and non-censorship, coupled with the somewhat remarkable fact that on two occasions the *communiqués* of the Reparations Commission have been censored, go to show the illogical system on which the Censorship is carried on. One would understand the Government objecting to the Press indulging in a campaign against another country, having regard to the straits that Bulgaria finds herself in; but it is difficult to understand why all criticism of internal affairs should be forbidden.

Yet another example is that of the series of articles written by Colonel Repington, which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of August 22, 24, and 26. The last two articles were reproduced *in toto* in all the leading papers; but the first, which contained some very mild criticism of the Government, has been sedulously hushed up and prevented from appearing. This kind of policy is as dangerous to its authors as it is to those on whom it is practised, and the whole question of Press Censorship would seem to be badly in need of reform.

**Personalia.**

The King has returned to Sofia from Varna.

The Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., is at present staying in Sofia and was received by King Boris on September 3.

Mr. Bruce, the new Secretary General of the English Delegation on the Reparations Commission has arrived at Sofia.

# THE CARAVANSERAI.

*Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*
—OMAR KHAYYAM

The abnormal summer has produced some strange results in this country; but neither here nor in any other European country has it, I think, exercised any influence directly upon the fate of any ruler. In Mesopotamia, however, it really does seem to have done a good turn to King Faisal. Evidently owing to the unusual summer, some of the many thousands of Basrah's famous date palms have been making preparations, so to say, to produce a second crop of fruit this year. I do not suppose that any of the second crop will ever come to anything. For one thing, the owners of the trees are likely to feel that it is much better to give the trees their usual rest than to help on the abnormal growth; and therefore to prevent fertilization. For another thing, if a few greedy owners should try to secure a second crop, I fancy the cold weather will be on the trees too soon to allow the fruit to ripen. For all that, I gather that the extraordinary conduct of the trees has caused much excitement among the Arabs, who regard it as a fortunate occurrence, and that they are generally inclined to attribute it to the presence in their midst of their newly chosen King, Faisal. And—in Mesopotamia, at any rate!—such things are not without value.

* * *

From all parts of the country there arise murmurs and wails, about the Mosquito and his (or her; for I believe it is Mrs. M., who is so objectionable) nasty little ways. Streatham residents I read, had to close their windows and suffer in stuffiness until they killed the hundreds of invaders who had already penetrated the privacy of the Streatham homes. And all round London, and in many parts of England, the same kind of thing has been going on, more or less. Affectionate couples have been driven from the seats of the parks and commons; gardens have had to be abandoned in the evenings; and the number of bitten necks, arms, and faces that you see is astonishing. But the best evidence of the seriousness of the plague in our once-happy land is the fact that organisations are springing up all over the country for the purpose of waging systematic war on the blood-thirsty insects. It is time, too, for each year the plague seems to get worse, and the extraordinary summer has suited the Mosquito admirably.

* * *

Apropos of mosquitoes, I remember well when I first began to realise that the insect really could make life a burden to you. It was in the winter, but at Suez my friend and I found a few hardy specimens in our room. They did not trouble me greatly—and, in fact, they never have taken very kindly to me, so far—but with my friend it was otherwise. He was a nice pink-and-white young Scot, and the insects evidently found him very much to their liking; for in the night I was aroused from sound sleep by the sound of vigorous slapping accompanied by a steady murmur, of what I discovered as I woke up fully to be extremely violent expressions, poured forth with a strong Scottish accent. Moreover, I very soon realized that there was an undeniable smell of sulphur in the room. Could it be D—'s language? No; when I roused myself sufficiently to sit up and investigate matters, I saw my poor travelling companion sitting up in bed, holding his candlestick between his knees, slapping himself and his bed vigorously at frequent intervals, and occasionally burning villainous-smelling sulphur matches. In response to my surprised query he informed me—very tartly and profanely—that his mosquito-netting had several holes in it, that he had been reading in bed after I fell asleep, and that 'these deevilish mosquitoes' had found him out, and wouldn't let him get a wink of sleep. I am afraid my unsympathetic reception of his complaints did not soothe him; for he used language which as a full-blown minister (as he now is) he must surely blush for—if ever he remembers it.

CORSAIR.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

## "The Indian Situation."

Under the above heading, the *Yorkshire Post* publishes (Sept. 6), a leading article inspired by Lord Reading's address to the Council of State and Legislative Assembly at Simla on September 3. It refers to the difficulties, internal and external, of the situation, and mentions Lord Reading's remark to the effect that the Moplah rising had assumed the character of a rebellion. When the Viceroy 'seems to draw a distinction between the agitators who have directly played on the fanaticism of the Moplahs and the leaders of the Non-co-operation movement with whom he has been in negotiation,' the writer appears to be unable to follow him for he shares the opinion of Lord Willingdon, and of other observers that 'the disturbances in Malabar are an inevitable outcome of the propaganda associated with M. Gandhi.' The article continues :—

Having recognised the presence of a revolutionary movement, the Indian Government, it is to be hoped, will see the wisdom of taking adequate measures not merely to put down its violent expressions, but to suppress its activities at an earlier stage. To do that effectively, it is desirable that there should be no drawing of fine distinctions between those who, while preserving an appearance of moderation, awaken dangerous passions, and the active extremists who are the logical outcome of their teachings. At least, care should be taken to avoid giving the impression that the authorities are temporising with revolutionary elements.

While these troubles are largely due to the weakening of authority that followed the Government's failure to support General Dyer's drastic restoration of order at Amritsar, their difficulties have also been increased by the policy of the Home Government in the Near East. The British attitude to Turkey has provided a means which the Indian extremists have used for inflaming Moslem opinion, and it is in this connection we must read the Viceroy's expression of a fervent hope that the treaty between Turkey and Greece will soon be concluded on terms satisfactory to Turkey and Moslem opinion. The effect of this policy has been felt not only in India, but on its borders, and it has played no small part in accentuating our embarrassments on the frontiers. It must certainly have been of assistance in preparing the field for Bolshevik propaganda in Afghanistan, to which the failure of the peace negotiations between the Ameer and the Indian Government is generally attributed. The Viceroy is hopeful of the opposition being overcome before long, but the task before our diplomacy is obviously not light.

Turning to the North, the article regrets that, owing to the successful work of Bolshevist agents, 'Afghanistan has ceased to be the barrier that she formerly constituted between India and the possibilities of invasion from the North. The buffer has disappeared : it must be restored The articles concludes :—

For many years our great Indian Viceroys and administrators have recognised the importance and value of this buffer policy, and by annual subsidies, combined with trade advantages, and advice and guidance in regard to Afghanistan's foreign relations, have bound this rugged country to us with chains far easier and more economical than those of military domination or occupation. But of late years there has been a tendency to depart from this eminently sane policy which has been followed by all the great Viceroys of the immediate past, from Lord Lawrence onwards, and, as a consequence, our relations with the Afghans have not been altogether satisfactory. The task before us now is to restore this former state of affairs, complicated as the position is by the new factors born of the war.

## The L.O.N. and Armenia.

The *Daily Telegraph's* special correspondent at Geneva contributed an interesting article upon the League of Nations to the issue of September 5. He does not appear to expect the League to accomplish any great thing, and among other reasons which have forced him to this state of mind the Armenian Question has evidently played its part. He writes :—

What has been done, or rather not done, with regard to Armenia affords a typical instance of the powerlessness of the League of Nations under existing conditions. Nothing moved the delegates at the first Assembly so much as the impassioned appeals of Lord Robert Cecil for the saving of the remnant of the Armenian race from destruction by the Turks, and a resolution directing the Council to undertake this task was passed with complete unanimity. The Council in its report, which will be presented to the Assembly next week, simply declares its powerlessness in the matter, and states "no action was possible." The reason given for this is that the Armenian Government which was in existence when the Assembly resolution was passed had disappeared, and was replaced by one in close relationship with the Soviet Government of Russia. The plain fact is that the League of Nations was unable to offer any help to Armenia, and as a measure of self-protection its Government allied itself with the Soviet Government of Russia. At the present moment practically the whole of this ill-fated nation is in the hands of the Nationalist Turks or the Soviets.

In the same way the commission of inquiry which the Assembly resolved should be appointed to examine into the position of women and children in Armenia, Asia Minor, Turkey, and the Adjacent territories, who were alleged to be deported in large numbers, was never appointed. Instead, the Council asked "three persons already on the spot" to collect any information they might be able to obtain. There the matter ended so far as is known.

Looked at in this way—and it seems to be a very fair, statement of the case—the prospect for the Armenians if they depend upon the League's help, does not appear any too bright.

## In Defence of Basrah.

A little while ago Mr. G. R. Sims wrote in the *Referee* some notes on the subject of Basrah and Baghdad, basing his remarks on the report of a kinsman of his, 'a young officer home on leave from Baghdad.' His remarks have failed to meet with approval from the *Times of Mesopotamia*, which, very naturally, particularly resents the statement that Basrah 'is a dirty, unhealthy city,' even though it be qualified by the addition of : 'with a wonder-wealth of roses blooming around it.' Nor does G.R.S.'s opinion that 'everybody seems to be getting something out of Mesopotamia except the British' find an echo in the columns of our Basrah contemporary. We read in its issue of August 7 :—

All we can say is that "Dagonet" is misinformed, and his young kinsman appears to be an adept at leg-pulling. It is true that Basrah is not a particularly bracing place at this time of the year; on the other hand, for eight months out of the twelve its climate is excellent—as good as that enjoyed by any place in the East. Moreover, judged by Eastern standards Basrah is certainly not a dirty town. It is the cleanest town in 'Iraq, and from a sanitary point of view sets Baghdad an example which the Capital would do well to emulate. Those of us who have visited Mosul and Kirkuk, and who have seen some of the smaller towns, such as Hit, Kifri and Khaniqin, realise how far Basrah has progressed from the general standards of sanitation prevailing in 'Iraq. One is assailed by fewer street smells in Basrah than in the vast majority of Eastern cities. If "Dagonet" should ever happen to pay us a visit we might convince him of our progressive spirit by arranging a trip for him in one of our new municipal motor dust carts! Having completed his early morning round in one of those super-modern innovations, he might proceed (as an antidote) to search for one of the flowery bowers referred to by his lucky kinsman. Our "blooming" wonder-wealth of roses, indeed! . . . . As regards the possibility of "getting something out of Mesopotamia," we don't mind telling Mr. Sims, in confidence, that (to the best of our belief, and notwithstanding the bad state of trade) two or three of the British firms here are still able to turn an honest anna.

We share the belief that 'Dagonet's' informant was indulging in leg-pulling. But with such a doughty champion as the *Times of Mesopotamia* to protect their good name there is evidently no need for us to break a lance on behalf of the cities of Irak.

## ARTICLES TO NOTE.

"Mesopotamia's Claim on Britain," by Captain H. B. Usher; and "Changing Pastures in India," by Lord Meston, in the *Contemporary Review* (*Sept.*)

"Lord Cromer To-day," by D. G. Hogarth, C.M.G., and "The Anatolian War," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly Review* (*Sept.*)

"A False Prophet in the Sudan," by Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Vickery, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (*Sept.*)

"A Wazir-Mahsud Blood Feud," by L. M. Crump, in the *Cornhill Magazine* (*Sept.*)

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## KOSTES PALAMAS.

**"A HUNDRED VOICES AND OTHER POEMS." By Kostes Palamas. Translated by Aristides E. Phoutrides** (*Harvard University.*)

About a year ago we had the pleasure of reviewing the first volumes of the works of Kostes Palamas which Mr. Phoutrides is translating from the Greek for English readers—" Life Immovable." It was a notable book, the literary importance of which however, there was difficulty in exactly discovering, so much on the context of the verse and so little on its form had one to rely.

But there is another estimate than the literary to which the works of Palamas, and especially "A Hundred Voices" prompt us, and that is to consider him as an interpreter of the new soul of Greece. For much as Whitman showed to the world the new America, Palamas uncovers to us the finer longings and passionate desires of the new Greeoe.

First Palamas is a patriot, then he is a philosopher, and in the fusion of these two virtues he becomes a poet. He has in full the violent likes and dislikes of his race; he has, what is rare in a Balkan, a most Catholic capacity for seeking good outside his own country; and he has, hardened and indomitable, the optimistic vision of the poet. Of his love for his country a consumingly beautiful love, as much spiritual as physical, there is no doubt, though it sometimes comes a little haltingly in the translation. Here, for example, are two verses from his " Olympic Hymn "(which, incidentally, has been set to music by Samaras ), out of the " Hymns and Songs of Wrath " :—

Ancient and immortal spirit, father pure,
Of all things beautiful and great and true,
Come and reveal yourself among us
Amidst the splendour of your land and sky.

Meadows and seas and mountains shine with you
Like a great temple sapphire blue and white,
Luring the nations pilgrims to your shrine,
Ancient and immortal spirit, from all earth.

He is confident of his country's high calling, as certain of its potentialities as of the worth of its achievements, and though a sceptic in some things, he does not sigh for the past that is dead, but seeks rather to link up with the glory that was Greece, a Greece that shall once more be glorious. So, in this quest for the self-assertion of his nation's soul, he takes fire from similar efforts by other people. The struggle of the Boers, for instance, moved him to write :—

Freedom, the brave one sung of Solomos,
Has gone on wings of winds and seabirds,
For to a race unknown and humble;
And see, a Sparta and a Suli blossomed there.
Then with the sunset of the age,
Hail, dawn of virgin and unknown lands!
O treasure haunted fields untouched by fame,
The greater treasure has now come to you.
Welcome the hour! For here is valour,
And here is sacrifice,
And here is glory.
Sufficient is a single heart
For giving birth to history,
A virgin fair and clothed in perfect armour.

But for those of his countrymen who seek narrowly to conserve the heritage of Greece he has nothing but words of scorn, directing his ire chiefly on the monks and the priests; the first are " haters of the sun and all that finds delight in sunlight ;" the second but " precious blossoms of decay." There is indeed overmuch of the local and ephemeral element of affairs in the verse of Palamas; the seen and the imagined are in fact hopelessly confused; but we can forgive anything to the man who, particularising from his own petty wrath, can open up a general avenue thus ;—

Two ogresses work havoc on the State:
The black monk's fury and the teacher's rage.
The State has closed its gates and cast me out;
And on the lonely trail of loveliness
I wander on; and as I go, I pick
The shining fragments of the star-eyed thought
Whom they have slain. I plant them on my path;
And see, a kingdom rises here, and there
A paradise; and farther, palaces,
Temples and mighty castles dragon-guarded;
And all rejoice in one unending day.

It will be at once observed that his almost Shelleyan eloquence has moved the translator to unwonted beauty of expression.

Much might be written of all the poems in this volume; of " A Hundred Voices," wherein is traced the philosophy of Palamas that thought and light will ultimately triumph; of " The Hymns and Songs of Wrath," in one of which,—" The Song of the Cross,"—he memorably describes the junction of the world's two finest products. the Hellenic and Christian civilisations ( " The Cloud of Calvary was mingled with the white gleam of Homer's ever-blessed Olympus," ) and of the " Great Visions," with its high statement of his attitude at once Christian, pagan and pan-human.

We have small doubt of the destiny of Greece; ultimately we see it once more the centre and director of a civilisation; and if it have many other sons like Palamas, the fulfilment of its role is near. He is a most convincing and significant figure, and this last volume shows unmistakably how heavy a debt the English-speaking world is under to Mr. Phoutrides for discovering to it the compelling and pregnant genius of this Greek poet.

### BOOK RECEIVED.

" The Governor's Romance." By Mina Holt. (London: John Long. 8s. 6d. net.)

" Some Personalities," (Murray) by 20-1631—a pseudonym that conceals the name of Mr. Allen Upward—is a work of lively recollections that should amuse many holiday-makers. When in Nigeria, as Resident of the Provinces of Lokoja and Kabba, he wrote an order as follows: " To Lady Superintendant, Freed Slaves Home —Please let bearer have one wife." Miss Marie Corelli he describes as " a charming, unaffected, bright-haired little fairy, with whom I should have thought it impossible for anyone to quarrel." She described herself to the author as " a little dog watching over Shakespeare's grave.


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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**

September 15 (New Style).
September 2 (Old Style).
Moharram 13, 1340 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Elul 12, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Islington will return to London early next month from Lennoxlove.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, with Captain Hansell, arrived in Bucharest from Paris last week.

Prince William of Sweden arrived in Cairo on September 11, and expected to stay there a week.

At Mhow, India, on August 12, a son was born to Major E. Howell (Indian Army) and Mrs. Howell.

Mr. A. D. Alban, H.M. Consul-General at Alexandria, is spending a month's leave in Cyprus, with Mrs. Alban.

Mgr. Brice Meuleman, the Catholic Archbishop of Calcutta, is at present visiting the principal towns of Belgium.

On September 4, at Brighton, a son was born to Mr. E. F. L. Taylor, (Ministry of Public Works, Cairo), and Mrs. Taylor.

Lord Plumer returned to Malta on September 10, and has resumed the office of Governor under the new constitution.

The marriage between Mrs. Gladys Robinson Duff and Mr. Robert Vansittart took place very quietly in London on September 7.

Sir Claud Jacob, Chief of the General Staff of the Indian Army, is coming to England. Sir John Shea will act as Chief of Staff during his absence.

M. Frederic Nano, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, and Madame Nano left town on September 12 for three weeks' leave in the New Forest, Hants.

On September 5, at Camberley, the death occurred, suddenly, of Colonel J. B. Hutchinson, C.S.I., formerly of the Indian Army.

M. Pashitch, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, has arrived at Versailles, where he has had a long audience of King Alexander.

The Maharaj Rana of Jhalawar left London on September 6, for Edinburgh, where he will attend the meetings of the British Association.

M. Nicolas Em-Lahovary, who was recently appointed First Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London on Saturday from Washington.

Lord Newton arrived in Budapest last week on a visit to Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge, the President of the International Commission of the Danube.

Mr. Arthur Chalk, Financial Member of the British Delegation of the Reparations Commission in Bulgaria, has returned to Sofia after a brief holiday in England.

Mrs. Mulock, the wife of Mr. E. Homan Mulock, his Majesty's Commercial Agent for Egypt, First Secretary to Viscount Allenby, is making a satisfactory recovery after a severe operation.

Mirza Abdul Ali Khan, late Persian Minister to the United States, who has been transferred to Spain, arrived in London last week, on his way to take up the duties of his new position.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Major Hew Congreve Kennedy, late of Ceylon, and Miss Joyce Erehe Menzies, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. A. S. M. Menzies, of Burley.

Mr. C. F. Andrews, well known for his interest in the welfare of Indian emigrants, has decided to start from Bombay for Kenya Colony and Uganda on September 21 at the invitation of the East and Central Africa National Congress.

The engagement is announced between Mr. C. Stokes O'Callaghan, of 3, Fitzwilliam-square, Dublin, and Margery, widow of Major R. H. Manners, I.A., and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Thornton, Fairlawn, Eltham, Kent.

Lord Oranmore and Browne and the Hon. Dominick Browne will return to London early next month from South Africa. Lady Oranmore and Browne, who has been spending the summer at Sunningdale, will return to London at the same time.

Reuter's Madras correspondent reports that Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Roberts, Indian Medical Service, was drowned on September 7, while bathing. Colonel Roberts was the brother of Mr. C. H. Roberts, Under-Secretary for India, 1914-15.

King Alexander of Serbia had sufficiently recovered from his recent serious illness to leave Paris for Versailles, last week, to complete his convalescence, after which he will leave for Belgrade, where his coronation will take place at an early date.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Godfrey H. Prickard, Indian Police, Campbellpur, son of the late Rev. W. E. Prickard, of Dderw, Rhayader, South Wales, and Miss Phyllis R. Whishaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Whishaw, of Westerham, Kent.

The engagement is announced between Captain F. E. Morley Clarke, 2nd Battalion 19th Punjabis, youngest son of the Rev. A. C. R. Clarke and Mrs. Clarke, of Sharpness, and Vera Dagmar, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bates, of Congleton.

A marriage will take place in October, in Constantinople, between Captain Ernest S. W. Peatt, O.B.E., F.R.C.V.S., Royal Army Veterinary Corps, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peatt, of Leominster, Herefordshire, and Alice Gertrude, daughter of Stephen Nowill, of Constantinople.

Mrs. Margaret Dunlop Gibson, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D., of Castlebrae, Cambridge, a distinguished Oriental Student and traveller in Egypt, Palestine, and Sinai, who died on January 11, 1920, widow of the Rev. James Young Gibson. left personal estate valued at £48,290.

Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Massie Blomfield, of 32, Elm Park Gardens, Chelsea, a Crimean veteran, who also saw service in the Egyptian War, 1882, and was for some years Director-General of Egyptian Ports and Lighthouses, left estate of the gross value of £7,648.

On September 7, in Worcester Cathedral, Captain C. C. Crick, O.B.E., 109th Infantry, I.A., second son of the Rev. F. W. Crick, of Litton Cheney, Dorsetshire, was married to Miss Edith Eva Montague Beach Hicks, only daughter of Mr. R. M. Beach Hicks, of St. John's, Worcester.

It is reported that Mrs. Doughty Wylie, wife of the late Colonel Doughty Wylie, V.C., is selling her Theberton Hall estate, in Suffolk, in September, in order to finance the erection of a memorial at Sedd el-Bahr to her husband and the other men who died at Gallipoli. A site has already been obtained from the Turkish Government.

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The engagement is announced between Captain Arthur Harris, M.C., 7th Lancers, Indian Cavalry, A.D.C. to the Viceroy, son of Surgeon-General G.F.A. Harris and Mrs. Harris, of 6, Corfton-road, Ealing, and Doris M., only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Robson, of 32, Cavendish-square, London, W.1. and New York.

The marriage arranged between Captain P. G. Bateman, London Irish Rifles and R.A.F., and Mlle. Marie Louise Blanc, eldest daughter of Mme. Irène Procopiu, Lady-in-Waiting to her Majesty the Queen of Roumania, will take place at Sinaia, Roumania, the summer residence of the Royal Family, on September 25.

A marriage is arranged, and will take place shortly, between Captain H. P. James (late Suffolk Regiment), Political Department, Nigeria, youngest son of the late A. H. James, Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and Mrs. James, Southwold, and Cecil Aileen Oakes, younger daughter of the late E. H. A. Oakes, and Mrs. Oakes, of Grayswood House, Haslemere.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Lieutenant-Colonel Whitworth Crosse, D.S.O., Royal Army Service Corps, eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Crosse, C.M.G., M.V.O., Secretary N.R.A., and Miss Ænid Isobel Lewis youngest daughter of the late David Lewis, of Cilwen, Cambridge, Tasmania.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Leslie Gwatkin Williams, C.M.G., D.S.O., 5th Cavalry Indian Army, son of the late E. Gwatkin Williams and of Mrs. Gwatkin Williams, of 3, Lansdown Parade, Cheltenham, and Helen Mary (*nee* Landale), widow of Dr. W. B. Grandage, of 74, Gloucester Road, London, S.W.

The christening of the infant son of Mr. Humphrey Bowman, C.B.E., Director of Education, Palestine Government, and of Mrs. Bowman, took place at St. John's Church, Paddington, on September 5. The Rev. Sir Paget Bowman, Bart., Rector of Sheve, officiated, and the following stood as sponsors: Mrs. Hubert Brinton, Miss Gertrude Bell, C.B.E., Sir Arnold Wilson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.M.G., D.S.O., Mr. C. H. Walker, and Captain F. Drummond, M.C. The child received the names of Paul Humphrey Armytage. A small reception was held later at No. 17 Cambridge Square, the residence of Colonel and Mrs. Armytage.

## APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Mr. C. A. Innes, Secretary to the Government of India (Commerce Department), has been temporarily appointed a member of the Executive Council in succession to Sir Thomas Holland.

The *Egyptian Gazette* understands that Judge Thorp is proceeding to Constantinople in October, and that he will probably be succeeded by Mr. Maxwell, of the Ministry of Justice.

A Rome message states that Sir Ronald Graham, K.C.M.G., has been appointed British Ambassador in that city. Sir Ronald's close acquaintance with the Near East should be of great value in his new position; for Italy has of late shown a strong determination to play a more active part in those regions. He has served in Persia and Egypt, and knows Persian and Arabic well, and he did good work on the Muskat Arbitration Tribunal at the Hague. He also spent some months on special service in Crete in 1906.

The Secretary of State in Council has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Arthur D'Arcy Gordon Bannerman, C.I.E., C.V.O., to be his Political Aide-de-Camp, in place of the late Lieutenant Colonel Sir J. R. Dunlop Smith. Lieutenant Colonel Bannerman was until recently, the British Resident in Kashmir, and has had a varied career in the Indian Foreign Department. He entered the Army in 1885 and was appointed to the Indian Army three years later, attaining his present rank in 1911. His work in the Indian Political Department began in 1893 in Central India, and before going to Kashmir he served in various capacities in Rajputana.

## OBITUARY.

It is with profound regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs. C. W. Dawson, wife of Mr. C. W. Dawson, Chairman of Allen Bros., and Co., Limited, of Calcutta, London, and Manchester. Mrs. Dawson died at Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, on September 8. The funeral took place at Hither Green Cemetery on September 12.

On September 5, at Camberley, the death occurred, suddenly, of Colonel J. B. Hutchinson, C.S.I., formerly of the Indian Army. Colonel Hutchinson, who was 77 years old, was the son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel George Hutchinson, Bengal Engineers. He served with the Gurkha Rifles for three years. From 1894 to 1899 he was Commissioner and Superintendent at Lahore and from 1900 to 1905 Governor of Aitchison College, Lahore. He also served as a member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

Colonel Sir Peter Johnston Freyer, K.C.B., late Indian Medical Service, died on September 9, at 27, Harley-street, W. He was the eldest son of Samuel Freyer, of Selerna, Galway, and was born in 1852. At the age of 23 he gained the first place in the open competition for the Indian Medical Service. After a period of military employment, his services were lent to the Government of the North-West Provinces, under which he held in succession the appointment of civil surgeon at Moradabad, Bareilly, Allahabad, Mussoorie, and Benares. He was surgeon to the Prince of Wales's Hospital at Benares, and was for some time medical officer to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces and Oudh, and afterwards to the late Nawab of Rampur. In 1894 he attended the International Medical and Surgical Congress at Rome as the delegate of the Indian Government. He was awarded the Arnott memorial medal for original surgical work in 1904. Since his retirement Sir Peter had practised as a consulting surgeon in London.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1921.


## CONFLICT IN INDIA.

The news which has reached this country lately from India has been sensational, and consequently it has been misleading, for its tendency has been to concentrate the attention of the public on particular symptoms, and thereby to obscure the real issues in a conflict which is still some way from a conclusion. India is just now the scene of one of those fundamental differences of ideals, which, when they occur between nations, usually lead to open war, and, when they occur within a nation, may bring it within measurable distance of anarchy, until the time comes when the national will can be clearly ascertained. On the one side we have the aspiration to make a new and better India by assimilating whatever is best in Western knowledge and ideas: on the other we have the determination to reject all influences outside, and stand on the ancient traditions of the country, as they appear when viewed through the mists of passion and prejudice. India has not yet decided between these two ideals. The first, which is the declared policy of Parliament, is accepted in all sincerity by a large mass of educated opinion; the second is urged by some of the most active personalities in the countries; and between them stand the people as a whole, uneasy, puzzled, beginning to look for a change, but as yet uncertain what they want, and ready to follow any leaders who may win their confidence. Such is the present position, and, when once it is grasped, the occurrences of the last year fall naturally into place.

The first move in the campaign was the general election of last winter, when the attempt was made to lay the foundations of an essentially Western constitution in a country which possesses no constitutional tradition beyond despotism and bureaucracy. The Extremists made strenuous efforts to render the elections nugatory, but they failed, and parliamentary institutions have made a successful start, too successful, perhaps, for the bulk of the legislators have been content with sessional activities, and have so far neglected the education of their constituencies. While legislators were busy with resolutions and interpellations, the Extremists made a second, and more dangerous move, consisting of an organised attempt to exploit the passions and the grievances of some sections of the people. Judged by results, they chose their ground well; the industrial workers, whose wages had lagged behind prices, the Oudh peasantry, whose grievances had long been notorious, the Moplah fanatics of Malabar, were successively moved to turbulent outbreaks; and, while lawlessness has brought only suffering and punishment to those who engaged in it, the indirect effect has apparently been to increase the extremists' following in the country. The action of the administration in the face of this attack has been widely criticised. It is true that many minor agitators have been convicted, that order has been restored, and that from time to time announcements of more drastic measures have been made; but the anxiety to avoid any action which might be regarded as provocative, or might turn criminals into martyrs, has resulted in an appearance of hesitancy and reluctance to use adequate force at the outset, which has undoubtedly deterred many of the weaker politicians from taking a determined line. A similar effect was produced by the meetings between the new Viceroy and the Extremist leader; the Indian tradition is to avoid political commitments, the opening of negotiations immediately suggests that active partisans may be left in the lurch, and even a vague suspicion that the Government may be meditating a change of front can be counted on to keep many potential supporters on the fence. To say this, however, is not necessarily to condemn the line taken by the administration. A gambit is a good opening if it wins the game, and the position has not yet developed to a point where a final judgment is possible.

Whatever the cause may be, the most conspicuous feature of the present situation is the failure of moderate politicians to make an active bid for popular leadership. They are, as we have said, sincere in their aspirations, but they have manifested little of the energy required to turn those aspirations into facts, and over the greater part of the country the extremists appear to have had matters very much their own way. The most striking exception to this statement is to be found in the United Provinces, where the Government, realising at an early stage that leadership is the essence of the whole thing, set on foot an organisation of Peace Leagues to mobilise popular opinion in favour of the policy which has been sanctioned by Parliament, and is consequently entitled to the active support of officers responsible in the last resort to that authority. These Leagues have undoubtedly served both as rallying-points and as centres of leadership; they are living organisations, some of which are already almost independent of direct official support; and the change which they have produced in the political atmosphere furnishes ample testimony both to the insight of their founders, and to the magnitude of the opportunities which moderate politicians have so far missed. Happily for India, there is still time to recover the ground lost. The extremists have recently developed the third move in their campaign. We need not repeat what we have written on the dangers incident to their attempted boycott of imported cloth, but it is apparently encountering more initial resistance than its promotors anticipated, and if the moderate party should decide to oppose it vigorously, or to pass to the offensive on some other issue, they might hope to win an important, and possibly a decisive victory for their cause. The action taken by Sir Harcourt Butler in the United Provinces has shown the way. All over India there is no lack of sound common sense, which, if it were only organised, would suffice to bring the present conflict to a satisfactory conclusion. Its organisation is the country's most immediate need.

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## JEWISH TALES FROM JERUSALEM.

By Estelle Blyth.

*These short Tales out of Jewry were among the many collected by an old friend, who was long a missionary to the Jews in Palestine. He had not one drop of Jewish blood in him, but he loved the Jews greatly, and gave the best years of his life to them. These stories were told to him on different occasions by Jews whom he visited, and he wrote them down afterwards. Some of them he passed on to my sister; she has given me her notes, from which these Jewish Tales may be retold.*

### The Story of Titus and the Gnat.

Titus, having perpetrated within the Holy Temple at Jerusalem abominations which decency forbids us even to hint at, collected the Vessels of the Sanctuary, wrapt them in the Veil, and caused them to be placed on a ship that they might be taken to Rome as proof of his conquest of Jerusalem. But the Almighty One was angered at his presumption, and He sent a mighty tempest which threatened to send the ship to the bottom of the sea.

Tiberias: Sea Front.

Titus said: "Behold, the God of these Jews has power only over the waters. Pharaoh came, and He drowned him! Sisera came, and He drowned him! Now He seeks to drown me also. If He be indeed a mighty God, let Him forsake the waters and contend with me upon the dry land."

So spake Titus in his pride, which all the tumult of the waves and winds could not abate; but swift upon his words there came as it were the echo of a voice that said: "Thou man most wicked, son of a wicked man, descendant of Esau the accursed! I have heard thy words. Lo, in My universe that I have created there is a creature so insignificant that men regard it not. Thou shalt contend with it on land."

Gradually the storm died down, and in time the ship came safely into harbour. Titus landed; but very soon after his feet had touched the dry land a little gnat flew into the passage of his nostrils, and so entered his brain. For seven years the gnat kept stinging at his brain, and great was his torment, both by day and night. At first, the mighty hammering of a blacksmith afforded Titus some relief, and every day the Emperor's servants brought one to the palace for that end. If the smith were a Gentile, he was rewarded; but if he were a Jew it was considered that he was sufficiently rewarded by the sight of the torture of the enemy of his people. At first the loud hammering frightened the gnat, which ceased to sting the Emperor's brain; but after a while it got used to the noise, and paid no more heed to it. There remained for Titus no relief but that of death.

Now it was so that after Caesar's death, the learned Rabbi Pinchas ben-Aruva was among the Roman senators and chiefs when the skull of Titus was opened by the doctors, if haply they might learn the cause of all his suffering; and the Rabbi himself beheld in the skull a gnat as large as a sparrow. Furthermore, the Rabbi testified that Titus on his death bed commanded that his body should be burned and the ashes scattered upon seven seas, that the God of Israel might not be able to find him, and summon him before His judgment-seat.

### The Gates of the Holy Temple.

Behold, Nicanor went to Alexandria, which is a city of Egypt, that he might bring from thence the brazen gates that belonged to the eastern portion of the Temple. As he returned, the ship was overtaken by a storm, and, being already heavily weighted with the holy gates, it seemed as if it must each moment sink beneath the waves. Then Nicanor threw one of the gates into the sea, that he might save the ship and those who were in her; but still the storm did not abate. The sailors shouted to Nicanor to throw out the other gate also, but Nicanor, that pious one, flung himself upon it, and clinging to it with his hands, said vehemently: "Throw me over with it." Immediately a great calm fell, and the ship went smoothly on her way. All the sailors rejoiced, but Nicanor now bitterly regretted that he had cast away one gate of the Holy Temple.

In due time the ship sailed into the harbour at Acca, and as it lay at anchor close to the shore, the brazen

The Jew's Wailing Place.

gate of the Holy Temple suddenly appeared, floating upwards from the depths. Who can say how this came to pass? Perhaps some mighty sea-monster had swallowed it when Nicanor threw it overboard during the storm, and, having followed the little ship even into harbour, now discharged its burthen safe and sound.

In remembrance of this great miracle, all the other gates of the Holy Temple were changed for gates of gold, saving only the Gate of Nicanor, which was of brass.

### The Finding of Joseph's Bones.

When the time came for Israel to depart out of Egypt, Moses, mindful of the commandment of old, sought for the bones of Joseph, that he might carry them also out

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of the land of bondage. It was so that no one knew where the patriarch's bones were buried, save only Sarah, the daughter of Asher. She was of the generation of Joseph, and yet lived, being as full of wisdom as of years. Sarah revealed unto Moses the unknown place of Joseph's burial, for his body had been laid in a coffin of metal and lowered into the waters of the Nile, that the great river of Egypt's prosperity might be blessed.

Moses heard the words of Sarah, the daughter of Asher, unto the end; after which he went forth and stood on the banks of the Nile, and cried with a loud voice: "Joseph, the time of Israel's redemption, which was sworn by the Holy One (blessed be He!) has come, and we who go forth out of Egypt are not unmindful

**Jaffa: A Street Scene.—The building in the background is the Hotel de Ville.**

of the oath which thou didst exact from the children of Israel. If now thou wilt show thyself, so be it; and if thou wilt not, then are we free from thy oath."

Even as he spoke, Joseph's coffin floated to the surface, and rested at his feet.

All through the forty years of Israel's wandering in the desert, the Ark of the Covenant and Joseph's coffin were borne along side by side; and it was so, that when strangers who were not of Israel asked why this was done. the children of Israel made answer, "The one belongs to a dead man and the other to the Shechinah, and they are kept near to each other, because he that is dead in his time fulfilled all the demands of the Law."

*(To be continued).*

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Calcutta tramwaymen went on strike last week for the third time within a year, but returned in three days.

Bengal Legislative Council has rejected by 56 votes to 37 a resolution in favour of the enfranchisement of women.

The battleship Renown, which is taking the Prince of Wales to India, is ordered to leave Portsmouth for commissioning trials on the 27th inst., and returns from Portland on October 6

It is reported from Jerusalem that the Financial Government Committee which will administer the finances of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Sepulchre will consist of Major Luke, Mr. Varens, M. Gerasimou, manager of the Credit Lyonnais, Dean Dositheos, and M. Elias Moussembek.

The grant of the "India General Service Medal, 1908," in silver, with clasp "Afghanistan, N.W. Frontier, 1919," is, it is stated officially, to be extended so as to include all troops who served: (1) in the Khyber Pass, west of and excluding Jamrud, between August 9, 1919, and September 30, 1919, both dates inclusive; and (2) with the Waziristan Force, including those stationed at Darya Khan, Mianwall, Mari-Indus, and Kalabagh, between August 9, 1919, and September 30, 1919, both dates inclusive.

The Secretary of State for India has nominated Gentleman Cadet Garbachan Singh to a King's India Cadetship at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. This is the first appointment of an Indian to a King's India Cadetship. The rule regarding nominations to King's India Cadetships prescribes that "they shall be given to the sons of persons who have served the Crown or the East India Company in India." The father of the present nominee was the late Risaldar-Major Kartar Singh, Bahadur, 12th Cavalry, who was invalided from the Service in 1917, after twenty-eight years service, and who died in the following year.

Father Berre, of the Ordre des Frères Prieurs, is to be appointed Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baghdad.

Colonel E. Mossberg, Swedish Military Attaché in London, has been invited by the Persian Government to undertake the reorganisation of the Persian police.

Eleven Jews and twelve Arabs were enlisted at Tiberias for the new Gendarmerie as a result of a visit by the Director of Public Security at the end of August.

The *Akhbar* learns that it is not expected that the ex-Khedive's mother, who is now in Constantinople, will be permitted to return to Egypt at present.

An accident occurred on August 25 at the Egyptian Army Barracks, Cairo. Work was going on in the magazine when a shell burst with disastrous results. One soldier was killed.

It is reported from Jandola, Waziristan, that the water in the river suddenly disappeared underground on August 27 for a distance of two miles. Three days later the water reappeared in the old channel.

A White Paper was issued on September 6 containing the text of the agreement between Great Britain and Denmark relating to the suppression of the Capitulations in Egypt, signed at Copenhagen on July 14 last.

Fines paid and rifles handed in by the Wana Wazirs up to August 31 more than fulfilled the preliminary terms stipulated with them. Owing to the prevalence of cholera, the raising of the blockade has, however, not been notified to the tribesmen.

Ismail Sidky Pasha, the Egyptian Minister of Finance, exl pects to spend September 19 and 20 in visiting typical industria concerns in Manchester and district and in conference with the Egypt section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

The Palestine-Syria Congress, which has been sitting at Geneva has presented an appeal to the League of Nations demanding liberty and independence. The appeal states that the British troops in Palestine and the French troops in Syria are not wanted and declares that the peoples are capable of governing themselves as a united republic.

The Egyptian Gazette states that the Egyptian Education Mission now visiting this country is composed as follows:—Dr Youssef Aboul Nasr Barada Effendi, Dr. Eta Moustafa Effendi and Mahmoud Ahmed Moustafa Eff., from the School of Medicine Aly Labib Gabr Eff., Edbel Wahab Kamel Eff. and William Salim Eff. from the Sultania Engineering School; Mohamed Taher el Kholy Eff., Zeky Hassan Eff. from the Higher School of Commerce; Moustafa Husny Eff., Mohamed Ziada Eff. Mohamed Highab Eff. Miltiadi Hanna Eff., Hassan Moustafa Kamel Eff., and Zeky Rafla Girgis Eff., from the Sultania Training College.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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### The Anglo-Danubian Association.

The Anglo-Danubian Association, whose dissolution has just been announced, was formed in the spring of 1920 for the purpose of rendering assistance in the re-construction of the Succession States who were faced with the difficulty that while they had factories and labour they lacked raw materials and coal and were unable to obtain them for lack of credit. The object of the association was to supply raw materials to these countries on trust, and the finished products were to be re-exported to markets where they could be disposed of to advantage. Two indispensable conditions were laid down for the States concerned. The association's ownership was to be safeguarded, and there was to be complete freedom of re-export.

### Its History.

The auspices under which the association was launched were such as to ensure success if that was possible. The directors included some of the most eminent leaders of British industry, while the venture enjoyed the support of some of the leading banking establishments. It was started on a small scale, the capital being £10,000 in £10 shares, only half of which was called up, but it was intended eventually to form a large undertaking. That project was postponed as a result of a mission sent out to examine the position in the countries in question last year, wisely, as it proved, in view of the "slump" which was so soon to take place, and which, had the plan been proceeded with, would inevitably have led to very serious losses. As it is, subscribers have had half the amount of their subscriptions returned to them.

### The Association's Work.

I do not think there is any need to take a pessimistic view of the dissolution of the association. When it was established it appeared probable that the re-establishment of pre-war economic relations between the different countries would be in the main a matter for private enterprise. At the time a wholly misleading trade "boom" made any other measures appear unnecessary. The association had in view certain definite objects, and to a very considerable extent it would appear that it succeeded in carrying them out, and it has to its credit the very definite result that it has introduced to the countries in question very many firms who are now carrying on a satisfactory trade on long credit terms. It has ceased functioning, I take it, because of the realisation that any further assistance of the kind involved appertains rather to Governments than to companies.

### A Greek Loan?

The financing of the war in Asia Minor has proved a most serious problem for Greece, whose financial position as a result of the Great War was in a very far from satisfactory state at its outset. Last month no fewer than three loans were contracted with a view to meet current obligations, but this method is one which obviously has its limitations, even if it has its advantages. The real way out of Greece's immediate difficulties is by means of a foreign loan, in which connection it may be noted that negotiations have again been opened in Paris and London. Greece's failure hitherto to obtain the financial accommodation she requires has been due to the feeling of uncertainty as to the outlook. A speedy conclusion to her campaign coupled with unmistakable evidence that her policy in Asia Minor will be conducted on sound lines would go far to supply the confidence without which financial support will in all probability not be forthcoming.

### Turkey's Financial Straits.

If the Anatolian campaign has taxed Greece's financial resources it is nothing to the effect that it has had on the financial position of Turkey. Conditions at Constantinople could scarcely be worse than they are at the present time, mainly as a result of the closing of Anatolia to commerce. Trade has been literally paralysed, and a state of stagnation prevails. One result is that the Treasury is faced with the most serious problem in finding funds to meet the salaries of the officials. There can be no hope of improvement until conditions are settled, and even with the Greek campaign at an end it is certain that there can be no real revival of prosperity in the country without assistance on a large scale in the shape both of money and materials.

### A Great Exhibition.

Everyone I have come across who has been to Olympia is loud in praise of the Shipping, Engineering, and Machinery Exhibition, at which I am not at all surprised, for it struck me as being a particularly well-organised affair in many respects. Most of the well-known firms are there, and nearly all of them, I am glad to note, have learnt the lesson that it is very undesirable to have too many exhibits on view. Some, indeed, have very few, which in their lordly isolation attract attention to the full. The popular side of the exhibition is, of course, very pronounced, as to the advantage of which I am doubtful. It means crowds every day, naturally, but an exhibition is a business undertaking.

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**Egyptian Cotton Freights.**

It had been hoped that an amicable settlement of the cotton freights dispute might result from the negotiations that have been taking place between the Liverpool Conference Lines and the United States Shipping Board. The American attitude over the question, however, gave no very substantial grounds for optimism, and the report from Washington that there has been a definite rupture in the negotiations will therefore occasion little surprise. Apparently an *impasse* has been reached, but it is sincerely hoped that before applying the Jones Act as the Americans have threatened to do—a step which by the way would be as likely to do harm to the applier as to anyone else—further efforts will be made to arrive at an agreement. It should not be impossible, given that there is a spirit of give and take on both sides.

**A Difficult Position.**

Unfortunately there is no getting away from the fact that the position literally bristles with difficulties. The Liverpool Conference Lines have had the contract for years, have been able to meet the requirements of the shippers, and naturally enough cannot be expected to see why, when they have again obtained the contract on the recommendation of a body which is international in character and on which British members are not in the majority, a part of it should be ceded to the unsuccessful tenderer. But this is apparently what the Americans expect them to do, for as I understand the position the Shipping Board will be satisfied if allowed to undertake the shipping of cotton to America.

**Causes of the Dispute.**

I do not desire to enter at length again into the causes of the dispute, but in view of the fact that a correspondent says I did not make myself sufficiently clear when I first commented on the dispute, I will deal lightly with the crux of the position, the tenders. The first tender of the Liverpool Conference Lines was at the rates of 60s. and 40s. to the United States and the United Kingdom respectively, these rates applying to the unexpired portion of the old contract. The quotations of the Shipping Board were respectively 40s. and 25s., but as in the circumstances it was impossible to compare them as one tender was for a year and the other for a longer period the Conference Lines were asked to quote again, and this time their tender was for 40s. and 30s. On June 2 the acceptance of this offer was recommended, and on June 3 the Shipping Board put in a new offer of 35s. to the United States.

**A Misunderstanding.**

Now on these facts it is at least conceivable that the Americans are under the impression that they have been badly treated. Such a view is nevertheless erroneous. The Conference Lines had held the contract, as I have pointed out, for years. They made a tender which represented a very considerable sacrifice on their part; as the rates for the unexpired period were 90s. and 60s., and in the circumstances as their tender could not be justly compared with that of the Shipping Board they were certainly entitled to be asked to amend it. Undoubtedly it was regrettable that the amended tender of the Shipping Board making both their rates 5s. below those of their rivals did not arrive earlier, but if it had it is practically certain that it would have made no difference to the result.

**That 5s. Difference.**

Taking the rates as they were before the arrival of the second offer of the Shipping Board, there was then a difference of 5s. in the quotations to the United Kingdom but to America they were the same. Now the Shipping Board has no regular berths here, and the charges for docking and insurance for American bottoms would have amounted to the difference. There was, therefore, not much to choose, and it is surely not surprising in the circumstances that the exporters should have given the contract to the lines that have served them so well in the past. It may possibly be imagined that the subsequent tender of the Shipping Board might have obtained for them the contract to America but the division of the contract would have entailed higher costs.

**Machinery in Morocco.**

A lesson to the business man here as to the value of catering for the requirements of a country is forthcoming from Morocco, where, according to a French contemporary British internal combustion engines are proving very popular,

**Commentator.**

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## TRADE ON THE DANUBE.

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In a letter to *The Times* Mr. Thomas Gibson Bowles writes:—"Unless we can get beyond our present European policy, and can hit on something beyond the protocols of Foreign Offices, we shall certainly come, in Central and South-Eastern Europe, upon trouble, not only for our present selves, but also for the next generation. The Low Countries used to be called the cockpit of Europe. It would seem, from the news that reaches me, that Roumania, Poland, Serbia, and Hungary, always more or less ready for a fight, are become the breeding-places of the military microbe in those parts; while some of us, who look at them from Europe proper, are I fear, pursuing a false policy. Thus there are distinguished French generals who are engaged in organizing, at vast expense, a great Czech army; and have been doing the same by Roumania, Serbia, and Poland; the consequence whereof must be that those little States will have no money to pay their debts, and develop their material interests; and that at any time one of the many dog-fights, always threatening there, may break out with serious and lasting consequences.

"But the Danube invites us to other and better ways. Something more and something else may be done there. The Danube that great highway which runs right across Europe, may be developed for trade in such a way as fully to occupy the energies of the neighbouring peoples, and to make them turn away from fighting to commerce. This, indeed, is already being attempted with success. Some years ago, instead of sending generals to levy armies, we sent out an admiral to encourage and facilitate Danubian commerce by the improving of that river. The admiral was warmly supported by Lord (then Mr. Walter) Long and the material results are already very valuable. The inhabitants of the Danubian countries have taken to making money instead of fighting. Their commerce among themselves, and with other nations, flourishes and increases—not, indeed, so much as it might, but encouragingly. This is the English method; and, as I venture to think, the right one, rather than the French method of creating military power. We are specially and particularly identified with the development of Danubian trade, as well as with the international commission to ensure it. And it is right to record that it is to the able and energetic action of Admiral Troubridge that we owe this very noteworthy development of the great waterway instead of the creation of great armies, and the very noteworthy substitution of material progress for military adventure.

"But if the English method is finally to succeed, it must receive the full support of the English Government. The material development of the Danube must not be arrested for want of a buoy, while more generals are highly paid to raise armies and armaments in and for Danubian countries. Here is surely a lesson to be learnt, if we will but learn it, and to be especially commended, if I may venture to say so to our excellent Allies across the Channel."

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## BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

### VIII Czecho-Slovakia.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. R. H. Bruce Lockhart, Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation, Prague, on the industrial and economic situation in Czecho-Slovakia in 1920:—

It may be said without fear of contradiction that Czecho-Slovakia, as regards both natural resources and industrial development, is one of the richest territories in Europe. It has several rich coalfields, and possesses valuable mineral resources which, notably in Slovakia, have not yet been fully developed. Radium, gold, silver, iron, graphite and lead are all mined successfully, while the whole country is abnormally rich in mineral and thermal springs. Oil is found in Slovakia, and Bohemia has rich deposits of clay, kaolin and sand. The whole country is well farmed, and agricultural production is on a very high level of excellence. Thirty-three per cent. of the total area of the country is forest-land, and both in the productiveness of the forest and the quality of the timber the forest wealth of the republic is enormous.

In its industrial development Bohemia may be compared to Belgium. In Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, which have a total population of ten millions, more than four million people are engaged in industry. The various industries are well organised and as regards both machinery and modern improvements the factories are as well equipped as any in Europe. Outside of Slovakia illiteracy is almost unknown, and both the German and the Czech elements which compose the working-class population are hard-working and in many cases highly skilled. The new republic possesses, therefore, many valuable economic advantages, and after the the first two and a half years of its existence it is no exaggeration to state that Czecho-Slovakia is in a far more flourishing state than most of its neighbours. It would be unwise, however, to close one's eyes to the serious difficulties which the republic has still to overcome before its economic life can become stabilised. These difficulties are, to a large extent, due to the world crisis. There are, however, other difficulties which are purely local in character.

**Trade with United Kingdom.**

The trade statistics of Czecho-Slovakia for 1919 and 1920 do not furnish any very satisfa tory materials for the British exporter. British goods suffere considerably from the high exchange, and still more from the system of State control. It must be recognised that Czecho-Slovakia herself manufactures many, if not most of, those articles which form the staple export commodities of Great Britain, and in many cases, where Czech firms would have been willing to buy British goods in preference to the local products, import licences were not obtainable. In this respect Great Britain suffered almost more from the control than any other country, for even in certain cases, where import licences for various commodities were granted to firms of countries with low currencies, they were refused to British firms supplying the same articles on account of the high costs and adverse rate of exchange. There will always be, however, a certain demand for what may be called British luxury goods, *i.e.*, goods which will be bought by a certain class on account of their distinctive qualities, but such goods are banned under the present system as luxury goods with which the State can dispense.

On the other hand, there is, and will be, a steady demand for raw and semi-raw materials. Up to the present, very few British firms have made any attempt to establish direct connections with Czecho-Slovakia. Those firms, who were represented in this country before the war, had their headquarters in Vienna, and even to-day seem to prefer to use that city as their centre for Czecho-Slovakia. Other firms, who have visited the country have not found the volume of business large enough to tempt them to embark on new ventures in a country where the Englishman is bewildered by the complicated system of State control and Government regulations. There has been, too, more than one instance of British firms preferring to do business with Czecho-Slovakia through Germany rather than direct with Czech firms. This is not likely to lead to good results. Under the conditions which prevail at present in Czecho-Slovakia, only those firms who take the trouble to send out their own representatives are likely to achieve satisfactory results. For the present, it is true, the openings for British goods are comparatively few. When trade improves and the control is removed, the possibilities for business should be greater. Much will depend, however, on how far our prices can compete with the local and German competition.

**Openings for British Capital.**

With regard to improved trade relations with Great Britain expert opinion tends invariably to emphasize the need for an influx of British capital and to express regret that, in this matter Great Britain has not followed the example of France, Holland, Italy, America and Belgium. As far as the Czechs are concerned, this desire for English capital is influenced to a large extent by, the wish to preserve their country from too close a subjection to German influence; but the demand is by no means confined to purely Czech circles. On the whole there is a good deal to be said for British investments of capital in this country. Provided that the political situation in Central Europe remains stable, Czecho-Slovakia should develop rapidly. Many new schemes of improvements for water works, electrification, shipping, port construction, railways, forest development, &c., are being put forward almost daily, and fail for want of capital.

**Advice to British Traders.**

The British trader visiting Czecho-Slovakia for the first time must remember that in a country where several different races are strongly represented and where he may have to do business with both Czechs and German Bohemians, he should keep his political opinions to himself or run the risk of offending one or other of his customers. He will find that Prague, although the capital and Government centre, is by no means the only trade centre and that a visit to that city does not exhaust the commercial possibilities of Czecho-Slovakia. Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary), the centre of the porcelain industry, Reichenberg (Liberec), the centre of the cotton industry, Aussig (Ustí) (chemicals) and Bruenn (Brno) (woollens), are all important headquarters.

Business correspondence, if with German Bohemian firms, can be conducted in German. Circumspection should be used in dealing with purely Czech firms and care taken to avoid offending national susceptibilities. When visiting the country, it is well to remember that the Czechs are a little suspicious of the foreigner, and proud of the importance of their first appearance as an independent nation. They are also very democratic in spirit and sensitive to a degree in everything that concerns their nationality and pride of race. But to the Englishman who goes half-way to meet him, the Czech is not only friendly but exceedingly hospitable. Great care should be taken in the selection of agents. As commerce is hedged in on every side by irksome Government regulations, the services of a local agent are essential. There are practically no Englishmen resident in the country who would be suitable for this purpose. There, are, however, a limited number of English-speaking Czechs and German Bohemians whose services can be obtained. Once a good agent is appointed, he should be visited at frequent intervals. There are also several large export and import houses who have considerable influence in government circles. While the state control lasts, English firms of a similar nature might find it advantageous to get into touch with such houses and arrange for an exchange of goods. This is at present the easiest way of obtaining import licences.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

## THE SHIPPING, ENGINEERING, AND MACHINERY EXHIBITION.

### Some Impressions.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Olympia, unlike some of the centres at which trade exhibitions are held, has the supreme merit of accessibility, and it is not surprising that there should have been record attendances during the first few days at the Shipping, Engineering, and Machinery Exhibition. I was fortunate in that my first visit was paid on the opening day when it was possible to view the exhibits in comparative comfort while the various staffs were putting the last touches to the stands. That is not to say that Olympia was deserted; far from that being the case when the time came for luncheon it was impossible to get a seat in two restaurants in the building so I turned to a third to find an extensive queue lined up, after which I gave up the attempt in despair. There seems to be no happy mean in these matters.

There is no question in my opinion that the present exhibition constitutes a great advance on that of last year. It is not an entirely representative affair as yet, but sufficiently so for all intents and purposes, and it gives an excellent idea of the potentialities of one of the greatest British industries. In some respects, indeed, it affords a positive revelation of the capacity of British manufacturers. We are still passing through the most profound economic depression ever experienced, and it is difficult in the circumstances to regard trade prospects with other than a jaundiced eye, but the exhibition, were it to serve no other purpose, is certainly an inspirer of hope, since it shows beyond a peradventure that so far as quality is concerned the products of the British workshops are still better than any that other countries can put in competition with ours. Given that the exchanges improve and that the tendency of labour to adopt a saner outlook continues then it is evident that we can look forward to a future full of promise for trade endeavour.

The principal value of the exhibition obviously depends on the extent to which its attracts the foreign buyer, and judging by the company in the first few days I am afraid that he will be a negligible quantity. I should like to see throngs of visitors from the Near and Middle East and other great markets for British products. It would be of enormous value to this country in the future if they could see the fruits of British inventiveness, the wonderful machinery and the delicate appliances that go to make up the exhibition. There is nothing like a personal inspection to convince, and if this and other exhibitions are mainly destined to interest British people then I can only regard them as next door to useless.

The real trouble is to be attributed to the inherent lack of imagination that characterises the British business community. The Near and Middle East are among the most promising marts for our products, but there has never hitherto been any real attempt to exploit them properly. If our firms did these things in a business-like way they would see that everything possible was done to attract buyers to our exhibitions, and they would spare no pains to bring their products before these markets by the most useful means at their disposal, namely advertising. Few firms do so, the reason being either that they have an inadequate knowledge of the outlets in question, or that they are put off by the problem of payment—which is admittedly a serious difficulty. But it must be remembered that there is the export credits scheme to fall back upon, a thing which British firms are apt to forget apparently, and further that while there is apathy over here and unemployment on an immense scale orders are continually being placed in Germany and elsewhere by the Balkan countries.

### Review of Exhibits.

(*By our Engineering Representative.*)

A preliminary visit to the Shipping, Engineering, and Machinery Exhibition has shown me that no engineer who wishes to keep abreast of modern developments can afford to remain an absentee. Naturally a considerable amount of space is devoted to ship machinery and propulsion plant, but shipyard and workshop equipment is also shown in plentiful variety, and there are a large number of new applications of electric and hydraulic power on view. I noticed that certain of the better known firms in the marine oil engine business are not represented, a policy I consider to be mistaken. Of course everyone knows that they are so extremely busy just now that they can hardly spare time for exhibitions, but I have always found that the general public have a tendency to forget the firm that neglects to keep its name before their notice, and I suppose engineers do much the same. However, in spite of a few abstentions I consider the exhibition to be representative, and one that no one, as I have said, can afford to miss.

Naturally one does not expect to see huge Diesel, and semi-Diesel engines on exhibition, the demand for delivery on the part of buyers is such that nothing of the kind could be spared for exhibition purposes. There are, however, a number of big parts shown, and the size of these components enabled one to form some true ideas of the magnitude of the whole.

I was particularly struck with the stand of Vickers-Petters, who have on exhibit a range of semi-Diesel machinery of both marine and stationery types. The largest engine they are showing is not a big production, as such plant goes, but it is a magnificent example of the modern engine builders' art, and shows the exceptional care and finish given by the firm to their products. It is a semi-Diesel of the four-cylinder type, developing 152 brake horse-power at 300 r.p.m. The firm are also showing a comparatively small two-cylinder set, and, as an example of their larger work they have on view a piston and connecting rod for a 500 h.p. engine they have on order. Amongst the smaller exhibits I noticed a 5-b.h.p. Petter paraffin marine engine, and also a small lighting set, developing 1½ kilowatts and driven by a 2½ h.p. Petter engine. The firm also show demonstration plant, visualising the action of the Vickers-Petter Electric starting apparatus, comprising electric torch, fuel pump and sprayer.

The Metropolitan-Vickers are showing an interesting electric motor of 30 h.p., coupled to a ship's winch. This plant is provided with a shipping clutch by which the load can be taken up as gradually as desired, and it may be mentioned that what is known as push-button control has been adopted with this set.

The latest example of electric welding outfit is also shown on this stand, and consists of a powerful motor, wound to suit the voltage at the source of supply, and direct coupled to a low voltage, high-amperage dynamo which supplies energy to the welding electrodes. All the components of this outfit, including the switchboard

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Actual working models will be on view showing how the finest aerated fruit drinks are automatically manufactured at a minimum of cost and trouble. The Flugel Soda Fountain automatically filters every drop of water and each drop is aerated while it is being filtered. Every one interested in the production and sale of mineral water drinks should ensure seeing this remarkable machine, and if unable to visit the Exhibition they should send for the special free illustrated booklet (now ready) giving a full description of these exhibits. You will be more than interested. Write to—
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which is mounted with the necessary instruments, are on one foundation. This equipment is consequently of the semi-portable type, and may be moved to any part of the ship-yard or welding shop as desired.

Mention may also be made of the Vickers stern tube appliance shown on the stand of the B.R. Vickers (Leeds) Engineering Co., Ltd. The lubrication is effected in a most scientific manner, and the exhibit certainly is the last word in this side of marine engineering. An oil reservoir is fitted above the water line, with pipes and a pump in close proximity to the stern gland. Oil is fed to the stern tube as desired, and an air pipe is fitted with the object of ensuring the proper charging of the system. A cast-iron neck bush is fitted at the forward end of the tube, a special type of gland being arranged in sections at the after end. The effect is to reduce the downward wear of the shafting, and it can easily be realised that considerable economy must result from its use.

The Avance Oil Power Co. is showing their successful type of semi-Diesel, a 60-h.p. set being exhibited. This is designed to run at a speed of 370-r.p.m., on a consumption of half a pint of fuel oil per brake horse power hour. This set is shown complete, and has a two-bladed reversible propellor attached. The firm are also showing an Avance stationary set of 30-h.p., running at 370 revolutions per minute. This is of the single cylinder type, and is fitted with a double acting pump for emulsion injection of fuel and water. There is also a portable set on view, consisting of a 10-12 h.p. engine, complete with all necessary adjuncts and accessories, and suitable for pumping, machinery driving, or electric power productions.

The Power Plant Co., are well known in the engineering world as makers of high class gearing, and their stand is such as must add to the already hfgh reputation of the firm. One of the most remarkable exhibits in Olympia is on this stand and is a 60 to 1 reduction set of which the pinion has one tooth geared with a wheel of 60 teeth. The firm are also showing a magnetic clutch capable of transmitting 500 h.p. The special speed increasing gear, for the production of which the firm have gained so high a reputation is also in evidence on this stand.

Messrs. J. Samuel White and Co., were showing one of their semi-Diesels as well as a number of examples of their system of oil fuel burning. The engine is of the single cylinder type, whilst an interesting feature in connection with scavenging is incorporated. This consists of sending a super charge of air into the cylinder after the first exhaust. Mechanical oiling is provided and the exhibit will certainly enhance by its excellence the already high reputation of the firm.

The Aster Engineering Co., also have a number of interesting exhibits on their stand amongst which may be mentioned a small electric generating set driven by an 8-h.p. engine running at 800 revolutions per minute. There is also an 8-cylinder engine for electric lighting, developing about 100 h.p. and giving out about 50 kilowatts. This is a very fine piece of work and is certain to be the subject of close examination by every visitor interested in electrical engineering work.

*(To be concluded)*

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### Touring Facilities Abroad.

The Automobile Association announces that, as a result of their negotiations with the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs, they are now able to resume the issue of documents known as "Carnets de Passage." The documents are issued in place of triptyques when motorists proceeding abroad propose visiting more than one country. They have the great advantage of requiring as deposit the duty in respect of one country only of those being visited, viz., the one where the highest duty is payable. The use of these Carnets, therefore, will very considerably decrease the amount which motorists going abroad will be required to deposit for Customs purposes.

### Vauxhall Successes.

Further cable news has been received of the Brisbane--Sydney reliability trial, in which there were 26 starters. The performances of the Vauxhall cars show that, though few British cars competed, the honours of the day can be claimed by a car of English make. The distance travelled was 817 miles, and the result was that the 20 h.p. Vauxhall driven by Mr. Boyd Edkins was first, Mr. Monro's 20 h.p. Vauxhall third, and Mr. Ottoway's 25 h.p. Vauxhall fifth. In the two hill climbs, Mr. Boyd Edkins was first on formula and Dr. Manning (30-98 h.p. Vauxhall) third in one and fourth in the other. The three fastest times in the hill climbs were made on each occasion by Dr. Manning, Mr. Ottoway, and Mr. Edkins, in the order given. The petrol consumption figures for Vauxhall cars were :— Mr. Monro 32.9 m.p.g., Mr. Edkins 30.6 m.p.g., Mr. Ottoway 26.5 m.p.g. and Dr. Manning 20 m.p.g. It is of interest to mention that Mr. Edkins' and Mr. Ottoway's cars were sent out to Australia in 1914, and Mr. Monro's in 1912.

### Norton Motor Cycle.

The famous Norton Motor Cycle has scored one of it greatest victories in the winning of the Belgian Grand Prix, when Hubert Hassall on a 3½ Norton secured this coveted honour. In the long and strenuous journey of 200 miles on the road, it is estimated that the C.A.V. magneto with which his machine was equipped gave out somewhere about 570,000 sparks in 3 hours 19 minutes riding time.

According to a Prague report an Anglo-Czech radium company has been formed half of the capital being subscribed by the Imperial and Foreign Corporation, Ltd.

*Cable Address:* "Lobo, Dundee." **LOW & BONAR, Ltd., Dundee, Scotland.** *Codes used:* A.B.C., 4th, 5th & 6th edns., A.1, Lieber, Lieber 5 Letter, Bentley's, Marconi International

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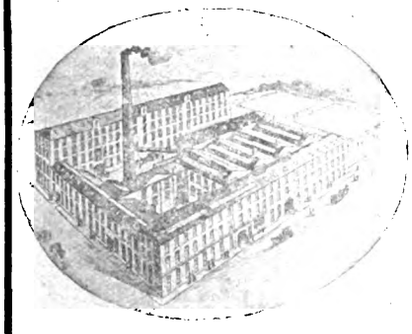
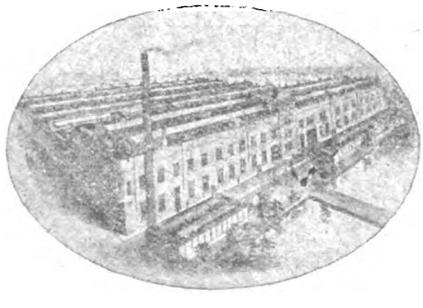
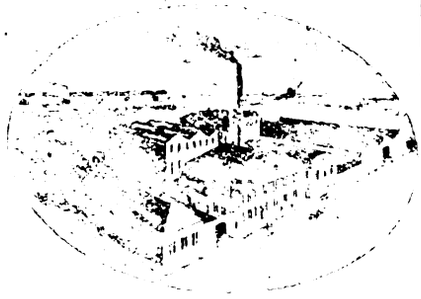

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(*From our our Correspondent.*)

Bucharest, August 30.

The papers report the rumour of the sale to an English company of the fleet of a Roumanian shipping company on the Danube The transaction is supposed to have been concluded a few days ago.

The level of the water in the Danube has fallen considerably in consequence of which three sea-boats have run aground between Galatz and Braila also some sand-banks emerged up river, greatly interfering with the traffic of barges.

## SHIPPING AT SULINA.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr Marshall, Acting Vice-Consul at Sulina:—

Sulina has practically no separate commercial existence; it depends entirely upon shipping, it being the port of transhipment for grain finding its way down the Danube. There are literally no exports, for the town is hemmed in on all sides by swamp. There are neither local industries nor any means of developing agriculture, and public works are equally unknown, and the beginning and end of human enterprise at Sulina is shipping and such pursuits as are immediately connected with it. As a loading port for grain, Sulina used to be of considerable importance to British shipowners, principally owing to the fact that the depth of water on the bar in pre-war days was maintained at about 24 feet with a river depth of about 20 feet, which made the place more attractive, the loading facilities being good the risk of river navigation to Galatz and Braila and detention being avoided.

During the greater part of the year the river depth was maintained at about 23 feet, but vessels were only allowed to cross the Sulina Bar with a draft of about 20 feet; only small quantities of grain were shipped in Sulina, vessels drawing more than the bar draft when loaded preferring to complete at Constantza, thus escaping very heavy lighterage expenses and delay in Sulina Roads, since the high cost of lighters, towage, labour conditions generally and loss of time through bad weather, practically consumed the freight earned by the vessel on the quantity loaded outside the Bar.

The fluctuating population of about 2,500 souls has not increased and there have been practically no imports of any description beyond a few tons required for the European Commission works. The conditions in the town have not yet been improved, and the damage caused by the war has not been repaired. Only about one-fourth of the houses are habitable and the small needs of the town, so far as colonial goods are concerned, are supplied from up-river ports where ocean-going steamers land the general cargoes which they bring to Roumania.


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## CZECHO-SLOVAK PORTS.

The Danube touches Czecho-Slovak territory for a distance of 170 kilometres and forms the southern boundary between Devin and Parkany. This section of the river (says the recently issued British Consular report on Czecho-Slovakia) is unfavourable to navigation and requires constant and costly regulation. The right bank, with the exception of a few kilometres round Bratislava is in Hungarian hands. The work of canalising the Moldau and the Elbe has just been completed, and by a series of locks and canals it will now be possible for boats of 600 tons to go direct from Prague to Hamburg. The German portion of the Elbe, as far as Magdeburg, however, is in a very neglected condition, and in the summer months the depth of water in this section of the river often falls below 60 centimetres. Czecho-Slovakia has three ports on the Danube: Devin (Gonyo), Bratislava and Komarno (Kommorn). The first and last are of little importance. The equipment of the port of Bratislava is totally inadequate to cope with the present volume of traffic. Its present mechanical equipment scarcely suffices to re-load 50 trucks per diem, but great efforts are being made by the Government to rebuild the wharves and install a plant capable of dealing with over 500 trucks per diem, or about 2,000,000 tons per annum.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses* :—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 4).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 24).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Liverpool, September 28).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Maid of Athens for Patras, Piraeus Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 28).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Morrison for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 22); s.s. Clan Macvicar for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 6).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Sea Glory for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Constantinople and Galatz (London, September 15); s.s. Tyria for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Novorossisk, Odessa, and Batoum (Liverpool, September 17).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Asturian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, October 8.).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Calcutta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 19); s.s. City of Manila for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 3); s.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 15).

*Ellerman's Hall Line.*—S.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay (Liverpool, October 1).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glengyle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, September 22); s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 6).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Inventor for Calcutta (Liverpool, October 1); s.s. Professor for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden etc. (Birkenhead, October 6).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Arracan for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 21); s.s. Henzada for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 5).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Knight of the Garter for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, September 22); s.s. Laomedon for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, September 22); s.s Mentor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, September 22); s.s. Orestes for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, September 22).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Cranmore for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna Volo, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 1).

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*Moss Line.*—S.s. Siptah for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Syra, Piraeus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 24); s.s. Amasis for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, September 24).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Bosnian for Tangier, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, September 17).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Delta for Bombay (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden; also (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports). (London, September 16); s.s. China for Bombay (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden; also (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports) (London, September 23); s.s. Padua for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden) (London, September 24); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 7).

*P. and O. British Line.*—S.s. Mundra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London, September 17); s.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports) (London September 23); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London, September 30); ss. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (also taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports) (London, October 7); s.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez and Aden) (London, October 14); s.s. Neuralia for Bombay and Karachi (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports, (London October 21).

## AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

The following official estimate of the agricultural situation dated September 3 has been received from India:—During August the monsoon was very good in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Assam, Southern Madras, Central Provinces, Gujarat, Central India, and most of Burma. Rain was very scanty throughout August in the Deccan districts of Bombay and Madras, and since the middle of August, in North Western India and Hyderabad (South), but crops are still doing well. Crops at present are excellent in the Central Provinces, good in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Bombay, Lower Burma, Sindh, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and are very saitsfactory elsewhere. Much will depend on the continuance of rain during the first half of September. The fodder supply has greatly improved. Canal supplies are good. Famine relief continues, but the numbers on relief works are steadily decreasing. Despite the generally good monsoon, there has been an extraordinary rise of prices, especially of wheat, in Northern and in Western India.

## GREECE'S MACHINERY REQUIREMENTS.

The question of the lack of agricultural implements which so seriously hampers the development of Greek agriculture, says the *Oikonomologos Athenon*, as regards both quality and quantity of produce is now being dealt with. The need is most urgent for the following articles: motor ploughs, threshing machines, reapers, hydraulic engines, ploughs, corn sifters. The need of the last mentioned is most pressing. The amount of seed corn that can be sifted by them in one day lies between 1,000 and 2,000 okes, which with the common sieve takes from 15 to 20 days, and is even so a less thorough process. There are now about 1,000 of these machines, while at least 7,000 are required. About 200 motor ploughs are now used in Greece with approximately about 100 threshers and 2,000 reapers.

## OIL OUTPUTS.

British Burmah Petroleum.—A cablegram has been received from Burmah reporting that the total production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, for August amounted to 81,406 barrels.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin railway for the week ended September 3 amounted to £9,619.

OTTOMAN 4 per cent. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT, 1903-1906.

NOTICE TO BRITISH HOLDERS OF COUPONS DUE MARCH, 1915, TO MARCH, 1920 (NOS. 23 TO 33), INCLUSIVE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders Give Notice that the deposit with them of the above Coupons for the purposes indicated in the Notice of 1st February, 1921, of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt will cease on the 23rd instant.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN BONDHOLDERS,
JAMES P. COOPER, Secretary.
17, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.2,
7th September, 1921.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts and must be made by the dates mentioned,*

**Egypt.**

Water Tubing and Fittings.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of 5,500 feet 2-inch galvanised W.I. water tubing and fittings. Further particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W. 1. September 26.

Wood.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of wood. October 5.

Bags.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 money bags. October 8.

**Bulgaria.**

Hardware.—The Bulgarian Ministry of Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of brackets, belts and other hardware furniture of telegraph and telephone lines. October 12. (D.O.T.)

Water Closets, etc.—H.M. Legation Sofia reports the receipt of an enquiry for quotations for 1,000 water closets complete and 500 lavatory basins which are required in Philippopolis for the equipment of new constructions. The enquirer is also desirous of receiving catalogues for machinery of all descriptions, including dynamos, motors, flour milling plant, pumps (hand and power), stationery and portable electric sets, sausage machinery, etc. (D.O.T.)

**Yugoslavia.**

Stockings.—The "Depot Central Sanitaire" invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 pairs of stockings for invalids. Tenders must be addressed to the "Direction du Depot Central Sanitaire à Zemun" and must bear a stamp of 20 dinars, and must be accompanied by a letter of guarantee. September 24.

**India.**

Cast-iron Pipes.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply of Cast-iron Pipes, Special Castings, Sluice Valves etc. (Spec., 5s., Messrs. Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria-street, S.W.1.) October 31.

Boilers.—The South Indian Railway Company, Ltd. invite tenders for the supply of Locomotive Boilers. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 91, Petty France, Westminster. September 21.

**Morocco.**

Waterworks Contracts.—Tenders are invited in connection with two contracts for the construction of the Ain Sebzar-Petitjean Waterworks as follows:—(1) The supply and fixing of material, pipes, valves, etc.; (2) The construction of earthworks, etc. The public adiudication of tenders will take place at the office of the "Direction Generale des Travaux Publics" at Rabat, Residence Générale, on September 29.

It is understood that the next exhibition at Algiers will be held in April.

At Czecho-Slovakia's third international sample fair at Prague more than 4,000 exhibitors applied for space, totalling over 64,000 square yards, whereas at the first fair 2,000 exhibitors applied for a total space of about 30,000 square yards,

The opening of the Sample Fair and Exhibition at Bucharest will take place on September 10.


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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

**Trade brisker; Prices rising.**

Dried Fruit.—Business has continued to be fairly brisk. Currants are moving off well at easier rates. Sultanas are steady, and rates are firm.

Coffee.—The tone has been very irregular during the week. Costa Rica has shed 4s. to 126s.; while Indian has jumped from 114s. to 120s. Columbian at 110s. has remained unchanged. Nairobi is quoted at 96s. Futures are:—September, 48s.; December, 47s. 3d.; March, 48s. 3d.; May, 49s.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in steady demand throughout the week. White Mauritius is the same at 50s.; but Czecho-Slovakia at 27s. 6d. has dropped 6d. Other transactions include West Indian crystallized at 44s. to 50s.; and beet sugar at 20s. Futures are:—October, 17s. 6d.; November, 17s. 3d.; and December, 16s. 9d.

Oilseeds.—There is an all round improvement in prices. Indian linseed has gained 1s. 3d. to 23s. and La Plata is 1s. up at 22s. Rapeseed has been firm with Toria 3d. up at 22s. 6d. Bold Ferozepore is unchanged at 21s. 6d; and brown Cawnpore also unaltered at 20s. 6d. Cottonseed has risen with Indian at 12s. 6d.; a rise of 1s.; Egyptian black at 14s. 6d.; and Sakellarides at 14s.; increases of 9d. in both cases.

Seed Oils.—A firm tone has prevailed during the week. Linseed oil has gained 2s. at 40s.; crude rape oil is unchanged at 55s.; but the refined variety has gained 11s. at 61s. Cotton oil is higher, with common edible at 53s.; Egyptian crude, at 46s.; and deodorized at 59s.; increases of 2s., 4s., and 3s., respectively.

Oilcakes.—Business has been brisk. Linseed cake has been done at 320s. and finest Arachis, 300s. London-made cotton-seed cake is quoted at 220s.

## ROUMANIA'S CEREAL EXPORTS.

(*From our own Correspondent*).

Bucharest, August 30.

It is officially estimated that the cereals that will be exported this year will represent a value of about two milliard lei.

About three thousand waggons of the quantity of wheat sold to France are already loaded on barges, and some of it is lying at the various railway stations. The grain is being sent by barges to Braila to be shipped on the boats arriving from France

## DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co. report as follows for the two weeks ended September 6.:—

Currants.—Reports that the quantity of new crop likely to be available for export is estimated at not exceeding 90,000 tons caused a reawakening in the demand, and the position has undergone a complete change. The market during the past month, especially during the second and third weeks of the period under review, has displayed a more cheerful tone, and sales have increased considerably, although no advance in price can be quoted. The final disposal of the old fruits sold by the Government to a Syndicate some time ago also helped the position, as the uncertainty regarding the clearance of this stock has undoubtedly been a menace to the trade. New crop—Very little interest has been taken in this, and sales reported are quite insignificant. Spot quotations are:— Pyrgos and Amalias 48s. to 55s.; Patras, 50s. to 64s.; Zante, 56s. to 70s.; Gulf and Panariti, 58s. to 72s.; Vostizza, 72s. to 90s. Duty paid clearances for the month were 1,780 tons, against 1,080 tons for July. The first steamer s.s. Phrygia with new fruit is now loading, and is expected here towards the end of the month.

Valencia Raisins.—Sales of new crop are said to have been made at 105s. c.i.f. for fair average and 108s. c.i.f. good average. Advices from Spain are very pessimistic as to extent of the crop; some estimates as low as 7,000 tons are to hand.

Sultanas.—Stocks are practically cleared. Latest sales have been at 140s. Afghans experienced a good demand, and are now almost exhausted. Sales were—red 105s. to 112s. 6d.; yellow, 130s. to 137s. 6d. The s.s. Luque with the first of the new crop Smyrna is loading, and prices asked vary from 10s. to 120s. c.i.f., according to quality, London has been better served than Liverpool, having had an arrival of 3,000 boxes 147s. 6d. to 155s. Quality and colour are reported good for early gathering

We regret to announce the death of Mr. H. Chalmers, general manager of the National Bank of India, which occurred recently at Aberdeen where he was spending a holiday. Mr. Chalmers who had been in the service of the bank for forty-five years, was at one time manager of the Bombay branch of the bank, and subsequently inspector of branches. He was appointed general manager in London at the beginning of 1914, and last year was appointed to a seat on the Board.

## BULGARIAN CEREAL TRADE.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Sofia, September 4.

M. Stambolisky returned from abroad on the 1st inst., and although he is due to leave for Geneva in a few days time will be here when the Sobranje discusses the amendment to the law regarding the trade in cereals, providing for free trade in cereals and putting the Consortium on an equal footing with private merchants. This amendment is inspired by the Commission of Reparations and as the Government have assented to its introduction, there should be little delay in its becoming law.

Meanwhile the harvest is in, and although it is good there is no sign of an improvement in the leva, the rate being about 450 for sterling. The rate is however, comprehensible when one reflects on the way in which trade in cereals is being carried on. The following story is a good instance of what is actually happening. A Roumanian firm wanted to buy maize from Bulgaria. Telegrams were exchanged between the sellers and the Consortium, which finally sent a wire offering to sell maize at a certain price. The Roumanian firm accepted the offer and promptly dispatched a representative to Sofia to conclude the deal. The Consortium had, however, no sooner wired to Roumania than they had an offer from a French firm who also wanted to buy maize, the price offered being the same as that offered by the Roumanian firm. The Consortium accepted the second offer and telegraphed to the Roumanian firm that the deal was off, but their representative was on his way here, and a day or so later arrived to claim the maize, only to be told to his astonishment that it was sold! The matter will not of course end here, and will very likely involve the Consortium in the loss of a considerable sum.

There is no question that competition is a healthy thing, and it will be interesting to see if the grain merchants can succeed where the Consortium has failed in increasing the export of cereals and thus bringing about an improvement in the leva. It is understood that the Government have given an assurance to the Reparations Commission that steps will be taken to see that an adequate quantity of bread is available for the townspeople, so the alarmists who prophesy a shortage of bread as a result of free trade should be discomfited. The peasants can always be relied upon to keep a supply which is more than sufficient for their own needs, so legislation to provide for the rationing of the towns is all that is required.

## CROP PROSPECTS IN BULGARIA.

The Bulgarska Banka in a report dated September 1, states:—The final results of the crop are not yet known. The cereals in general are giving a good yield, and the threshing of wheat has now been commenced. Enough is not known yet for it to be possible to give even an approximate estimate of the surplus available for export. It is expected, however, that it will be large. The modifications that are to be introduced with regard to the Consortium are awaited with impatience. If freedom for trade and for exports is decided upon it will be possible to anticipate a marked improvement in the economic position in general.

During the past month considerable quantities of flour and cheese have been exported and a little wheat. The money received in exchange for exports has not, however, at all influenced the position of the Bulgarian exchange, even compared with the Turkish pound. The sellers of exchange in Constantinople have always found purchasers above parity. The regulation of dealings in exchange attempted by the Government for a certain time has not failed to make the situation of the leva worse, the large transactions which ordinarily bring about the levelling of the rate having become practically impossible. A certain improvement would result from the abolition of the famous Article 4 of the law for punishing those responsible for the war. The abolition of this article has been solemnly promised by the Government. It appears at the same time that the large payment that Bulgaria ought to make to the Entente Powers and the situation of the country from the point of view of international politics remain the chief factors un-

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favourable to an improvement of the exchange.

The same influences dominate the market. There are very few orders. The principal houses make very few purchases, endeavouring to reduce the risks they run from the ruinous rate of the leva. Merchants are no longer having recourse to the long term credits that certain foreign houses offer; there have been too many unfortunate experiences,

Business having been practically nil, there are scarcely any changes of price to record. There have been unsuccessful attempts to concert sales of tobacco abroad. The general tendency is to hold aloof pending the results of the crop. Sales of cocoons have been concluded at 185 levas per kilogramme. The market has been a little more animated than in the previous month. The alarm of producers of and dealers in attar of roses at the proposal of the Government for the control and regulation of the production and sale of this commodity has been allayed the project not having been put into execution for the moment. The purchases have taken place round 80 leva per five grammes. For the best qualities up to 105 levas have been paid which appears to be the definite price of the season.

* As announced by our Sofia Correspondent on page 315 this has now been abolished.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 1:—Conference freight rates—October-December—for United Kingdom and Continent for jute and linseed reduced by five shillings. (previous rate about 45s.) Rangoon rice rose to Rs. 650 on settlement of speculative bargains (previous rate Rs. 625). Excluding estimates for the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, for which figures are not yet available, the forecast of area under sesamum in 1921-22 is 1,543,000 acres, as compared with 1,557,000 acres last year.

A further cable dated September 5, states:—Season. August 29 and 30.—Moonsoon vigorous in north-eastern India and Upper Burma with break continuing in Peninsula and north-western India. September 1 and 2.—Bombay monsoon revived. September 3.—Strengthened materially in north-western India. September 4.—Heavy rain in Bombay Presidency. Conditions of Crops. September 1.—Punjab unchanged (the last report was, rice good and other crops unchanged, *i.e.*, cotton and sesamum normal and indigo poor). September 2.—In Central Provinces, rice very good, cotton good to excellent. In Assam, prospects of tea and winter rice, and out-turn of autumn rice and jute fair. Bombay cotton market, September 1.—Steady. M.G. Oomras Rs. 394. December-January; Rs. 420 September. Cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to August 26, 1921, were 2,864,000 bales, as compared with 3,406,000 bales during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay piece-goods market quiet. Prices in some grades slightly easier. Calcutta jute market, September 2.—Very firm. Prices advancing. September 3.—Hessians quiet but steady; heavy goods quiet. At tea sale on August 30, good selection from all districts, particularly Assam. Fine cup quality and Tippy Orange Pekoes were dearer. Leafy thin liquoring brokens and brokens with tips one to one and a-half anna cheaper; other grades unchanged. 126,222 packages sold to date at an average price of nine annas one pie per lb. Special rice, September 2—Rs. 522½. No change in Bank rates.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 111s. 6d. cwt.; bacon (Canadian), 127s. 6d. cwt.; bacon (American), 120s. 6d. cwt. butter (Danish), 250s. cwt.; butter (Australian,) 233s. cwt.; butter (New Zealand), 255s. cwt.; cheese (Australian), 123s. cwt.; lard, 89s. cwt.; chillies, 152s. 6d. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 28s. 3d. per 120; eggs (Styrian), 19s. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 85s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 142s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East Indian bold), 132s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 113s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 6s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 47s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's) 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 9½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 82s. 6d. cwt.; raisins (Sultana Smyrna), 96s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 79s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Calamata), 48s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 57s. 1½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 62s. 3d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 51s. 3d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 47s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (centrifugal), 19s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 17s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 23s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £8 17s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb.; tea (Indian common to good common), 8½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 3½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 4d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 10d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 4d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 75s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 57s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 79s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 77s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 35s. qr.; oats (La Plata), 31s. 1½d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 41s. 1½d. qr.; maize (American), 38s. 9d. qr.; flour, 58s. 6d. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English regulus). £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £68 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £72 10s. ton; gold bars, 109s. 7½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 134s. 6d. ton; hematte (mixed number), 161s. 3d. ton; galvanised sheets (24G), £20 15s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 1s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 2½d. unit; molybdenite, 41s. 3d. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 36s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 5s. bottle; silver bars, 38½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 10s. 3d. ton; tin (standard), £156 17s. 6d.. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 22s. 3d. box.; wolfram, 13s. 4½d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids (boric), 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d. lb.; ammonia sulphate, £13 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £31 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £16 10s. ton; borax crystals 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 126s. 3d. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 9½d. lb.; chlorate, 4¾d. lb.; caustic, £31 10s. ton; nitrate, £48 10d. ton; hyposulphite, £18 ton; prussiate, 6¾d. lb.; nitrate, £18 10s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £85 ton; industrial, (1260 per cent.), £120 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 10½d. lb.; quinine, 4s. 1½d. oz.; red lead, £39 15s. ton white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton; white ground lead, £53s. ton; sulphate of copper, £31 ton; sulphate of iron, 140s. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 10½d lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 10½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 10½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs.; 59 lbs. and under, 7¾d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 9½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 9d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 8½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 8d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb.; Kips (first), 6d. lb.; (second), 5½d. lb.; (third), 4d. lb.; Calcutta market; Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 7 to 12.8; Durbhangas, 6 to 7; Patnas, 4 to 6. Salted cows, 3 to 6. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 5.8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 250 to 285 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 11.72d. lb.; cotton( Egyptian), 18.52d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £20 17s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £22 6s. 3d. ton; soya beans, £14 17s. 6d.; palm kernals, £22 17s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed £37 17s. 6d. ton; (Levant), £82 10s. ton; palm, £40 17s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £55 ton; soya, £41 5s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; ground nut, £51 10s. ton; cotton crude, £42 5s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £53 10s. ton; turpentine, 63s. 9d. cwt.; shellac (T.N. second orange), 295s. cwt.; shellac (A.C. garnet), 282s. 6d.. cwt.; rubber (plantation No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8¼d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. lb.

British holders of coupons due March 1915, to March 1920 (Nos. 23 to 33 inclusive), of the Ottoman 4 per Cent. Unified Converted Debt (1903-1906) are notified by the Council of Foreign Bondholders that the deposit with them of the above coupons for the purposes indicated in the notice of February 1 last of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt will cease on September 23.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97 15-32 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 66.25-67.25 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 190-200 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £..... | 22.43 | 375-408 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 16 13-16d |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 400-485 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 16 13-16 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 575-590 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.74½ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 50.15-52.15 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 300-320 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 86,75-88.25 |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 550-600 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 3,600-4,000 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to ..... | 20.43 | 13,500-14,200 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**The Profit Possibilities of the Italian Lire.**

Under this title our Expert on Foreign Exchanges has completed Article No. 5 in his series "Dealings in Foreign Exchanges from the English Investors point of View." The Article shows — ITALY'S FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES—THE POSITION OF THE SILK INDUSTRY—ITALY'S REVENUE FROM TOURISTS,—etc. The Article explains the PROFIT POSSIBILITIES BY PURCHASING ITALIAN LIRE—ITALIAN 3½% GOVERNMENT LOAN," etc. This Article will be sent free of charge on application to—

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

*The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank.*

Adana.

The report for July states :—The crisis continues on our market which is devoid of business. Some orders have been placed for machines for knitting stockings and socks, also for weaving. Some sales of manufactures have been carried out at low prices in order to enable holders to meet their engagements. In view of the approaching recovery of trade some important merchants have decided to make purchases.

The depreciation of Turkish bank notes has brought about a rise in commodities imported and exported. Cotton has risen from Ps 110-120 per batman to Ps 135-150 following some sales for Smyrna and Salonika. The exports of the month under review are of no importance. In view of the poor yield of the crop of cereals the importation of American flour and of Algerian wheat is to be anticipated.

## INDIA'S FOOD SUPPLIES.

A communiqué issued by the Government of India states :—The Government of India have given anxious consideration to the position caused by the recent large and rapid rise in the price of foodstuffs, especially of wheat, and they now make the following announcements :—The existing prohibition of the export of wheat, atta and flour will be continued in full force until at least the end of March 1922. In order to prevent any depletion of stocks, or enhancement of prices owing to the supply of military requirements, all supplies of wheat, atta and flour required for the Army in India, or based on India, will be obtained for the present, as far as possible, by the purchase of wheat abroad. It has been represented that private imports of Australian wheat will be encouraged if a portion of the imported wheat is allowed to be re-exported in the form of flour, while the balance remains in the country and increases its food supplies. At the same time the mill industry which is suffering from the embargo on the export of flour will be assisted. The mills in India largely convert wheat into certain proportions of flour and atta, and it has been repeatedly urged that if the export of fine flour were more freely allowed the price of atta produced by the mills would be lowered, since, with a greater demand for flour, the mills could work full time and therefore more economically. The Government of India having regard to the rise in the price of wheat which might ensue from the conversion of larger quantities into flour for export have not hitherto acceded to the request for permission to export increased quantities of flour. There can, however, be no objection on the ground that stocks will be depleted or prices enhanced if the export of flour is preceded by the import of wheat from abroad and is limited to only a portion of the wheat imported.

## MINING IN SYRIA.

Notwithstanding reports at various times of rich mineral resources in Syria operations conducted thus far have not justified such optimistic conclusions, according to an American consular report. None of the workings have, in fact, proved financially successful. Minerals have been discovered and worked to some extent, but reliable engineers report that the quantity of such minerals is so small and the quality so poor that the continuation of operations of the concessions would prove unprofitable. Certain concessions, for instance, were worked prior to 1914, but after a short period of operation, work was stopped. During the war the German army also operated a coal mine for a short time, but the officers in charge of the work decided that, even with an unlimited supply of men hired at army rates, operations did not pay.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**FOUNDED 1863.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Capital** | - | **£10,000,000** |
| **Paid-up** | - | **£5,000,000** |
| **Reserve** | - | **£1,250,000** |

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## ON 'CHANGE.

### EGYPTIAN LAND SHARES BUOYANT.

*(From our own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday.

It has been a decidedly varied week. While the general political situation has improved we have had the Grand Trunk development which has naturally had a marked effect on the markets. Still on the whole the favourable influences have predominated, and prices in some groups are rather better on balance.

Gild-edged stocks have been firm. Consols at 47,7-8 ex div are ¼ up, while Fundings are 5-8 up at 71,7-8. War Loan Fives exceptionally have lost 1-16 at 88,3-16.

In Near Eastern securities which rank as British Government stocks, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are 1 up at 59, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent 1855 are unchanged at 66 and 69 respectively.

The Industrial group has again displayed firmness though business has been on the smallest possible scale Shipping securities were harder' P. and O. being 350, while Furness Withys are 3d. up at 24s. 3d. ex div. Iron and steel shares continued to show improvement. Armstrongs are firm at 18s. 3d. while Vickers are 13s. 3d.

Oils shares have been fairly firm. Anglo-Egyptian are unchanged at 1,7-16, as are Roumanian Consolidated at 10s. 6d. Steaua Romana are 3d. up at 11s., while Phoenix, at 9s. are also 3d. up. Burmahs are 1-16 down at 5⅞.

A good tone has been in evidence in bank shares. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds at 53s. are ¼ up, while Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are ¼ up at 55. Imperial Ottoman Banks have gained ¼ at 8¼, but National Bank of Egypt at 19¾ ex div. are ¼ down. Bank of Athens are unchanged at 2,3-8, while Ionians are the same at 7¼.

**Greeks Decline.**

Greek securities have been rather easier. The 5 per cent 1881 Loan is ½ down at 42½, while the 5 per cent. 1884 issues has shed a point at 41. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is also 1 down at 34.

Land shares have again been strong. Behera Prefs. are 1-8 up at 3¼. Egyptian Delta Land have risen 9d. to 9s. 3d., while Egyptian Consolidated Lands have gained 1½d. at 1s. 3d. New Egyptians are 1s. up at 25s. 6d., while Sudan Plantations at 3 show a gain of 3-16. Union Foncieres are 5-16 up at 3.

Among miscellaneous descriptions Egyptian Markets are 1s. up at 20s., Egyptian Salts and Sodas are unchanged at 35s., while Alexandria Waters are ¼ up at 7 1-16 at which there are buyers.

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The net profits of the Imperial Bank of India from January 27 to June 30, 1921, inclusive, amounted to Rs58,14,792. This sum the governors disposed of as follows :—Dividend at rate of 16 p.c. p.a., free of tax, Rs33,00,656 ; transferred to reserve fund, Rs10,00,000 ; transferred to pension funds, Rs5,00,000 ; carried forward to profit and loss account of current half-year, Rs10,14,136.

## NEW COMPANIES.

**Transylvania Syndicate.**

The Transylvania Syndicate, Ltd. has been registered with a nominal capital of £5,000 in 4,500 preference shares of £1 each. each, and 10,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. Objects : To search for and acquire mines and land capable of affording a supply of mineral oils.

**Anglo-Oriental Petroleum.**

The Romaneasca Anglo-Oriental Petroleum Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £25,000 in £1 shares. Objects : To carry on the business of dealers in and producers, importers, exporters, miners, distillers, refiners, and distributors of petroleum and other mineral oils, oil shares, natural gas, asphalte and bitumen, shipowners, lightermen, carriers, &c. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. No notice of situation of registered office was filed at time of incorporation.

## AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The following was the position of the bank's encashments on July 31 (the figures in brackets representing the corresponding totals for 1920) :—Existing Loans : Short term Loans, £E57,026 (£E10,795), Category "B" £E3,500,628 (£E3,468,490), Total, £E3,557,654 (£E3,479,285); Matured Loan instalments : Due £E25,557 (£E24,976), falling due £E604,186 (£E545,830), total £E629,743 (£E470,806). Perceptions : Outstanding on January 31 £E172,760 (£E83,724), Balance £E140,730 (£E52,650), Encashed £E32,030 (£E31,074) ; Matured Loan instalments : Encashed £E10,120 (£E12,713) ; Total encashments of instalments due £E42,150 (£E43,787).

## THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SUGAR TRADE.

A liquidation of the Czecho-Slovak Sugar Commission, the official body controlling the whole Czecho-Slovak Sugar Trade, has been decided upon, and the sugar industry will be released from all governmental control. A Sugar Syndicate embracing the whole industry, i.e., organization of the beet growers, raw sugar factories and refineries, is in course of formation. The Control Office which will regulate the trade between the wholesale traders and the refineries will begin to carry out its functions on October 1. The exports of sugar will also in future be concentrated with the Czecho-Slovak Sugar Export Company, which will be supervised by the Central Association of the Czecho-Slovak Sugar industry.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on August 26 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 15-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 15-16; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £25-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 57 ; Behera Ord., £E 8½ ; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 78 ; Building Lands of Egypt, £5-8 ; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100 ; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 45 ; Ciments d'-Egypte Div., Fr., 35 ; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1 ; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5½ ; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 810 ex ; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 635 ; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 317 ; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110 ex. ; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130 ; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr., 78 ; Eaux du Caire Jouissance. Fr. 105, Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 28s. ; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4,5-32 ex.; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10 5-8; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 7-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s. ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2 9-16 ; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £4 3-8 ; Kom Ombo Ste., Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex. ; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37 ; Lots Turc., Fr., 37½ ; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270 ; Nungovich Hotels, £6½ ; Ramleh Railways, £2 ¾ ; Salt and Soda, Pt., 33s. 4½d. ; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr., 49 Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 66 ; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2 15-32 ; Egypt Hotels, £1 27-32 ; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.


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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

Manchester, Friday.

The market during the past week has been thoroughly demoralised by the violent fluctuations that have taken place in raw cotton prices. Many ups and downs have been experienced and at times the value of the staple rose and fell, in some instances 2d. a lb., which is a thing not heard of for some time back. As was only natural in such an unsettled market buyers held aloof. At the moment of writing raw cotton rates show signs of stability, but one can never tell what will happen during the next few days. With regard to cloth buyers for the Near East have not been much in evidence, and only a few miscellaneous sales from stock have taken place for the outlets generally. Sellers found it impossible to cope with the situation, and they even refused to give out quotations. With regard to Egyptian yarns quotations have been irregular and business has been practically negligible. The cloth demand for India and China has been on a very small scale, but towards the week-end more bids have been received from the other side. The majority of these however, proved impracticable. A few lots of printing descriptions have been sold for South America, and a slightly better demand has been met with for the home trade. In connection with American yarns, hardly any business has been done, and quotations when given out have been very irregular. Sales have been isolated.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 8 :—The excited and "bullish" American markets which followed the Bureau report had an immediate effect on our markets, and the past week has witnessed a very rapid rise in the price of Egyptian cotton. There was no holding Alexandria, and Liverpool seemed quite ready to follow its lead. The result has been that at mid-day yesterday prices for spot cotton had registered in one week an advance of, roughly, 7d. per lb. Estimated sales show a considerable increase on anything we have lately seen, but we are inclined to the belief that they are somewhat misleading, inasmuch as a fairly large percentage of them represents speculative buying on merchants' account, and not genuine trade. Lancashire, in fact, has viewed the advance with mixed feelings. It has been so rapid that the big world-buyers of yarn and cloth have been left gasping, uncertain what to do. Spinners with stocks of cotton and yarn have seen a large increase, on paper, in the value of their stocks, but at the same time, those having hedges in futures have had to pay out large sums, and are still unable to sell their yarn ! There are, of course, a few isolated cases where fortune has smiled on the favoured ones, but, speaking generally, the improved business in yarn and cloth, which it was confidently anticipated would make its appearance on the rise in value of the raw material, has, so far, failed to materialise. Had the market steadied, and given buyers a chance to weigh up the situation, or had the advance kept on, it seems a fairly reasonable argument to suppose that the trade would have come in sooner or later. However, a break, which started yesterday in New York, and has been more than reflected in Alexandria and Liverpool to-day, seems to have killed any chance of that for the time being. Spot quotations, following the break in futures contracts, were reduced 300 points here to-day, and that is quite sufficient to frighten off any prospective buyer ! As we write, all the markets are weak, if not temporarily demoralised, and holders of cotton do not know quite where they are, or what the morrow may bring forth. Practically no c.i.f. business has been done, owing to the difficulty of making firm offers from Egypt, and Manchester reports, after starting off hopefully at the beginning of the week, have again relapsed into a state of gloomy uncertainty. The spot enquiry here has been fairly general, a feature for the second week in succession being the interest displayed in Tokar and Sudan cotton, but it is remarkable what little interest is taken by spinners generally in the new crop. Quotations on balance show an all round increase of, for Sakellaridis, 375 points ; for upper, 400 points, with the exception of fine and extra fine, which are 450 points better ; and for brown 375 points, except fine and extra fine, which are 400 points better on the week. Sales, 3,100, which includes 450 bales Sudan. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 21.50d.

**Travellers to the Near East**

Can obtain all information as to the journey from Continental Traffic Department, Victoria Station (S. E. & C. R.), S.W.1:

## CZECHO-SLOVAK'S TIMBER EXPORTS.

According to figures published by the Czecho Slovak Statistical Office the exports of timber during 1920 amounted to 848,181 metric tons. The largest purchasers were Germany (246,551 tons), Hungary (215,943 tons), and Austria (147,135 tons). During the second half of 1920 exports of textiles amounted to 16,837 metric tons, and imports to 47,052 tons (raw materials and manufactured goods:) As regards countries of origin the United States with 16,777 tons stand first, Germany with 8,812 tons is second, and Austria with 2,116 tons third. The largest exports went to Austria 7,693 tons, Hungary 2,488 tons and Yugoslavia 1,315 tons.

## NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Mercantile Bank of India announces an interim dividend of 8 per cent., less tax, on "A," "B," and "C" shares.

Compagnie Franco-Roumaine de Navigation Aérienne. The general meeting will be held at Paris on September 17.

The Banque Franco-Serbe announces the opening of a branch at Fiume.

H.E.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company recommends a final dividend of 2½ per cent., together with bonus of 2 per cent., making a total of 7 per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1921.

The directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income tax payable on and after Friday, September 16.

The Roumanian Government has passed a Bill authorising the town of Bucharest to contract a 3½ per cent. interim loan of 10,000,000 lei, redeemable in 50 years by half-yearly drawings. The bonds will be exempt from all taxes present or future.

The Bank of Athens announces that as a consequence of further instructions received from Athens until further notice payment of coupon No. 19 of the Piraeus-Athens-Peloponnesus Railway Four per Cent. bonds (which fell due on July 1-14, 1921) will be resumed at the rate of 6s. 11½d. per coupon of each £20 bond (multiples in proportion) instead of 8s. as hitherto, the difference of 1s. 0½d. being retained for Greek income-tax 10 per cent. (10d.) and duty of 2½d. on transferable securities.

## AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

118. Well known Sports Goods House with factory in India, wish to appoint Agents in Near and Middle East where not at present represented.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau," "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities :—Exports : Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins. mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old, Dundee and Calcutta makes.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 541—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Greco-Turkish War.*

Now that the Greek Government has officially admitted the withdrawal of its army across the Sakaria and the abandonment of the attempt to reach Angora, the Entente Powers, it is to be hoped, will offer the belligerents their mediation, informing them at the same time of the terms on which they propose to settle the Asia Minor question. Mediation without an outline of the proposed settlement will be useless. The Nationalists may hold their own views of the nature of the Greek withdrawal and of the reasons leading up to it, and encouraged by the presence of reinforcements, now that the harvest operations are over, may think that they stand to gain something by following up the Greeks. If on the other hand they find that the Powers are prepared to offer the terms suggested in London last February, with possibly some compromise in regard to Thrace, they may welcome the respite that peace will give them. At best the situation resembles the proverbial nettle, and there is only one way in which the Allies can deal with it.

### *Albania's Frontiers.*

The question of Albania's frontiers has not only given the Council of the League of Nations a field day, but has also produced a special report on the subject by Mr. Balfour. The latter inclines to the belief that the decision of the Paris Committee appointed by the Ambassadors' Conference will settle the matter. Last week reference was made in these columns to the fears of the Tirana Government that some drastic revision of the 1913 frontiers was contemplated in favour of Serbia. No doubt any revision will seem arbitrary to the Albanians, but there would seem to be some reason for regarding the proposed alterations in the boundary line as inconsiderable, although they will certainly favour the Serbians. The Entente Governments are being charged with inconsistency on going back upon their decisions of last year in regard to the southern frontier. Unless we are mistaken the award to Greece of Argyrokastro and Koritza was made under the impression that thereby some counterweight was offered Albania to Italian designs on the country. Those designs, as is known, no longer exist, at least not in the crude form of a year or two ago, and it is held that there is no reason why the two towns should not be given now to Albania. It is certainly to the credit of the Tirana Government that no serious complaints have been raised against it by the Greeks under its jurisdiction.

### *A Constantinople Plot.*

Early last week it was reported that a plot of a very serious character had been discovered by the British Intelligence Department in Constantinople, and according to one version it was organised in and directed from Angora. Later reports served to diminish the dangerous character of the plot, but still left it serious enough to cause some little uneasiness. According to a statement issued by General Harington, there would appear to be more than one organization at work, each with its own programme as far as details were concerned; but all aiming at overthrowing the Allied authorities in Constantinople. One body aimed at bringing about revolution, seizing war material and distributing it to the Turks, and promoting discontent among our Indian troops. General Harington warned the inhabitants not to abuse the tolerance of the Allies, and invited their co-operation in preventing further conspiracies. He also submitted to the Turkish authorities a list of persons implicated, with a request that they should be arrested and handed over within seven days for trial by an Allied court of inquiry. According to the earlier reports, the men who were 'wanted' were desperadoes of the deepest dye, and in very close touch with leading Kemalists; but a late report, from a source by no means over-friendly to the Turks, indicates that they are in point of fact nonentities—"very low-class cut-throats." In the circumstances, it may be well to await the investigation by the court.

### *Persian Puzzles.*

Reports from Persia continue to be of an extremely contradictory character. Thus, on the same day we were informed: (1) that the Governor of Khorassan was defying the Teheran Government, and that Kuchik Khan had formed a provisional government; and (2) that calm had been re-established throughout Persia, and that statements that Khorassan had declared its independence were devoid of truth. We must leave our readers to make their own choice between these two versions, merely adding that the first comes by way of Simla and the second by way of Paris, and—though this is hardly necessary, perhaps!—that the second is an official notification from Teheran. Another, but very

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minor, Persian problem has been solved by the handing over of M. Israelenko by the French Chargé d'Affaires to the Persian Government, for trial by a Persian court. M. Israelenko is charged with embezzling Soviet funds; and if found guilty, he is to be punished by the Persian court. The fact that M. Rothstein, the Bolshevist representative at Teheran, has undertaken not to demand him from Persia is hardly calculated to make M. Israelenko's case look hopeful.

### *Roman Remains at Alexandria.*

A discovery of considerable interest to archaeologists is reported from Alexandria, where, in excavating for an extension of the Hydrobiological Institute, the workmen came upon remains of a Roman roadway and part of a pavement in mosaic. The latter is reported by the Director of the Alexandria Museum to possess very high artistic merit, and as other remains of a similar character were discovered some time ago in the immediate vicinity it is to be hoped that it will prove possible to carry out scientific excavations at the site. That plenty of competent excavators would be willing to undertake the work is not to be doubted; and if, on further investigation, the remains seemed likely to justify the expense, it is quite probable that funds would be forthcoming also; for, as we have pointed out, such work in Egypt has many generous patrons in Europe and America. But in the first place it would seem to be the part of the Alexandria authorities to do a little more clearing of the site, possibly with the assistance of the Department of Antiquities; and if any difficulty should arise in the matter of finding money for this preliminary work, it would surely be a disgrace to the citizens of Alexandria. The position of the city and the comparative moistness of its climate do not tend to preserve such relics so well as they are preserved in Upper Egypt, and if the present opportunity is neglected the remains may suffer accordingly.

### *The Plight of Georgia.*

An appeal, signed by M. Jordania, President of the Georgian Republic, and by M. Tcheidze, President of the Constituent Assembly, is now being circulated on behalf of the Georgian people, who are described as "groaning under the yoke of the Bolshevists, suffering all the horrors of famine, typhus, cholera and plague, and reduced to the last stages of despair." The picture, we fear, is in no respect overdrawn. Georgia, which in the short period of its real freedom gave every sign of developing into a State useful to the world, happy and prosperous, is now reduced to ruin by the Bolshevist hordes. The latter, we are told, are now "exacting from the population, who are already ruined and reduced to misery, fresh contributions, reaching the enormous total of 50 milliard roubles, and considerable quantities of commodities and wool." The land is over run by Red troops, who, receiving little or no food from Russia, seize what they can from the luckless Georgians, who, of course, are left to starve for all the Bolshevists care. That help is needed most urgently is very clear. The problems that present themselves are: (1) how to arouse Europe to a sense of the need; and (2) how to get help to the deserving Georgians without its falling into the hands of the Bolshevists. It is possible that this may be arranged, and we sincerely hope that it will; but the difficulties in the way loom very large.

### *The Arrests in India.*

The news of the arrest of some of the most prominent Moslem agitators may be taken as marking a new development of the conflict in India of which we wrote last week. It is of course no sudden decision, for the likelihood of action of the kind has been openly canvassed for some time, and the charges which have been formulated relate to speeches made as long ago as July. Among these charges are attempts to seduce troops from their allegiance, a thing which not even the most modern Government can afford to tolerate, and we believe that the weight of responsible opinion in India has for some time past been in favour of bringing this particular charge, and also others, before the courts. The attitude of irresponsible opinion is another matter, and one on which we are not inclined to venture a prediction, but recent events make it probable that the Administration will be prepared to deal effectively at the outset with any manifestations of disorder which may occur.

### *The Indian Civil Service.*

A short but useful correspondence regarding the position of the Indian Civil Service has been carried on in the columns of *The Times*, the pessimistic views put forward by a civilian in India having called forth replies from Lord Meston and Sir Valentine Chirol, as well as from a junior member of the Service, whose letter will have warmed the hearts of many of his seniors. There is no use attempting to deny that the service is not "what it was," but that is equally true of the position of the classes from which the service has hitherto been recruited in this country. It is very many years since the pecuniary attractions were really considerable, and those who went out in recent times to make money were usually among the least satisfactory of the recruits. The young man who is governed by purely economic motives will be well advised still to put in his time "at the Bar, or the Banks, or financing," and, as Sir Alfred Lyall characteristically added, "get damned in a common place way." The call of service is addressed to other ears.

### *The Secretary of State's Council.*

Autumn brings what is coming rapidly to be regarded as the usual announcement of changes among the Indian Members of the Council at Whitehall. Sir Sankaran Nair, one of the latest appointments, is, we are told, returning to India to pursue his literary projects, while Mr. Basu, who has served a longer term in this country, feels the call to public work in his own province of Bengal, and is unlikely to return from the leave which he has secured. We wonder whether Mr. Montagu will be successful in filling the vacancy. Englishmen used to refuse to go out to India for short periods because they objected to leave the main stream of affairs for a backwater, and surely the same consideration will have great weight with Indians who may be invited to come over here; the new opportunities of public service are numerous and attractive; reputations can at the moment be made in a few months; and a public man who spends even two years in England, may find it very difficult to regain his position on his return to his own country. The matter may right itself when the number of public men in India has largely increased, but for the present it is doubtful whether anyone worth having will accept the offer of inconspicuous dignity in Whitehall.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**Controversy by Telegram.**

It seemed almost impossible that Sinn Fein should boggle over the Prime Minister's invitation to a conference "prepared to ascertain how the association of Ireland with the Community of Nations known as the British Empire can be reconciled with the Irish National aspirations." But Mr. de Valera has boggled and objected nevertheless, and the result has been an exchange of telegrams between him and Mr. Lloyd George. These documents have been published to the world, and consequently we are able to judge the advantages or disadvantages of open diplomacy better than before. The new method may make for clarity of definition, but it certainly does not seem to have any advantage in speed over the old leisurely tradition.

The whole controversy between the Prime Minister and Mr. de Valera is on the point whether Ireland is a sovereign state. The Irish "President" wishes it to be admitted that Ireland is a sovereign state, and is entering these negotiations of her own free will. Mr Lloyd George points out that the claim of sovereignty is not true in fact, and that its theoretical admission would have grave consequences if the negotiations broke down.

Mr. de Valera has not been successful in answering this downright treatment. On the whole he has hardly had the best of this telegraphic duel, and he has not strengthened his position by these quibbles. It is not true, as the *Westminster Gazette* suggests to-day, that the whole trouble is one of words; but that journal really does hit the nail on the head when it says that "the important thing is not how Ireland goes into the Conference but how she comes out of it."

Mr. de Valera professes to desire peace above everything else. We are bound to take him at his word, but he has a strange way of ensuing it. There appears to be some impatience in Ireland at his hesitation to accept an invitation which the whole world regarded as open and generous, and it is suggested that this prolongation of the discussion is due to some division of opinion in the Sinn Fein ranks, between the extremists and the moderates.

**The Prime Minister's Health.**

The conference at Inverness, which was proposed for the 20th, must now be postponed, probably until October owing to these delaying tactics. But in any event it would have had to be put off, as the Prime Minister's health is unsatisfactory. Some alarm was expressed last week when it was known that Lord Dawson had been called in, for he is the head of the medical profession in this country, and there is a sort of popular idea that you only call in the most eminent physicians when you are really seriously ill. The facts were that Lord Dawson was taking a holiday in the neighbourhood, and that Mr. Lloyd George has been suffering from an abscess in the tooth and a chill—contracted, no doubt, during those excessive rains which have recently descended on the Highlands.

The Prime Minister has an extraordinarily strong constitution, but he has been in office continuously since 1905, and after all, a good many things have happened in the sixteen years. Somebody has remarked that during the war there was only one first-class crisis a month, but that peace has brought a fresh crisis every week—Russia, Berlin, Silesia, Warsaw, Ireland, unemployment, strikes, and so on. All these things have had to be decided ultimately by the Prime Minister, and the lack of any real holiday for years has a little reduced his physical energy. Even now his holiday is in no sense the kind of vacation that Gladstone and Disraeli were accustomed to every autumn.

**The Quest Sails.**

Sir Ernest Shackleton's little ship left London Bridge on Saturday on her voyage of polar and Pacific exploration. It was dirty weather—the summer seems now to have broken up—and she anchored in the Thames instead of proceeding to Plymouth. The great crowd who watched her departure were no doubt interested mainly in the adventurous side of her expedition, but scientific men are looking eagerly for extensions of knowledge from her reports. We shall hear news of her from time to time, as she will return to New Zealand after visiting the Antarctic and before entering the Pacific.

**A Study in Contrasts.**

One day last week I happened to be in a quiet Cathedral city. I attended the service; the music was perfect, the choir admirable; the congregation consisted of one—myself. But near my hotel window was a cinema, and I noticed so many folk coming and going that it must have been crowded at every performance. Out of curiosity I went across to see what the film was that attracted men from the Cathedral to the cinema. The bill ran as follows: The Mystery of Arch-Deaeon Wakeford; A Reconstruction featuring the Archdeacon and Mrs. Wakeford, and showing the episode of the Girl in the Cathedral," etc., etc. *De gustibus non est disputandum.*

**Another By-Election.**

The Lewisham by-election was a fairly open thing. Its most significant feature was that the Labour Party forbore to put up a candidate in the villadom of Brockley and Forest Hill—which is practically a confession that they have lost, or at least have not gained, the great heart of the middle-class. The Independent Liberals had an excellent candidate in Mr. Rafferty; but as he came in at the bottom of the poll, it is clear that the prospects of a Liberal revival must be post-dated. The Anti-Waste party no longer counts seriously, for no politician will appear in public without the label, and when everybody wears the same label, it is worth nothing—except perhaps as a bogey to frighten Labour. Apparently the Government have little to fear from the present—and apparently, too, the Government know it.

**The Railway Grouping.**

The new scheme of railway grouping, which was so fiercely assailed in the House of Commons earlier in the year, appears to be working well. It has eliminated a certain amount of waste competitive running, which means more money for less showy but more useful services; and there seems to be a genuine attempt to introduce co-operation between old rivals, from which the public should profit. It is true that trains are not as fast as they used to be in pre-war days, except on the Great Western Railway, but the schedules are steadily being improved. The introduction of new cross-country services is another boon; it is no longer quicker to come to London when travelling between two provincial towns, as it used to be. Week-end and excursion tickets are also a promise of better things to come; but the real desideratum is a reduction in ordinary fares and freight rates. For this we have still to wait, but there have been hints that something in this direction will be done next year. It will have to be; for in spite of the all-round improvement on the railways, the charabanc continues to make great strides in popular favour. It is true that it sometimes overturns and lands you at the bottom of a precipice instead of following the road at the top; but the risks are said to be exaggerated, the pain quite short, and the apologies to one's widow profuse.

**Drought and Flood.**

The drought, which has lasted from February to September, has ended at length in the South and East of England. It was curious to go to the North and see fresh green pastures after parched Kent and thirsty Essex; in Scotland they have had so much rain that it is difficult to get the harvest in. The South has forgotten about harvesting this four weeks, and they have already prepared the ground for the autumn-sown wheat. Never was there such a year for corn as this in England; and the prolonged sunshine since the harvest has cleaned the ground, and made it better for 1922 crop than it has been for many a long year. On the whole, the farmers have little to grumble at. They have made money, and got rid of Government control.

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**Too Many Bishops.**

The public has been rather startled by a sudden proposal to create twelve new bishops. The suggestion is made by the National Assembly of the Church—itself a new body—and the idea is to divide up some of the present dioceses, such as Winchester, into two or three; to create a Bishopric of Leeds, the absence of which, I understand, has been a long-felt want, and generally to secure that there shall be one bishop to every 250 or 400 clerics. I am not competent to discuss the merits of the proposal; but its demerits are being pointed out very frankly by the clergy, who do not seem to appreciate the prospect—indeed they hint not obscurely that Satan finds some mischief still for idle bishops to do. I gather that to create more bishops instead of more parish priests would increase the administrative at the expense of the spiritual side of the Church; that it would be very expensive, bishops being by heredity and environment a costly species; that on this account alone it would be undesirable,at a time when many of the parochial clergy are in dire poverty; and that in any event twelve new bishops would be too much top-hamper for the ecclesiastical ship, which is at present labouring rather heavily. These objections have weight, and I confess I do not think the money for the purpose can be raised.

**A Recent Book.**

**"The Origin of Man and of his Superstitions" (Cambridge University Press) by Carveth Read, is a curious and stimulating work. The author holds that "man in character, is more like a wolf or dog than he is like any other animal," and that "the Nordic sub-race with its fair hair, has the appearance of an Arctic beast of prey, like the polar bear." He began by hunting, which accounts for the origin of wars, owing to the struggle for hunting fields—this surely rather a dubious conjecture—and the desire for property. Not many will agree with the theories, but it is a book to make one think.**

OCELLUS.

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The *Morning Post* reports that a convention regulating fishing in the Adriatic was signed on September 15 by Italian and Yugoslav delegations.

Some 13 Turkish political prisoners who were on parole in Malta awaiting exchange with British prisoners in the hands of the Kemalists have succeeding in escaping.

Drastic reforms are recommended by the Acworth Committee on Indian Railways, including the non-renewal of the contracts of the railways under companies of English domicile.

A Turkish motor-boat laden with rifles and ammunition has been stopped in the Sea of Marmara by a Greek auxiliary vessel. The crew will be tried by Court-Martial at Brusa.

It is understood that the new Constitution granted to Malta will be inaugurated by the Prince of Wales next month on the occasion of his visit there on his way to India.

Under date of September 14, Reuter's Bombay correspondent reports that Shaukat Ali, addressing a gathering of Mohomedans, said that he and his brother (Mohamed Ali) would soon be arrested and sent for trial, but he was convinced that others would be forthcoming to carry out their work.

The Colonial Office reports that the situation in the disturbed Kurdish area east of Mosul shows no important change. Aerial operations against the recalcitrants in the Rowanduz and Rania areas have been continued during the period from September 2 to 7.

An earthquake shock was registered on September 13 at the Athens Observatory, says a Reuter message. The seat of the disturbance in believed to be some 260 kilometres south-west of Athens. The shock was also felt at Zante and Patras, while at Amphilochia in Epirus some houses collapsed and a large fissure appeared in the quay.

It is reported in Cairo that work on the White Nile dam at Jebel Aulia, near Khartoum, will be resumed in October.

It is reported that the British authorities at Constantinople have discovered a plot, organized and subdized from Angora, to stir up revolution at Constantinople, spread disaffection among Indian troops, and murder leading officers of the Allied forces.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE STATE OF SALONIKA.

(*To the Editor of "The Near East."*)

Sir,—It gave me much pleasure, recently, to see in "The Near East" a letter from Salonika, written by one of your correspondents who was passing through it, as I had begun to think that once flourishing seaport had altogether ceased to exist. I first visited it some twenty, or more, years ago. It was then under the Turk, a thriving town with a harbour in course of construction, a large export and import trade, active building going on of houses, shops, and warehouses, a daily train service through Belgrade and Vienna, by which one could reach London in 72 hours; in fact, a town with a prosperous future before it, and not in any way an undesirable place wherein to dwell. In those days Greek and Bulgarian Komitajis occasionally made it, and the district around, somewhat lively; but as they mostly preyed on and murdered one another when the Turk showed a little more energy, and himself too strong for them, the peaceful life of the Jewish, foreign, and other inhabitants was not greatly disturbed; the tunnelling under, and blowing up of, the Imperial Ottoman Bank, together with the destruction, by bombs in the engine-room, of the French mail-steamer as she was leaving the port for Constantinople, being only little episodes got up by the Bulgars to give zest to, and brighten up, the too quiet situation. On and off I have known Salonika ever since, but, alas! it is no longer the flourishing town of old. I again visited it a few months ago; but I only breathed freely when I got away from a ruined, dirty, and squalid Greek seaport. such as, it is greatly to be feared, Smyrna will likewise become owing to the incomprehensible policy elaborated by the Allies—or was it solely by the British Government, as general rumour persistently maintained?

When one remembers that Greece has to have British officers to train its Navy; French to organise it Army; Italian for its Gendarmerie, a European Commission to control its Finances; and, recently, U.S. officials appointed for the hygienic supervision of its Mercantile Marine, it passes all understanding why it has been given Macedonia, Thrace, Asia Minor, certain islands in the Archipelago, etc. Utterly incapable of intelligently governing what it previously possessed, what fate can be in store for the vast territories recklessly bestowed upon it by the Entente Powers? Perhaps you, sir, or some of your readers, will venture to make for us a forecast of the condition of Macedonia, Thrace, and Asia Minor a few years hence. We who have visited the first named know to what it has sunk; including Salonika of which the large area destroyed by fire over four years ago is still, to-day, an abomination of desolation; a shameful testimony to Greek administrative incapacity and intrigue.

I am, etc.,

Falmouth, A. WANDERER.
September 14, 1921.

(Our correspondent is too harsh in his denunciation. Financial stringency has been the main obstacle in regard to the rebuilding of Salonika. It has never been possible to apply Western standards in the Near East; but, given peace on the basis of a just settlement, which will enable the different countries to make some headway in material progress, there is no reason why vast improvements should not be seen in the years to some. Undoubtedly a country possessing more territory than its civil service can efficiently administer or the State Exchequer can develop will be seriously handicapped in its strivings after prosperity—.Ed.)

## HONOURS.

The following honours for services in Mesopotamia are gazetted—Knights Commanders of the Order of the British Empire:—Major-General H. De Vere Atkinson, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., Colonel P. O. Hambro, C.B., C.M.G., and Major-General O. R. A. Julian, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E.

The King has given permission for the wearing of decorations of the Order of the Nile, conferred by the Sultan of Egypt, as follows:—

Second Class.—Mr. Leander Gasprad Roussin, Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Dr. Owen William Richards, Director, School of Medicine, Cairo.

Third Class.—Mr. Aubrey Lovell Pryce Weedon, Sub-Director-General, Direct Taxes Department, Ministry of Finance; Mr. William Fraser Hume, Director, Geological Survey; Mr. Thomas Bent, Director of Customs, Alexandria; Mr. Charles Halford, Mr. Sidney Charles Heberd, Senior Inspector, Egyptian Ministry of Education, Mr. Adam Bell Stewart, Inspector, Egyptian Ministry of Education.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, September 3.*

**The Negotiations : A Lull.**

As the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations were about to be suspended, the pessimism which had existed in the minds of the leading Egyptians concerning the result of the pourparlers was suddenly replaced by a strong feeling of optimism. From conversations with some of the leaders I have learnt that the change was due, primarily, to the news that Mr. Lloyd George had decided to take the negotiations in hand himself on the resumption in October, and that this decision was interpreted as a sign that the Premier evidently hoped for an agreement, as otherwise he would not have intervened. In the second place, an optimistic cable has been received from Adly Pasha, in which the Official Delegation leader mentions that there is a prospect of a happy ending. These two things, in conjunction, have led to the dispersal of the atmosphere of suspicion and the dawn of a much more hopeful spirit, the immediate main effect of which has been to lull the country as a whole into calm. But while the change is welcome, one cannot help thinking that the present optimism is dangerous, inasmuch as there has been no sure indication that an agreement would be reached; and should the reverse be the case, the consequent disappointment will be all the more bitter because of the intensity of the blighted hopes.

This sudden reversal from the edge of despair to a pinnacle of expectancy, is therefore, alarming because of its potentialities. Its first effect, apart from the natural impulse of the gratitude that is the sense of favours to come, has been to throw all except small sections of rabid Anglophiles and equally fanatical Anglophobes into the arms of the Moderates. If there is an agreement this *liaison* will be advantageous, inasmuch as it will assure Adly Pasha of a substantial majority at the elections, and will thus facilitate the national confirmation of the Treaty made in London; but if there is no agreement the resultant chagrin will throw the mass of Moderates into the ranks of the extremists. Leading Egyptians recognise this danger; in fact, they go so far as to emphasise that they cannot be held responsible for the conduct of the people as a whole, if the negotiations fail. They assert that patriotism and circumstances have united the Egyptians into a political unit which cannot be toyed with. They point to the disorders in Ireland and India, and infer that the position in Egypt is potentially analogous. One knows these things, but nothing can be done. Negotiations are postponed for a month, local organisation is proceeding, but whether for peace or war depends on the fate of the official discussions.

**The Visit of M.P.'s.**

While it is true that the collective temper of the Egyptians is calm, there is a feeling among some of the more prominent men that the suppressed excitement would not be difficult to fan into activity. Therefore, they are anxious regarding the proposed visit of Mr. Swan and some of his brother parliamentarians to this country at the invitation of Saad Pasha Zaghloul. They foresee that, if the Members do make the visit, the followers of Zaghloul will endeavour to honour the visitors by demonstrations. As, in the opinion of the leaders quoted, the majority of the Egyptians will resent the visit, it is feasible that the latter will commence counter-demonstrations, whence greater and graver troubles will spring, perhaps finally necessitating the intervention of the British forces to restore order. Should any calamity happen, the responsibilty would be placed upon the Egyptians as a whole, and the leaders realise that such an event at this juncture would be most embarrassing to Egypt's cause. They also urge in support of their contention that the visit would be ill-advised and ill-timed, and would lower British prestige in the East, as Orientals have always regarded members of the British House of Commons as above paid partisanship in Oriental politics.

The Press Bureau published a *communique* two days ago, denying the statements which had appeared in some of the native papers to the effect that the Government was making preparations for the holding of the elections in the near future. The *communiqué* added that the question of elections would not be considered until official advice was received of the conclusions of an agreement between the British Government and the Egyptian Delegation. To anyone who has any intelligent conception of the situation the information contained in the *communique* was not news, as it is manifest that the holding of elections depends upon the outcome of the negotiations. I have been discussing the question of elections with various leaders, and have been informed that the proceedings, though in the nature of an election, will be more in the spirit of a referendum to decide whether the provisional agreement—if any—made with the British Government should be accepted. There will be, I understand, no other issues.

**The Heat Wave.**

Technically we are at the end of summer and in the beginning of autumn. In fact, as far as conditions are concerned, we are in mid-summer—and a particularly warm summer at that. The heat wave which prostrated more northern regions some weeks ago is finishing its tour in Egypt and the Sudan. Its toll upon the European populations in both countries has been heavy. Cases of prostration in all the big cities have been of frequent occurrence daily; and those fortunate ones who were able to get away on leave during July and August are fast losing the benefit gained by their trips. The most sensational development occurred a few days ago in a railway train en route from the Sudan. Owing to the wash-outs on the line the train was delayed and the heat was so terrific in the carriages that three Greek workmen, returning from their work on the dams in the Sudan, collapsed and died before the journey was completed. Incidentally, though the floods in the Sudan have wrought awful havoc at Atbara and in the vicinity, they have materially eased the shortage of irrigation water in Egypt.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, September 12.*

**Dangerous "Bands."**

The Pan-Islamic ferment has extended its disturbing influence even to Yugoslavia. For a long time past, two brigand chieftains, by name Husein Boshkovitch and Yusof Mehonitch, have been terrorising the country in the wilds of Novibazar. Their band is numerous, well-armed, and well organised. Frequently there have been stiff encounters between them and the gendarmerie

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with heavy losses on both sides. The authorities have had a very difficult task, because the band has a trick of vanishing into the air, as the members disperse to their homes, mingle with the rest of the Mohammedan population, and cannot be identified. They will collect again, attack a Serbian village, where the people have been disarmed by the Government, and murder all the most prominent citizens and villagers. The gendarmes have been reinforced by a band of volunteers under Voivoda Kosta Pechanats, and now by a detachment of troops, as the matter is developing into more than mere brigandage.

One characteristic tale is told of Mehonitch, a famous looter, who was once an Austrian *Feld-Webel*. He met a party of Serbs on the road, and he and his band promptly killed nine of them and wounded five others. A woman with a child implored the bandits to spare her for her childs sake. Mehonitch said: "If the child is a male, we will kill it, but if it is a female, you may both live." He satisfied himself that it was a girl, and let them both go. His policy appears to be the extermination of the Christian population in the district. The statistics are appalling. The *Politika* states that since the liberation, there have been murdered in this way over eight hundred Serbs, all of which atrocities are directly or indirectly, the work of this band. The same paper is following the matter up with great care, and claims to have proved that it is a part of a carefully organised plot with a definite political object—the restoration of Mohammedan power in that wild district.

In former days, there were plenty of Mohammedan Serbs in the Ottoman army, and in more recent times, plenty in the Austro-Hungarian army, the vast majority of whom place their religion or their master before their Serbian blood. Only last year, a Bosnian was nominated a Minister who was actually on the list of war-criminals. Encouraged by rumours of the success of Kemal Pasha in Asia Minor, these men are lifting their heads. Whether or no there is direct communication between them and Kemal is doubtful, but the *muftis* in the mosques are encouraging the Mohammedan population to hold out till Kemal arrives with his liberating army! They are certainly in touch with the Mohammedan Albanians, and the genuine Turkish element is of course sympathetic. It must, therefore, be regarded as a definite military political rising, using methods of the Sinn Feiners and inspired by the Pan-Islamic ferment which is visible in so many parts of the world.

**Changing Views of the British.**

Two years ago, the British were the most popular foreigners in Yugoslavia. The memory of comradeship in arms on the Macedonian front was recent. The Serbs had there seen a good sample of the British races, just as we had seen, perhaps, a picked sample of the Yugoslav race. But after the return to Belgrade there began a process of gradual disillusionment, which was to a certain extent inevitable and mutual. Those of the British who had been to Salonika and seen Serbian heroism at its loftiest were disappointed at the inevitable lack of organisation, the oriental methods, and the abundance of that population which had placed interest before patriotism. They saw the enthusiasm of the union and liberation fade away amid mutual recriminations and the bickerings of political parties, who introduce an atmosphere of personal animosity into their public life that is almost incredible to us. On the other side of the picture, the Serbs saw a very much more mixed representation of Britons than they had seen with the Army. Some samples indeed, called for comment among their own compatriots; some reflected the reverse of credit to our prestige, and this is perhaps truer of Zagreb than of Belgrade; but it is now recognised in both cities that Britons whom they had more or less idealised before are, like other nations, of all sorts.

But the change in attitude is mirrored in the press. The natural sympathy for "small nations struggling for liberty" may be the cause of the siding of the Belgrade and Zagreb press with the Sinn Feiners, but that sympathy was exaggerated into violent attacks upon the English, which, one cannot help feeling, were inspired from further north. Then there came the unhappy business of the evacuation of the Baranya, where British officers were openly and persistently accused of favouring the hated Magyar. All the papers vied with each other in attacking them.

It makes one rub one's eyes to read in the Belgrade *Trgovinski Glasnik*, ("The Commercial Messenger") one of the most solid papers in the country, that "In Admiral Troubridge we have an open enemy, who in this question of the evacuation of the Baranya, exerted influence against our country." Times are indeed changed, since the gallant admiral's name was one to conjure with, in Salonika and in Belgrade! Feeling is so bitter against the pro-Hungarian attitude of prominent Britons that it is hardly surprising to hear all sorts of motives attributed to them, which one knows instinctively are utterly false, but still, are most painful reading. The Hungarians, with a greater superficial aspect of culture, perhaps, than the majority of the Yugoslavs, are masters of the art of propaganda; and as scarcely any Englishman ever learns Magyar, it is most exceptional for him to penetrate beneath the crust of polished manners and engaging hospitality to see the true spirit of the man within. The result is that we have suffered a heavy loss of prestige in a country which matters far more to us than Hungary.

**Anti-British Articles.**

It is distressing to the British resident in Yugoslavia to find anti-British articles in almost every paper. The Irish question is treated, it is true, a little more fairly since the facts have been put before the public here in vernacular reviews, and since the negotiations have been opened, but now India is to the front. The events in Malabar have given the Belgrade *Politika* an opening for another attack upon the British, as oppressors of small (sic) nationalities, in the form of a long article from a Hindu, idealising Ghandi and referring in stock terms to our methods of fire, sword and atrocities. It is very desirable that some steps should be taken to present the British point of view. To a certain extent, this has been done in the case of the Irish question, but it is not really a matter for private enterprise.

It is not only the Belgrade press, but the Zagreb opposition papers which take the matter up, the latter, it is true, to make political capital out of it. It is strange to read in the Narodny's Club's *Obzor* that the explanation of the "scandalous" behaviour of Colonel Gosset and Lieut.-Colonel Craven in the Baranya is really due to the disgust of the British Government at the manner in which the Belgrade authorities have carried out agrarian reform. Anyhow, the effect is that these officer's names are being bandied about in the Yugoslav press, and invariably in an uncomplimentary manner.

## GREECE.

*Athens, September 4.*

**Bulgaria's Disarmament.**

The numerous meetings which have taken place recently in Bulgaria to protest against the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors regarding the complete disarmament of that country, have caused no surprise here. It was only to be expected that Bulgaria would do her utmost to convince the Allies that the creation of a voluntary service army was an impossibility, and that compulsory service ought, therefore, not to be abolished.

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The Athens Press is urging the Greek Government to awaken from its deep lethargy, and act without delay against any modification of the Allied decision. It points out that if the clause of the Treaty of Neuilly concerning Bulgaria's disarmament is cancelled, that would mean the cancellation of the whole Treaty, which would only result in new complications, and would mark the beginning of fresh troubles in the Balkans.

**The Bakers' Strike.**

The Athens and Piraeus bakers have gone on strike, and although we are not in any danger of being left without bread, owing to the prompt and exceptionally drastic measures taken by the Government, there is bound to be a shortage during the first few days.

The cause of the strike was the refusal of the Government to allow the bakers to increase the price of bread by 12 lepta the oka. The latter maintain that owing to the bad quality of the flour produced from the wheat purchased recently from Bulgaria, its yield is inferior to that of the American flour, thus reducing their profit on each loaf by 12 lepta. When, however, the Government proposed the appointment of an expert for the purpose of carrying out tests to ascertain whether the bakers' statement was correct, the latter rejected the proposal and intimated that their bakeries would remain closed until the increase they had demanded was authorised. Strange to say, in this instance, the Government did not give way as it had done on many previous occasions. Instead of saying to the bakers: "Yes, gentlemen, you may have your extra 12 lepta," as everyone expected, it promptly requisitioned 150 bakeries in Athens and Piraeus, and as the bakery hands did not participate in the strike of their employers, they continued their work under protection of the police.

**The Albanian Frontier Question.**

The news published lately in the Athens Press to the effect that as a result of an Anglo-Italian agreement, both Koritsa and Argyrocastro are ceded to Albania, has caused a painful surprise here, particularly to those who relied on Great Britain's support in the matter.

Though the Hellenic Government had not received official confirmation of this report from its representatives abroad, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dispatched a friendly note to the Allied Powers pointing out the bad impression which was caused by the publication of these reports by the Press, and expressing his hopes that they were void of any truth. M. Baltazzi seized the opportunity to expose the Hellenic point of view on the Albanian frontier question, which is based upon the previous decisions of the Supreme Council.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has had many long interviews with the Italian Minister in Athens, Signor Montania, and although the greatest secrecy is maintained as to the subject of their deliberations, it is generally understood that attempts are being made to find a solution satisfactory to both countries, and one which would serve as a basis for the forthcoming "pourparlers" at the meeting of the League of Nations.

**Attack on Journalists.**

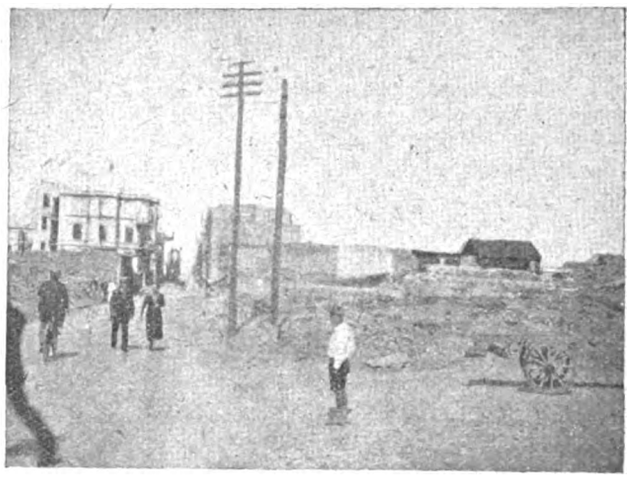
Two well known and highly respected journalists, M. A. Cavafakis, Editor of the *Eleftheros Typos*, a Venizelist paper, and the assistant editor of the same paper, M. Spyro Melas, were the victims of a cowardly attack in Stadium Street last Tuesday evening. Three individuals, whose identity is so far unknown, approached the two gentlemen, and after accusing them of circulating defeatist rumours, attacked them with walking sticks. M. Melas was seriously injured in the head and the arm, M. Cavafakis escaping with injuries of minor importance. A detective who, standing near by, witnessed the scene, promptly arrested M. Melas (!) whilst the culprits vanished amongst the crowds, which are usually dense in Stadium Street at that time of the evening. Shortly afterwards, however, the Chief of Police himself proceeded to the Police Station and set M. Melas at liberty.

This is not the first time that well-known Venizelists have been subjected to similar attacks, and both sections of the Press are vigorously attacking the Government for the indifference with which it is treating the matter.

The *Eleftheros Typos* commenting on its Editors' adventure, points out that no guarantee or security exists any longer even in the capital itself, while the *Politia* (Government) which is likewise throwing the blame on the Government, says that the *Eleftheros Typos* has always maintained a sincere attitude, and in no way associated itself with the views of the extremists of the Venizelist party.

**Fires in Salonika.**

A big fire which reminded one of the catastrophe of four years ago, occurred in Salonika at the beginning of last week. The fire broke out in a small shop in the old market, and spread very rapidly, burning down about fifteen shops, the majority of which were wooden.



**IN SALONIKA**—The untidy mounds on the right are remnants of the Great Fire. A large area of Salonika presents such an appearance.

Another fire broke out at a military depot in the proximity of the town causing the destruction of 200 thousand okas of hay.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**A Mission to America.**

The Hellenic Government has decided to send a mission to the United States of America for the purpose of enlightening by lectures and other means of propaganda, public opinion in that country on the real state of affairs in Greece, both from an internal and external point of view. M. Loukas Roufos, M.P. for Patras, will probably take charge of the mission, whose date of departure has not yet been fixed.

**An Italian Spy.**

An Italian subject residing in Smyrna, named Alberto Penzo, has been found guilty on a charge of espionage and condemned to death by Greek Court Martial. It was ascertained that Penzo was in the habit of paying frequent visits to the Greek lines of communication, of collecting as much information as he could obtain, and of transmitting it to Constantinople, and thence to the enemy. Penzo pleaded guilty and very coolly said that he did not consider his action as in any way condemnable.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, September 6.*

**Political.**

General Averesco has returned and forthwith political activity has been resumed. Re-entering the country through the new provinces, the Banat and Transylvania, the General visited several localities where he held political meetings. His discourses were a recapitulation of the outstanding features of his administration during the last two years, emphasizing the fact that, prior to his taking up the reins of office, the country was on the verge of anarchy, which he quickly repressed by energetic measures, restoring public order and thereby saving the country from the Bolshevism and Communism toward which it was being driven by preceding Cabinets. He laid stress on the paramount laws of Agrarian and Fiscal Reforms which are meant on the one hand to consolidate the State, and, on the other, to exact adequate taxation from the war profiteers. Sketching out a programme for future activity, he advocated, *inter alia*, complete unification of the new provinces with the Old Kingdom. He condemned the action of M. Maniu and his followers in encouraging "regionalism," which is against the vital interests of the Nation, and interfering with the process of unification. He appealed for support to those elements willing to collaborate with the Government for the consolidation of democracy; and disputed the Liberals' right to claim power, ascribing to them the evils the country has had to endure during the war, and since its conclusion.

In connection with this, it is stated that the General is willing to come to terms with a certain section of the Opposition in order to be able to wage war upon the Liberals. It appears that negotiations are in progress with the Tzaranists and those sections of Ardeleni and Bessarabians that are antagonistic to the Liberals. Notwithstanding these manifestations, the Liberal press is showing remarkable self-confidence, impertubably affirming that their party will, all the same, come to power in the autumn. Time will show whether this optimism is well founded.

**Friction with Hungary.**

The Roumanian consulate at Budapest is declining to visé passports of Hungarian subjects wishing to come to Roumania. This is in accordance with instructions given by the Roumanian Government, which will maintain its attitude until some three hundred Roumanian subjects who are being detained on one pretext or another by the Hungarian Government have been released.

**Various.**

According to a Magyar-Transylvanian paper the King has been studying Hungarian for the last few months. He wishes to be able to converse in Hungarian with the Magyar delegations at the Coronation festivities.

M. Aziz Ibar Behvan, the new Minister Plenipotentiary of Persia to Roumania has arrived in Bucharest.

An Italian Mission sent by its Government will arrive on September 8 to bestow military distinctions on two historical localities, Marashesti and Marasti.

It is announced that a Blériot aeroplane will shortly make the journey from Paris to Bucharest, with passengers.

From April, 1921, on, a regular aerial service will operate between Paris and Bucharest, and return.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, September 10.*

**Political Activities.**

This week has seen a considerable amount of activity in the political world, and on the whole the Government may be said to be in a much stronger position than they were ten days ago. First, there has been a change in the Cabinet, M. Boteff, the Minister of Railways and Telegraphs, having tendered his resignation, which has been accepted. M. Boteff only became Minister in the middle of June, but it appears that some grave scandals in the working of his Ministry have been disclosed, with regard to which he is not able to escape responsibility. Efforts are being taken to hush up the matter as far as possible, but it has already come to light that there has been gross mismanagement of public money over the question of locomotives for Decauville Railways. M. Boteff is Deputy for Kustendil; and it seems that the Co-operative Society of Radomir, a neighbouring town, is also involved in this particular affair. Yesterday the Agrarian Deputies held a meeting in order to consider the situation and it is probable that a Commission will be appointed to investigate the whole matter.

M. Manouloff, President of the Sobranje, is talked of as M. Boteff's successor, but in the meantime it is understood that M. Dimitroff, the Minister for War, who was largely responsible for the discovery of the scandal, will act in his place. M. Stambolisky leaves for Geneva this afternoon, to attend the Conference of the League of Nations, and it is said that he may afterwards pay his deferred visit to London and Paris, whilst his trip to Washington, in company with King Boris, may after all take place towards the end of the year.

On the 7th inst. M. Stambolisky made a very long speech at the Sobranje, but it contained no essentially new points of either external or internal interest. His most interesting declaration was that it was always necessary to bear in mind that the wish of the people was the most important thing the Government had to consider and that the Constitution did not permit the King to interfere in any way with the governing of the country. The Prime Minister also referred to Opposition intrigues abroad, and said that M. Tourlakoff, the Finance Minister, had, whilst in Europe, been able to trace and even to obtain some incriminating letters which had been written by members of the Opposition parties.

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The strengthening of the Government's position referred to at the beginning of this letter has arisen largely through the fresh dissensions that have broken out amongst the Opposition. The Democrats and the Narodniaks, with which latter party are incorporated the Danevists, were supposed to have had a working understanding for some considerable time, but it appears that the Narodniaks are now not content with the present arrangements and cannot see their way to the continuance of a common policy with the Democrats.

On their part, the latter will not make any concessions; so the prospects of the Opposition appear for the time being to be very hopeless.

Then, again, the Agrarians seem to be showing a more solid front, having doubtless realised that a split in their party will only result in their loosing the power, whilst they have been greatly aided in coming to this decision by the presence of M. Stambolisky, who has once again pulled his party together, although fresh dissensions will doubtless break out when he is away.

Another point of minor interest is that overtures have again been made to the Socialists and the Radicals with a view to their joining the Government. However, neither of these two parties is willing to do so, although a small and unimportant section of the Radicals would have accepted the Government offer, if the majority of their *confrères* had been in agreement.

**The Army.**

It is wearisome to touch on the same subject so frequently, but the future of Bulgaria depends so much on the external and internal order of the country that one may be excused for entering into some new aspects of the situation as it concerns the Army. The number of voluntary recruits has perceptibly increased in the last few days, and the total figure now borders on 3,000. The Chief of Staff, Colonel Topaldjikoff has, however, stated that the majority of these three thousand men were refugees from either Macedonia, Thrace, or the Dobruja, and would doubtless be prone to desert. The facts are as they may be, but surely the descipline to which the men will be subject should render desertion impossible; and there are good grounds for hoping that if 3,000 men have enrolled themselves voluntarily, others may speedily follow suit.

As to the 3,000 Forest Guards which Bulgaria is allowed to maintain, a request has been made by the Government to the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control for permission to retain these men on a Conscription basis. Pending a reply from the Supreme Council at Paris, the Government will keep this force mobilised until the last possible moment, that is until October 1.

The more the matter is discussed the more pressing becomes the demand of the Bulgarians that the Great Powers will send either a representative or a small Commission to Sofia in order that the actual position may be studied. The suggestion put forward in the editorial columns of "The Near East," that a Commission composed of a representative from each Balkan country, with a neutral chairman, should be constituted, has also been hailed with favour. The great majority of the Allied representatives here, both military and civil, will tell you that they consider the constitution of a voluntary army an impossible and unworkable project. And it may well be asked what is the use of sending representatives to a place if their point of view is totally disregarded. It is hardly possible that all and sundry have fallen under the spell of the Bulgarians! A well known Dutch newspaper wrote the other day: "It would seem that the Allies are bent on wreaking their vengeance on Bulgaria and thus sending her to a state of ruin and impotence." This statement, coming from a neutral source is well worth considering.

Then, those people who say that Bulgaria has no need of an army will do well to pay heed to what President Harding said ten days ago: "No matter where the best aspirations in the world may lead us, there never can be a time without the necessity for armed forces."

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

**Roumania: Diplomacy and Arms.**

The *Daily Telegraph* of September 14 contained the first of a series of articles upon "New Roumania," by Lieut-Colonel Repington. The article is entitled "Diplomacy and Arms," and Colonel Repington begins it by showing what Roumania gained by the Peace.

Leaving aside the question of the justice or injustice of the Treaties of Trianon and Neuilly, there is no doubt that the Roumanian national unity was fully accomplished by the peace, and that almost every scrap of territory inhabited by Roumanians became enclosed within the borders of the New Roumania. No country more completely satisfied all its national aspirations. Geographically it became of nicely balanced shape, with good access to the sea. Economically it found itself in possession of almost every form of agricultural and mineral wealth that a country can desire. Militarily it was strong enough to resist all visible dangers, and all that was required was time to organise these new and great resources, and the genius of administration to repair the ravages of the war and to make the New Roumania a going concern.

But there was a reverse to this pleasing medallion: Roumania with her new territories acquired 'great blocks of Magyars . . . . who considered themselves the superiors of their new masters,' and "Bessarabia was not exclusively Roumanian by any means." Thus there arose a situation in which—

There was not only the ineradicable hostility of Hungary to be faced, but also the enmity of Bulgaria, two peoples whose fighting merits no one contests; while beyond the Dniester there lay Russia, that potentially mighty but intangible and inexplicable mass of humanity, which was and is in a state of chaos verging on dissolution, but could not for ever so remain, since her people possess a genius all their own, and her wealth was in her soil, which no one could steal or destroy. Roumania was a Latin island in a Slav sea, and in memory of her past and her present might well have taken "Ense et aratro" for her motto.

Security was her first need, and she set out to obtain it both by diplomacy and by arms. She was fortunate in having M. Take Jonescu as Foreign Minister, a man of ripe experience, deeply versed in diplomacy of all complexions, very alert, and with shrewd insight into all the motives which sway both man and nations. Basing himself firmly on the Great Entente, and confiding mainly in the performance of Anglo-French unity, he must have observed that something more was necessary to insure the stability of Eastern Europe, and so set himself industriously to work to build up the Little Entente in order to perpetuate the settlement which was of such supreme importance to Roumania.

The coming into being of the Little Entente and its advantages are sketched. "But," says the writer "a diplomacy unbacked by arms is ever vain, and the corollary of this diplomacy was the establishment of strong armies to give weight to words." He continues:

This was particularly necessary in Roumania's case, since the Roumanian and Russian forces still confront one another and occasionally have a fight on the banks of the Dniester, while not so very far away, at Kharkoff, is the centre of gravity of all the


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Bolshevik armies. Not a boat can be launched on the Dniester without being fired at from one bank or the other and probably from both, while in the Dobrudja martial law has been proclaimed, and a whole division of Roumanian troops is engaged in dealing with the Bulgarian bands which infest the border and raid afar into Roumanian territory. The conditions in the East of Europe represent a very imperfect form of peace.

After giving particulars of the military system, the strength of the Army, its training, and so forth, the article concludes:

The political and strategic circumstances of Roumania compel her to regard a war on two fronts as among the possibilities of the future, and, in fact, a sort of war of this kind is now in progress. But here, of course, come in the new allies of Roumania, and in the event of more serious trouble Roumania should not stand alone. The Bolshevik menace is apparently the greatest for it will have been seen that the Soviet retains its army on the Dniester, and that in the Kharkov area is the great Bolshevik reserve. But General Averescu, the present Prime Minister, knows his Russia well, and never believed in a Bolshevik attack on this front this year. The Bolshevik army on the Dniester has the Ukraine bands all over its communications, so that the latter may be compared with tracks through a primeval forest. The bands run up to 15,000 in places, and all the villages are armed. Moreover, the Roumanians believe that the sad experiences of the Bolsheviks in Poland have taught them that they cannot oppose regularly constituted armies. In any case the Roumanians do not fear them, and are confident that they can beat them with less than half of the present Roumanian army.

So far as the Straits are concerned, the settled policy of Roumania is to maintain freedom of passage and an international garrison has her very decided preference. In the garrisoning of Constantinople Roumania will help in case of need, but she has no intention of interfering in the war between the Kemalists and the Greeks. In all future troubles that can be present be foreseen on the shores of the Black Sea, Roumania is sufficiently armed, and if ever she requires help it will probably be ships and aeroplanes which she will need most. There seems to be no divergence at all between the policy of England and Roumania in this part of the world, but none of our great fighting generals has yet travelled to Bucharest to draw closer the links of friendship as Marshal Joffre and General Badoglio have done for France and Italy. A little more cordiality towards an ally who did and suffered so much in the common cause would, I think, be appreciated by the Roumanian Government, Army, and people.

It is to be hoped that the hint given in the last two sentences will not be thrown away.

**Counting the Cost.**

Under the title "Greece and Turkey," *The Times* published (September 14) a leading article reviewing the situation brought about by the Greeks' failure to reach Angora and their retirement westward. There were, says the writer, times when the prize seemed to be within reach, but at last, after a loss of 18,000 men in the basin of the Sakaria, the home of the ancient Phrygian Kings, the Army of King Constantine was compelled to retire. "Fleet-footed rumour, interpreting hope and anticipating achievement, had already announced the capture of Angora. But the effort of the Greeks fell short of achievment. The difficulties of communications in the wild heart of Asia Minor mocked at the enterprise, the sacrifices, and the strategical resources of the invaders, and the fierce tenacity of the Turks in their own home-land turned the Greek tide backwards." How far "the Greeks will go in these sad days of autumn" we do not know. Their opponents appear to be exhausted by the fierce struggle, and may not immediately undertake a serious pursuit; and after such a battle both sides will require time to recuperate. The article continues:—

We have no doubt that both Greeks and Turks have fought well. Technically the battle has ended in a draw. Psychologically it will be regarded in the East as a victory for the Turks The Greek Command aimed at a goal which it has failed to reach and the Greek Army, whether because of the growing danger of Turkish attack or the exhaustion of its ammunition owing to the bad roads and the feeble carrying capacity of a solitary railway, has been compelled to retire. In the revulsion from the dread of the capture of a key position such as Angora is the retirement of the Greeks will be regarded throughout the East as a victory for Mustapha Kemal, and will reaffirm his shaken prestige. What the effect of the reverse will be on the position of King Constantine it is difficult to judge. The Greek Army, after such high hopes, such a struggle, and such losses, will hardly be in a cheerful mood as it makes its Anabasis through the grim Anatolian mountains towards the sunlit coast. And in the Hellenic peninsula and the islands of the Aegean there must be many who are thinking as they count up the cost in blood and treasure: To what purpose was this far thrust into the terrible unknown? Better have been content with small achievements nearer home than risk great adventures in the dark land of the Mother of the Gods, now for centuries the home of the Turk whose one hereditary calling is war.

The Greek failure and disappointment, the increased prestige of Mustapha Kemal, are facts with which the Allies must now reckon.

An attitude of mere aloofness and indifference will soon cease to be possible. The decision which Turks and Greeks, for all their long fighting and for all the outpouring of the blood of obscure thousands, have been unable to achieve is now forced upon the Allies. . . . It is a pitiful dilemma with which the Allies are now faced. All this bloodshed has been in vain; the Greek advance has ended as it might have been expected to end if it was pushed forward too far into a primitive region where communications hardly existed and the Turk felt most intimately that he was defending his home. Formal neutrality covering secret hopes in one direction or another, was a poor and evasive policy in view of such a situation as this. The errors and the procrastination of the past are making themselves felt now. At any rate, the moment has come for the Allies to formulate a clear policy in relation to the Near East.

One or other of the combatants may appeal for mediation; but the Allies must not wait for that; they should have their policy ready. "And" the article concludes, "it certainly seems to us that one element of that policy should be that the Greeks should no longer be encouraged to undertake burdens that, with all their courage and all their enterprise, they are totally unable to bear. It will be a matter for thankfulness if this thrust into the heart of Asia Minor does not end in disaster."

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Negotiations between Lord Curzon and the Egyptian Mission will, it is understood, be resumed in about ten days.

Among the recruits offering for the new voluntary, Bulgarian Army, are said to be three women, who have not been accepted.

The *Morning Post's* Alexandria Correspondent reports that the Government has issued a *communique* announcing that the war bonuses for officials will be prolonged indefinitely.

The Indian Government has instituted proceedings against the Ali brothers and others in respect of inflammatory speeches made at the All-India Khalifate Conference last July, Mahomed Ali and Shaukat Ali have both been arrested.

A rising against the Bolshevist Government of Azerbaijan, in the district of Lenkeren, is reported from Baku. It is stated that the Reds endeavoured unsuccessfully to bribe the insurgents to lay down their arms.

One of the first people in Mosul to volunteer for service in the Irak Army was Haji Hussein Agha al Jaleeli, who is more than seventy years of age, says the *Times of Mesopotamia.*

The Baghdad vernacular papers report that thieves broke into the house of Al Nawwab Saffad Ali Khan, and got away with articles valued at Rs. 300,000, including a watch studded with rubies, necklaces of emeralds and pearls, and a costume ornamented with pearls. There is no clue as to the identity of the robbers.

Under date of September 15, Reuter's New York correspondent reports:—The s.s. King Alexander sailed to-day for Greece with seventeen immigrant passengers, who were brought over here in excess of the quota allowed from Greece for any one month. The ship's agents have filed a complaint with the British Embassy in Washington protesting against the methods employed by the American Government prohibition agents, who raided the vessel on her arrival here, alleging that in this raid two members of the crew, who were unarmed were killed. The vessel is of British registry.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## A PERSIAN POINT OF VIEW.

**LA POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE EN PERSE, Par Dr. Afschar (Librairie Orientale "Transchaehr," Berlin).**

It is always well to have the "other man's point of view." Dr. Afschar's statement of Persia's case will probably commend itself to the bulk of his fellow-countrymen; it certainly enables the reader to understand better what is happening to-day in Persia. The political and diplomatic history of Persia throughout the nineteenth century, he points out, is dominated by the rivalry of Russia and Great Britain. Accordingly he divides his book into two parts, entitled "The Policy of Russia" and "The Policy of England," and examines the two policies more or less in chronological order. With his reading of Russian relations with Persia not much fault can be found. Russia was frankly out for expansion southwards, and the story falls naturally into three periods:—The period of military penetration from the time of Peter the Great to the Treaty of Turkmanchai (1828), the period of peaceful penetration from that date until the occupation of Tauris by Russian troops, and the period of military occupation until the Soviet Government evacuated the country. The narrative, in the form of a sequence of notes, gives the salient features of these different periods. Dr. Afschar would not claim to be an impartial historian, although he endeavours every now and then to explore the ground for explanations of conduct that he does not understand. Thus he indulges in a long dissertation on Capitulations, distinguishing their imposition on Persia as a political move from their existence in Turkey, where he attributes to them a commercial origin not disagreeable at first to the Turks. An English writer, possibly with the laudable intention of soothing susceptibilities, once tried to justify Capitulations on the ground of the difference in outlook between Islam and Christianity. Our author examines this thesis and rightly dismisses it; he does not find that Persia has anything in common with Turkey in the matter of recurrent massacres to justify Capitulations, and finally he comes to the point of view of justice. "It might be urged that Persian justice is not perfect. Suppose for a moment that this were true, what sort of a judge is substituted for the Persian judge?" He then describes the kind of man who might be nominated as (Russian) consul or consular agent, and dwells upon his unfitness as a judge. All this may be true, but it does not affect the real reason for Capitulations, which is the general superiority of Western justice over justice as administered by Orientals. Fortunately in most cases intercourse with the West has raised the level of oriental justice; but the quickest way to secure the withdrawal of Capitulations is to place the administration of justice above reproach.

Dr. Afschar would have made out a stronger case against European policy in Persia, if he could have adduced any evidence of Persia's capacity to manage her own affairs. No doubt if the Persians had been a race of Archangels they would have had difficulty with Russia. To Great Britain Dr. Afschar rightly attributes anxiety to arrest the approach of any Great Power to the Indian frontier. Her policy he describes as one of "rivalry and equilibrium" in relation to other Powers, while being a policy of peaceful penetration as far as Persia herself has been concerned. It would be more correct to say that British policy has always sought to bolster up Persia in order that she might be strong enough of herself to stand against Russia. This is different from a policy of peaceful penetration; but we must allow our author his analysis, because during the period when the British Government was content to play second fiddle to Russia, and acknowledged the latter as a partner, while Russian policy was one of open aggression in Persia and interference with the country's internal affairs, Great Britain went a long way towards forfeiting her claim to the good opinion of Persians.

Dr. Afschar, however, writes under the *idée fixe*, that Great Britain can do nothing right and that there is nothing wrong with Persia. Presumably it is the opinion of Young Persia, which is having free play at the present moment. The results will be seen later. Argument with those who hold the opinion does not carry one very far. At one point our author is magnanimous.

> "We ought not, of course, to disregard the particular situation of Great Britain in Asia. We know the importance of Persia for the protection of the English Colonies and of the territories which should naturally come under English protectorate. But precisely for this reason we believe that a strong and friendly Persia will be more disposed to collaborate with England than a Persia distrustful and impotent."

Admirable. But Dr. Afschar apparently does not recognise that Persia is not strong, and owing to economic and financial reasons, can never become strong of her own accord. Great Britain has made mistakes in handling the Persian situation, but she has never deviated from the desire to help Persia to help herself to become strong. Dr. Afschar inveighs bitterly against the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1919, which he describes as proof that Great Britain had adopted a "policy of hegemony;" but he makes no attempt to justify his language by an analysis of the terms of the agreement. The subsequent attitude of the British Government has entirely removed the ground from under all his assertions, for Persia has now been left to her own devices. Her first step has been to place herself in the power of the Soviet Government. This volume concludes with the text of the Russo-Persian Treaty of February 26, 1921, which we are led to suppose is in our author's eyes the foundation of Persia's freedom and strength. Great Britain offered Persia various officials as advisers; therein lay evidence of the "policy of hegemony." Persia has rejected British advisers, and has called in Swedes or others, thus conserving her independence and integrity.

It is matter for regret that anyone who has taken the trouble to study the history of his own country and has been able to put his finger on the mistakes of European policy in Persia in the past, is not able to recognise Persia's own shortcomings or the real influences now at work under new methods. For this form of constitutional shortsightedness German-made spectacles are the worst possible remedy.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A First English Book for Foreign Pupils." With the Pronunciation shown by Marks applied to the Ordinary Spelling. By W. A. Craigie. Serbian Edition by Dragutin Subotitch. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 3s. net.)

"Essays on the Latin Orient." Illustrated. By William Miller. (Cambridge: University Press. 40s. net.)

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**
September 22 (New Style).
September 9 (Old Style).
Moharram 20, 1340 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Elul 19,5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharajah of Kapurthala will sail for India on October 22, instead of spending the winter at Cannes.

M. Také Jonescu is expected to visit London in the course of the next fortnight.

Mr. Noel Buxton and Mr. Leland Buxton have left this country for Prague and Yugoslavia.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Merton have arrived in England from Cairo.

Mr. G. T. Maclean, H.B.M's Consul at Zagreb, is now in England on leave.

Mr. William Erskine, the newly appointed Minister to Bulgaria, who is now in Scotland, expects to leave for Sofia about September 27.

Dr. Stancioff, Bulgarian Minister in London, who is also accredited to the Belgian Government, left for Brussels last week on a brief visit.

M. Demetrius Caclamanos, formerly Greek Minister to the Court of St. James, left London, on September 18 for Paris.

Dr. Stancioff, Bulgarian Minister in London, who is also accredited to the Belgian Government, left for Brussels last week on a brief visit.

M. Boerescu, Minister Plempotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'affaires in London, is still in France, but is expected to return to England next week.

Sir Regendra Mookerjee, who has been serving on the Indian Railway Commission, and Lady Mookerjee left for Calcutta on September.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband will return to London early next month from Scotland. Lady Younghusband has arrived from Bath.

Sir Harry Brittain, M.P., with a party of British journalists, has left London for Bucharest, at the invitation of the Roumanian Government, to make a tour of the country.

The marriage took place at St. Cuthbert's Church, Philbeach Gardens, on September 17, of Sir Arthur Peel K.C.M.G., to Grace, eldest daughter of Senhor Alberto Landsberg, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mr. Theodore Edward Strachey, of 3, Harley-place, Clifton, Bristol, formerly leader of the Bar, at Cawnpore, left £25,890. His bequests included £1,500 to the Governors of Sherborne School on the falling in of his wife's annuity.

A marriage has been arranged between Samuel T. Sheppard, of Bombay, youngest son of the late Philip Sheppard, and of Mrs. Sheppard, 6, Springfield Place, Bath, and Anne, daughter of the late John H. Carpenter, of Teddington, Middlesex.

The engagement is announced between Henry Cecil Jackson, Sudan Political Service, of Portishead House, Portishead, and Margaret Estcourt, elder daughter of Major Estcourt Harrison, late Royal Artillery, and Mrs. Estcourt Harrison, of Chargrove House, near Cheltenham.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place before the end of October in India, between Herbert Williamson, Indian Civil Service, Acting Deputy Commissioner at Simla, and Winifred Lilian, third daughter of Major-General Edward R. Kenyon, C.B., C.M.G., late R.E.

The Very Rev. William C. Bourchier, Dean of Cashel, has left London, for Bulgaria, to visit the grave of his brother, the late Mr. James D. Bourchier, who for many years was Special Correspondent of *The Times* in Bulgaria. During his visit he will be the guest of the Government of Bulgaria.

Lord Granville, the British Minister in Athens, and the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, have signed an agreement providing for the tending of the graves of British officers and men who fell in Greek territory in the war. An Anglo-Greek committee will be appointed to take care of the graves.

An engagement is announced between Robert Duncan Graham Dick, of the Imperial Bank of India, Agra, only son of Lieutenant-Colonel James Roy Dick, of Bolton Mansions, South Kensington, and Elsie Mant Martin, second daughter of Brownlow Rudings Martin, M.B., of Ravenscourt Park, W.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Captain Owen P. Hamilton, 74th Punjabis, only son of Major-General Sir E. O. F. Hamilton, K.C.B., and Lady Hamilton, of Broom Lodge Wokingham, Berks, and Joan Beryl Edwards, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs. F. A. Edwards, of The Grange, Bembridge, Isle of Wight.

On September 6 at Marlow, by the Rev. M. Graves, Rural Dean of Wycombe, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. O. F. Spearing, vicar of the parish, Lt.-Col. G. C. Hodgson, D.S.O., 2-23rd Sikh Pioneers, second son of the late Lt.-Co. G. R. Hodgson, Bombay Staff Corps, and of Mrs. Hodgson, of Bexhill, was married to Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Morten, of Tilecotes, Marow.

The marriage arranged between Captain Leonard Treise Morshead, R. of O. Royal Engineers, of Rangoon, Burma, eldest son of Mr. Leonard Frederick Morshead, I.C.S., and Mrs. Morshead, and grandson of the late Frederick Morshead, of Winchester, and Marjorie France, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Colborne Ridley, of 29, Scarsdale Villas, Kensington, will take place in Calcutta at the end of November.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Henry Alwyn Barker, the Rifle Brigade, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Barker, of Alexandria, Egypt, and Ida Sybil, daughter of Mrs. Cumberbatch and the late Mr. H. A. Cumberbatch, C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul-General, will take place at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on Saturday, October 1.


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The marriage of William Ecklin Henry Grayburn, Talup, Assam, eldest son of the late Mr. William Grayburn and of Mrs. Grayburn, of Fairfield Sandsend, and Betty, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Malcolm Aitken, Norwood, Lockerbie, will take place in Wellesley Square Church, Calcutta, early in November.

The Rev. the Marquess of Normanby will officiate at the marriage of Captain H. Pease, D.S.O., Western Arab Corps, Egyptian Army, and the Hon. Cynthia Chaloner, third daughter of Lord and Lady Gisborough, which will take place at Gisborough Parish Church, Yorkshire, on September 28. The bride will be given away by her father and will be attended by six bridesmaids—the Hon. Ursula and the Hon. Elizabeth Chaloner (her sisters), the Hon. Eileen Plunket, Miss Wharton, Miss Margaret Stilwell (cousin), and Miss Margaret Drake. Three little girls—Miss Margaret Bruce Chaloner, niece of the bride and daughter of the late Captain Hume Chaloner, Miss Rachel Pease, and Miss Helen Medlicott—and two pages—Master Bob Long and Master Ingram Pease—will also attend her.

On September 15, at Holy Trinity Chruch, Sloane Street, Lieutenant William Ogilvy Scrymgeour-Wedderburn, D.S.O., R.N., youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scrymgeour-Wedderburn D.S.C., R.N., youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scrymgeour-Wedderburn, of Lindorse House, Fife, was married to Joyce, only daughter of the late Colonel R. H. Jenning of 20, Roland Gardens, S.W. The officiating clergy were the Rev. H. R. Anderson, vicar of St. Luke's Church, Redcliffe Square ; the Rev. G. W. Elliott, R.N., and the Rev. P. D. Scott. Lieutenant Alan Robertson-Macdonald acted as best man, and the bride was given away by her brother, Lieutenant A. Jennings, R.N. Among those present were General Sir Bindon and Lady Blood, Sir Michael and Lady O'Dwyer, Lady Napier, Lady Pinhey, and the children of the Maharajah of Patiala.

## APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

It is officially announced that Major B. Temple, the Commercial Secretary for Persia, resumed duty at Teheran on August 22.

The King has appointed Mr. Claud Frederick William Russell to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to her Majesty the Empress of Ethiopia (Abyssinia). The appointment will date from September 20.

Mr. Bhupendranath Basu, the Bengali member of of Council, is going out to India in November, and though he does so on leave, it is not expected that he wil return to his work in Whitehall, having regard to the state of his health and to the call there is for his service to India in Bengal.

Mr. H. C. Norman, H.M. Minister at Teheran, is leaving Persia very shortly, and will be succeeded by Sir Percy Loraine. Sir Percy ioined the Diplomatic Service in 1904, and has served in Teheran before (1907-1909), going there from Constantinople (his first appointment). He has also served in Peking, Rome, and Paris.

Sir C. Sankaran Nair has arranged to leave London on November 18 on a visit to India. Before his departure, says *The Times*, he will resign his membership of the India Council, to which he was appointed last year. Sir Sankaran Nair's resignation is not due to any question of public policy, but to literary work, for which he desires freedom.

## MARRIAGE OF M. VENIZELOS.

The first portion of the marriage took place on September 14, at St. Pancras Registry Office, of M. Eleftherios Venizelos, formerly Prime Minister of Greece and son of the late M. Kyriakos Venizelos, and Miss Helena Schilizzi, daughter of the late Mr. John Schilizzi and of Mrs. Schilizzi. The witnesses of the marriage were Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Schilizzi (brother and sister-in-law of the bride), Mrs. Schilizzi, the bride's mother, Lady Crosfield, Mrs. Elliadi, and Miss Elliadi.

The religious ceremony took place the following day at West Hill, Highgate, the residence of Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield. Dr. Pagonis, the Archimandrite of the Greek Church, Bayswater, officiated. The bride, was attended by Lady Crosfield, and the sponsors were Mrs. Elliadi (mother of Lady Crosfield), and Miss Elliadi. A number of relatives and friends were present, including the two sons of M. Venizelos. In the afternoon M. and Madame Veniselos left London for the Continent, and after a brief stay, they intend to go to America and pay a long visit to California.

## OBITUARY.

A Reuter telegram from Cairo states that the death is announced of the Sultan's brother, Prince Mahmud Hamdi, one of the most familiar figures in Cairo, where he chiefly frequented British circles.

The death is announced at Exmouth of Sir Thomas Salter Pyne, who for several years was chief engineer to the Government of Afghanistan. Born in 1860 he served with a mercantile firm in India from 1883 to 1885, and in the latter year proceeded to Afghanistan, where he put down works for the manufacture of guns, rifles ammunition and other industrial products. Sir Thomas acted as ambassador for the Ameer of Afghanistan to the Viceroy of India, and at the satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations received a knighthood. During the war, Sir Thomas was employed at the Ministry of Munitions.

## THE PRINCE'S INDIAN VISIT.

The battle-cruiser Renown in which the Prince of Wales will go to India, was commissioned at Portsmouth last week by Captain the Hon. Herbert Meade, D.S.O. She leaves for Portland on September 27 for commissioning trials, at the conclusion of which she will return and prepare to embark the Prince on October 26. It is stated that very little money has been spent on the ship in preparation for the coming voyage.

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*Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON."*

*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1921.


## THE TRAGEDY OF ASIA MINOR.

The tragedy of Asia Minor is running its inevitable course. Sooner or later the point had to be reached when the Greek Army could go no farther. Whether it happened before or after reaching Angora mattered little. Greece had embarked upon an enterprise to which there was no real goal. She imagined, perhaps, that the establishment beyond all challenge of Greek military superiority over the Nationalists would create one; the annihilation of the Kemalist Army or the capture of Mustapha Kemal himself held out the promise of a still more desirable ending. In each case, however, the Greeks would have been beating the air; the two peoples are too evenly matched for either to accept permanent defeat at the hands of the other. They would have left no lasting impression on the Turks other than an intensification of hatred, which must have had its aftermath. Even with the dictation of peace terms in Angora the moment would have come for the Greek Army to turn its face homeward. And then? In Athens, no doubt, it was held that in such circumstances the future could be allowed to take care of itself. There can have been no serious attempt to work out the problem to a logical conclusion. The first few moves, it was argued, could not fail to be successful from a military point of view; after that Greece must trust to luck. It was forgotten that the Turkish question could never be settled by Greece alone; she had come very near to accomplishing the feat with the Treaty of Sèvres, but unfortunately for her that Treaty proved to be no settlement. The Allies, accordingly, had had to recover their freedom of action; a fresh attempt to settle the question could only be less in favour of the Greeks than was the Treaty of Sèvres. Here then was a further stultification of any campaign against the Nationalists. Just as in the war of 1897 the Turks were not allowed by the Great Powers to keep Thessaly after their victory over the Greeks, so now there could be no question of Greece keeping the part of Asia Minor which her troops had victoriously overrun. In the increase of territory that the Greek Government might hope to extort from the Entente Powers after the defeat of Mustapha Kemal, over and above the terms that it was offered at the London Conference in February, was there adequate justification for a campaign in Asia Minor, with its sacrifice of Greek life, its drain on the Greek exchequer? We have urged all along, in the interests of Greece herself, that there was none. The whole enterprise was a gamble in which Greece stood to risk everything and gain nothing.

Instead of a victorious ending to the military venture Greece may yet be hard put to it to avoid a serious reverse. The moment for turning back has arrived before the capture of Angora. No amount of sophistry can prevent the withdrawal from being interpreted as a failure for Greek arms, for the simple reason that the retention of Angora will be acclaimed in Asia Minor and elsewhere as a triumph for Mustapha Kemal. Unless the Greeks can resume the offensive and change the course of the war once more, they have failed in their purpose, which was not to overrun Turkish territory, but to prick what they regarded as the Nationalist bubble, and to impose terms on Mustapha Kemal. Should they be compelled to abandon all the ground they have occupied the effect on the Nationalist leader, as far as his relations with the Greeks are concerned, could only be to leave him more intransigent than ever. In his future dealings with the Allies, however, we must hope that time, as well as the stress of the Greek campaign will have brought him wisdom. In fairness to Mustapha Kemal it has to be admitted that he showed some measure of reasonableness at the time of the London Conference. It was thrown to the winds only when the Greeks moved out to attack him, or at least manoeuvred to improve their military position in Asia Minor before the expiry of the month which the London Conference allowed for the replies of the two parties. Apart from the Treaty of Sèvres, which the Allies have agreed to modify, the Nationalists have a grievance against the latter for having allowed their mandatory to resume hostilities without any formal denunciation of the truce agreed upon at the calling of the Conference. But these are minor considerations compared with the problem of the Near Eastern settlement, and we trust that both the Turks and the Allies will see the matter in this light.

The first step to be taken is for the Allies to resume control. They abdicated their authority when they allowed Greek and Turk to go to war against one another, and that authority had already been weakened when the settlement of the Turkish question was spun out for two years. By now the Nationalists will have learnt afresh their limitations, and if a settlement which has some claim to being just and practicable is imposed upon them, there should be little difficulty in securing its acceptance. There can be no such settlement, however, unless the Entente Governments agree to pull together. If a compromise cannot be effected by friendly agreement, the time has come for Great Britain to shoulder her responsibilities in the matter. To her failure in this respect are due in no small measure the intensification of the unrest in India and the uncertainty in Egypt, Palestine, and Mesopotamia. A satisfactory settlement of the whole Near Eastern question would have gone a long way by now towards improving the economic position in South-Eastern and Central Europe, which in turn would have reacted upon the industrial situation in Great Britain. The treaty of Sèvres was based on the idea that the best way to settle the Turkish question was to allow the Greeks to take charge of the Turks, and to this end the Allies undertook to weight the scales against the Turks, regardless of considerations of pure justice, geography and economic principles. The attempt failed, and there is now only one alternative for the time being—what may happen fifty or a hundred years hence when Greece is a more advanced nation need not concern the world to-day. The Allies must take charge of the Turks themselves; to reduce friction to a minimum there should be no land frontier between Greeks and Turks; the peculiar position of Smyrna can be met by making it an autonomous State and free port; definite provision for the welfare of minorities in Turkey must be made by means of some form of European supervision to be terminated after a period of good behaviour; the internationalisation of the Straits will stand as at present arranged. In urging this settlement we do not lose sight of Turkey's past, but we hold that Europe has her share of blame for what Turkey has been. It will be time to throw stones at the Turks when Constantinople is free from the intrigues of the Great Powers. The Turks ask for a fresh chance in the light of the principles enunciated by the Allies during the war. They must be given it. If they show that they have learnt nothing, Europe can then deal finally with them, with a clear conscience, which she lacks to-day. Nor must Greece be forgotten. For her present troubles also the Entente Governments are largely responsible. She ought to be accorded all

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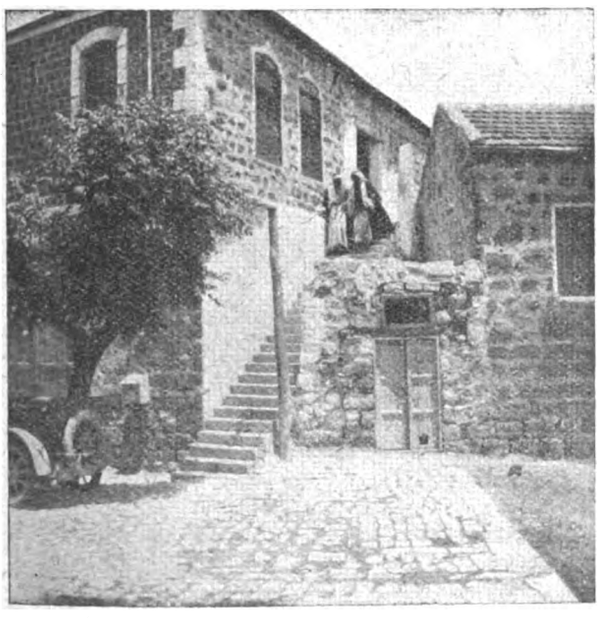
possible assistance in gettting back to a straightforward practical national policy. She has recovered under King Constantine much of the unity which she lost when he left the country, and she needs probably only financial help to forget her territorial aspirations and to concentrate on her disorganised finances. and economic development.

## BEISAN.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

The excavations to be carried out at Beisan (Scythopolis), in N. Palestine should yield results of considerable interest. The war has stripped the neighbourhood of many trees, but the well-watered plain in which the village stands, with fields of Indian corn, its picturesque ruins, and pleasant views of the Jordan Valley, will be remembered by travellers who have strayed out of beaten tracks. Beisan—the Bethshan of Scripture—took its name Scythopolis from an occupation by Scythians in the 7th Century B.C., when an invading army swept through to the borders of Egypt. Scythian settlers no doubt were added to its mixed population of Canaanites, Assyrians, and others. It was the largest city of the Decapolis League. Under the later Roman Empire it was the seat of an Archbishop of " Palaestina Secunda." During the Crusades it was known by both its names. It was reduced and burnt by Saleh-ed-Dîn (Saladin). Irby and Mangles a hundred years ago gave an interesting account of what remained, of the theatre, city walls and gates, and necropolis. In their explorations they found ruins of another large city, about two-thirds the size of Beisan. No doubt the whole region will be examined wth a view to future excavation.

At present Beisan contains about 2,500 inhabitants,



**Government Offices, Beisan.**

a large majority being Moslems, with a fair number of Christians, and about 60 Jews. To the east and south are numerous Bedouin belonging to the Ghazawieh, Sagr, and some other tribes. The Sagr encampments extend as far westwards as Shatta, and in the summer their tribe migrates down the Jordan Valley. They are an element of insecurity, as they not only assist marauders from across the Jordan, but themselves participate in raids. Peaceful inhabitants live in more or less terror of these Arabs, and of the blood feuds to which hostilities too often lead.

Beisan is fortunate in possessing an intelligent and energetic president of the municipality (*Reis el-beledieh*). el-Hadj Mahmoud, who was formerly a sergeant-major in the Turkish gendarmerie. He boasts that under Ottoman rule he could keep the whole of the Jordan valley lying within his district in order with ten men, a statement which one can well believe. He has taken an active part in the carrying out of various progressive local schemes.

West by south of Beisan is a large marsh formed by the confluent waters of two springs. A project for diverting the inflow has been carried out by cutting two channels, each of some 3,000 metres in length. These works were completed and opened about a month ago. As a result about 200 *feddans* of land have been reclaimed

**Beisan Main Street.**

and will now be available for cultivation of cotton or other crops. Most important, perhaps, of all, is the fact that the work is a considerable step towards the much-needed elimination of malaria, which is the curse of the place, and which claims many victims.

A magnificent view of the Jordan valley may be obtained from the old Crusader fortress of Kanhat el Hawa, which lies some 5 or 6 miles north of Beisan.

The progress already made at Beisan is an excellent illustration of the results of British administration in a place where, as elsewhere, hopeless stagnation had hitherto prevailed. Beisan could indeed be converted into a delightful and attractive place of residence, if money were available for carrying out various improvements which suggest themselves in this really charming spot.

**Beisan. In Main Street. The Sheikh Mutlak Irsan, of the Sagr Bedouin.**

## INDIAN AGITATORS ARRESTED.

The India Office announces that news has been received from the Government of India of the arrest of Mohamed Ali on September 14, at Waltair, Northern Madras, and of Dr. Kitchlew at Simla on the following day. These arrests have been made in accordance with a decision of the Government of India to institute proceedings against Mohamed Ali and others in respect of their speeches made and the resolutions passed at the All-India Khalifate Conference held at Karachi in July.

One resolution declared it was wholly *haram* (unlawful) for any Moslem at this time to remain or enlist in the Indian Army or to get others enlisted in it. The charges are understood to be criminal conspiracy, attempts to seduce troops, and defamation. One of the other men charged is Shaukat Ali, the elder brother of Mohamed Ali. The decision to prosecute was taken before the Moplah rising, but the actual institution of proceedings was delayed by the necessity of obtaining evidence as to the exact language used by the accused, and of considering the bearing of the law.

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## THE OPTIMIST.

*By William Ransted Berry.*

He sat cross-legged in the thin shade of a poplar tree—an aged Turk, fezed and wide-trousered, bearded like the pard. All about sprawled the blackened ruins of a native village; a solemn stork brooded upon the stump of what had beeen a small mud-brick minaret.

Dismounting from my horse, which I left to graze where he would, I too sat down in the shade of the poplar-tree, though there were scarcely enough for two. The old Turk received me with a courtly bow, the fingers of his right hand fluttering from heart, to lips, to forehead, in the graceful gesture peculiar to an Eastern greeting.

"You are welcome, Effendim," he said gravely, handing me with a second bow his box of rank tobacco and a few poor wisps of cigarette paper.

I rolled myself a cigarette and lit it from the stump of one that smouldered in his fingers.

"Is no one of this village left but you, Baba?" I asked.

The old man threw back his head and clicked with his tongue in the native fashion of negation.

"No, Effendim, not one—except Hadji-lek-lek there." He nodded in the direction of the stork, who thereupon pointed his beak at the sky and clapped it with a mournful wooden sound, like castanets. "Most are dead; a few—a very few, are hiding in the hills."

"Yet you remain, Baba?" I looked about me at the desolation where scarce one stone remained upon another; a large green lizard scuttled up a ruined wall with a dry rustling noise and stopped to look at us. "—Here, where none but lizards inhabit the former homes of men?"

"And why not, Effendim? I am an old man and a feeble. It is not hard to die where one was born, if Allah wills it. He is the wisest, and will provide."

He rolled a cigarette and lit it with flint and tinder.

"Yet Allah first took away," I said, indicating with a sweep of my arm our surroundings.

"Ah, Effendim, ripe corn were we between two millstones. Allah must have nodded while the millstones ground us."

The old man's eyes sought the great wooded hills to East and West which flanked the little valley wherein we sat. He pointed them out in turn.

"On these hillls, Effendim, were the Kemalists, entrenched and with artillery; and on those the Greeks. Thus our village was in 'no man's land,' as you can see."

"It is sad to remember that those who should have been our brothers harmed us first. A band of wild Circassians—part of Kemal Pasha's irregular cavalry—swept through our village like a tornado, plundering, raping, killing. We called on Allah, but so did they. Night fell on gutted houses, and the wailing of women and children; the blood of most of our young men—a few had been dragged off at the heels of Circassian ponies to swell the ranks of Kemal—lay in black pools under the moon.

"Next came the shelling. Day and night the great shells droned overhead from hill-crest to hill-crest. Many dropped on us, for each side feared the village offered shelter to the other. Our houses fell like cardboard; fire and death filled every hour. Yet some of us remained.

"At last Kemal retreated. The Greeks swarmed down into our valley like locusts—but such locusts as you never saw, armed with fire and sword, and searching like blood-hounds for a red fez or a veiled face. They found them, too, all that were left. But they left none. When the moon rose that night—I remember it was a bright crescent one, the emblem of Turkey—there was no sound in all this village but the rustle of smouldering embers, nor any living thing but crickets—and myself."

The old Turk stroked his beard complacently.

"How did you happen to survive?" I asked him presently.

A pious mien, in which there lurked a gentle artfulness, suffused his countenance as he pointed to the hollow mud-brick stump whereon the stork now stood on one foot and appeared to slumber.

"I placed myself in Allah's keeping," he replied, "inside our broken minaret. Allah alone knows why no one thought to look within it. Snug and safe I lay until morning came when Hadji-lek-lek, standing on the rim where he is now, looked down as you might do into a well and clapped his bill at me. Sometimes I think he was a messenger from Allah sent to tell me that my life was spared."

The shadow of the poplar treee had lengthened considerably. I caught my horse and mounted, for I still had far to go before sundown.

The old Turk rose and once more handed me his tobacco box. I am glad to recollect that before I handed it back to him I emptied into it the contents of my own tobacco pouch.

"Where do you live now, Baba?" I asked, as I gathered up my reins.

"Sometimes" he answered, "in an empty tomb cut in the hill-side where the ancients buried their dead—it makes a famous house in winter. Other times," here his eyes twinkled as he looked up at me, "in the minaret."

"How do you live?"

"Allah provides." he said soberly. Then a smile, confiding as a child's played among his wrinkles. "Also, I have two bees, a queen bee and one other. In time, if Allah wills, I hope to raise a swarm and eat the honey."

"Allah and your bees abide with you, Baba," I said, turning my horse's head down the valley.

"And may he ride with you, Effendim." answered the old man, as his fingers fluttered once again from heart to lips, to forehead.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square.
E.C. 2,

**Better Outlook in Egypt.**

It is very satisfactory to learn from our Cairo Correspondent that at last there are signs of an improvement in trade conditions in Egypt. The economic depression in that centre has been very pronounced, more so in fact that in many other regions owing to local factors, which are too well known to be enumerated, and to the unfavourable conditions in neighbouring markets. The accumulated stocks of goods are now, however, beginning to dwindle, and provided no untoward factors arise, the market will in due course offer excellent opportunities for British enterprise. The fact that there is no exchange problem to be contended with should be an additional inducement to our exporters to take advantage of the first indications of reviving trade there.

**Tourists and Cotton.**

The extent of the market revival will depend, of course, on the price of cotton and the tourist season. Speculations as to the future of cotton are apt to be a thankless task, but at the moment there would appear to be justification for the assumption that higher prices are in view as a result of the anticipated shortage of the American crop. Still, as against this it has to be remembered that visible stocks are very large, and trade outlets for the moment restricted. As regards the tourist season the prospects would appear to be excellent. Reports are forthcoming of record bookings from America and this country also can be looked to, despite the high taxes and other aftermaths of the Great War, to furnish a very respectable contingent.

**The Ter Meulen Scheme.**

It is a long time since we have heard anything of the Ter Meulen scheme, and I fear that in this case no news is scarcely likely to be good news. The application of the scheme depends upon the issuing of bonds by countries with adverse exchanges, and so far as I know no State has taken any steps in this direction. The scheme itself is good enough, but arrangements should have been made to ensure its utilisation by the countries concerned before it was launched. It is surely little short of an absurdity that business houses should be expected to bring pressure to bear to ensure the utilisation of an official scheme. That is, or should be, the function of its sponsor the League of Nations.

**The Trade Outlook.**

According to Earl Grey there is unlikely to be a real trade revival for two years, and for that reason the autumn of 1923 has been fixed for the commencement of the voyage of the British Trade Ship which is to go on a tour of the principal ports lasting eighteen months. The only relief that Lord Grey offers for this uninviting prospect is that the intervening period may show what he termed a fictitious improvement. Happily the most experienced prophets are liable to be wrong in these matters, and it does not require a great stretch of imagination to picture an earlier trade revival.

**The Roumanian Exchange.**

A further lapse in the value of the *leu* has caused the Roumanian exchange to run its Bulgarian neighbour close. It is a tragedy that these two countries should be handicapped with an exchange rate in the vicinity of 400 for the one and 550 for the other. One would like to believe that the economic infallibility of exchange quotations has for once broken down, but the attempt to connect the Roumanian fall with artificial or political influences is not convincing. The news of a Bolshevist declaration of war on Roumania may have fluttered financial dovecots, but forced sales, the calling in of a French loan on delivery of grain, which has fallen in arrears, and transport difficulties tell their own tale. I wish all the Near Eastern States could be brought to realize that their troubles, which are due to war, are only likely to be got rid of by real peace, externally and internally. Political parties sank their differences for the sake of the war; it is no less urgent to sink their anomosities in the sacred cause of peace so that the country can get on with the work of reconstruction.

**Indo Burma Oilfields (1920).**

The Indo Burma Oilfields (1920) are making this week an issue of £250,000 ten per cent. Convertible First Mortgage Debenture Stock at par, repayable on June 30, 1924, at 110. Of the total amount £55,000 have been subscribed in India, leaving £195,000 for the English market. The Company was formed in February 1920, with an authorised capital of £2,000,000, of which £1,500,000 was then issued. Expenditure on properties and purchases not included in the original programme of the Company, coupled with the increased cost of all plant and machinery during last year, exhausted funds which would otherwise have been available for development work. The present issue of half the balance of the authorised capital is made to replace funds for the purchases referred to and to cover the part accruing to the Company of the cost of erecting a joint refinery with another oil company. With the £250,000 the managing agents are satisfied that the self-supporting stage can be reached. On another page in this issue will be found a statement of the Company's present position, and it will be seen that promising results have been obtained from a subsidiary area, before it has been possible to tap the proved property at Yenangyaung.

**Commentator.**

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A new agreement has been arrived at between the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes and the French Government, which ensures the continuance of the various pre-war services of the Company from Marseilles to the Mediterranean, East Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Colombo, Straits, China, Japan, and Australia.


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, September 3.*

**Brighter Outlook.**

The commercial barometer during the past few days has indicated a general improvement. Much, of course, depends upon the fate of the negotiations—in fact, the fate of these official discussions fundamentally affects every phase of life in Egypt. Meanwhile there has been a sharp rise in cotton to 36 dollars, and the week has closed with business brisk by comparison with recent months. The immediate consequence of the rise has been to ease the tightness of money, and one finds a much more optimistic tone amongst practically all sections of business men. Retailers report that the demand in the emporiums has shown a slight increase, and they are confident that what may be termed the partial buying strike during the summer will now cause a reaction. This factor, in conjunction with the approach of the winter season, when retail buying always grows heavier, is leading them to believe that—subject to no untoward political developments—the worst period of stringency is over. Apart from the political situation the only cloud is the dispute between the United States' Shipping Board and the Liverpool Conference Lines, but I learn from a reliable source to-day that the efforts towards peace are making good progress and that well-informed circles would not be surprised at an early settlement.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, August 30.*

**An American Mission.**

A Cluj paper announces the early arrival of a commission of leading American manufacturers, sent by their Government to study the economic situation in this country. The mission will visit the commercial and industrial centres throughout the country.

**Miscellaneous.**

A gang of armed thieves entered the offices of the Austra-Romana Oil Company at Moreni in the daytime and, ordering the employés under threat not to move, seized the keys of the safe, and laid hands on the available cash amounting to a few hundred thousand lei and then disappeared. A number of gendarmes started in pursuit of them.

At the annual cattle market which was held last week at Somcutza-Mare, in Transylvania, out of four thousand head of cattle that were brought for sale, only 350 found buyers. The price of a good cow varied between 300-400 lei.

The Government has fixed October 27 as the date by which the German, Austrian and Hungarian insurance companies must have liquidated their operations in this country.

*Bucharest, September 6.*

**Roumano-Yugoslav Relations.**

The work of the Roumano-Yugoslav Technical Commission has now been completed. The proposals put forward provide for the construction of a railway line connecting the capitals of the two countries, crossing the Danube by a bridge to be built at Semendria, on Yugoslav territory, and for the construction later on of a second line which would cross the Danube at Gruja, in Roumanian territory. The postal, telephonic, and telegraphic connections are to be developed, and a special wireless service is to be organised in Yugoslavia to permit of communication with Roumania. It is further proposed that mail carriages should be attached to each train, and that a telegraph line should be constructed between Turnu-Severin and Belgrade to link up Belgrade and Bucharest. As regards aerial communications Roumania will be included in the Paris-Prague-Belgrade-Constantinople route.

**Miscellaneous.**

New regulations regarding imports are under consideration. It is rumoured that importation is to be free, and that only luxury articles will be heavily taxed.

The announcement that M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, now at St. Moritz, is endeavouring to negotiate a loan of 100 million francs in Paris is contradicted.

The Entente Powers propose to establish at Jassy a great centre for commodities and merchandise intended for Russia.

A group of Belgian financiers have just arranged a loan of 57 million lei for the town of Bucharest.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, September 10.*

**Question of Reparations.**

When M. Tourlakoff, the Finance Minister, visited London and Paris recently he asked that the payment of reparations should be postponed for three years. While no definite answer was given M. Tourlakoff appears optimistic regarding the prospects. It is stated in local financial circles that the Reparations Commission are in favour of time being granted to Bulgaria for the fulfilment of the financial clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly. The effects of delay should be far-reaching, as the country would have time to set its house in order and would be able to embark on industrial and commercial schemes for the development of the natural wealth of the country.

**The Leva.**

The leva still continues its downward course, and yesterday the rate on London was 525. The Government hold the view that speculation is the chief cause of the fall. M. Stambolisky stated recently that there is a banking house at Vienna that occupies itself solely with speculation in the Bulgarian exchange, and that a young Jew had made 900,000 levas in a few minutes.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, August 30.*

**The Asbestos Mines.**

The company which is purchasing the mines on Troodos, acquires for £125,000 properties and rights for which the Cypriot Company paid £16,000. The latter have, therefore, made an excellent bargain. The papers, while regretting that the working of the mines has passed out of Cypriot hands, are gratified by the prospect of a greatly expanded activity, which will provide labour on a much larger scale for the people at a time when such employment is badly needed. There is great depression in the poorer parts of the island.

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## SYRIA.

*Beyrout, August 25.*

**Beyrout-Haifa Rivalry.**

A campaign has lately been raging in the Beyrout Press over the danger that Beyrout was running from the competition of Haifa. The authorities here have come in for a good deal of sharp criticism for what was described as suicidal apathy on their part. That the import trade of Beyrout has been declining in the same ratio as Haifa's import trade has been rising is an evident fact. The reasons for this diversion are stated to be the following :—

1.—The Palestine authorities, with the commendable aim of encouraging building enterprise, whether for the repair of ruined dwellings or the erection of new ones, or for the carrying out of works of public utility, have reduced the customs duty on building material, such as cement, hydraulic lime, bricks, iron girders, timber, tiles, etc. to 3 per cent. ; while on the ordinary merchandise from Egypt they are levying the old Turkish duty of 8 per cent. without the supplementary 3 per cent. On the other hand, the authorities at Beyrout are not only levying the full duty of 11 per cent. on all merchandise, including building material, but basing their valuation not on the original invoice price but on the current market price, which increases the nominal duty of 11 per cent by sometimes 40 per cent., and even 70 per cent. In addition to this, there are the harbour dues at Beyrout which goods entering Haifa do not have to pay.

2.—Railway tonnage from Beyrout to Damascus and Aleppo was almost completely requisitioned for military transport during the whole of 1920, and part of 1921, and now that railway tonnage has been released for civilian traffic the railway rates are kept on a prohibitive scale, so much so, indeed, that merchants have been finding it cheaper to transport grain from Damascus to the Lebanon and Beyrout by camel or cart, than by rail. But the supreme blow to the Beyrout trade was the recent issue of an *arrete* reducing the rates by that section of the Hejaz Railway under French control, which lent additional impetus to the competitive trade movement between Haifa and Damascus. This measure seems to have been taken by the Military who may have been actuated by a selfish desire for the cheaper transport of the large quantities of barley they had been buying from Southern Palestine.

When it is known that French policy has always aimed at the maintenance of the supremacy of Beyrout, even before it became the capital of Greater Lebanon—looked upon as the stronghold of French influence—such indifference to the loss of Beyrout's commercial position seems an inexplicable mystery.

**Cut Rates.** *Beyrout September 2.*

The authorities here have at last waked up to the danger referred to in my previous letter, and have redressed matters with a vengeance by a clean cut of the rates on the French Railways. Against the freight of £E20 per truck of 15 tons on the Hejaz Railway from Damascus to Haifa the French Railways are now quoting £E15, from Damascus to Beyrout.

The establishment of a severe customs barrier is said also to be contemplated, so as to leave no chance for Haifa to compete in transit goods to Damascus and neighbourhood. It is hoped that the authorities will awaken shortly to the necessity of reforming the present system of levying dues, and follow the footsteps of the Haifa Customs authorities. In regard to building material, a reduced rate is in the long run a gain to the Custom House itself. Destruction during the war in the Lebanon has been on a far larger scale than in Palestine ; and in Beyrout itself, the rent crisis is so acute that the remedy is urgent. So long as the duty is prohibitive there will be little or no building, and consequently no duty collected.

This principle applies, to a certain extent, to other classes of merchandise. The less goods are burdened with onerous dues the greater the consumption. The fable of the golden egg is an apt illustration.

## INDIAN RAILWAY CONTROL.

### Drastic Reforms Proposed.

Far-reaching changes in the organisation of the Indian railway system are recommended by the Committee appointed last October by the Government of India. The following is a summary of the report :—

The Committee is of the opinion that the existing Indian railway system is entirely inadequate to meet the needs of the country, and that there is urgent need of drastic measures of reform and reconstruction. They consider that the defects are due primarily to the failure of the Government to provide adequate funds both for capital works and for renewals, and are the inevitable results of a paralysing system, which has not been developed to meet the requirements of a great commercial enterprise. Stress is laid on the fact that railway investment is directly profitable, and also indirectly through the benefit to the country.

The subordinate position of the railway administration, it is maintained, is not in accord with its financial importance. The Member of Council for Commerce, with his present multifarious duties, cannot adequately attend to the railways, with the result that the Railway Board is in the position of a stepchild. It is overloaded with routine and trammelled by unnecessary restrictions and does not exercise the necessary powers in matters of policy. As at present organised, it cannot possess the necessary local knowledge and does not enjoy the public confidence. Engineering inspection is overdone. Greater provision for inspection of traffic is especially needed. Accounts and statistics are in need of radical reforms. Railway relations with the public are unsatisfactory, and greater control of rates and fares is necessary. The provision in the Railways Act for Commissions is unsuitable. Delays in settling claims are serious. Bribery in connection with wagon allotments has grown into a system of organised blackmail. Third-class passengers' grievances require particular attention.

The Committee recommend the addition to the Governor-General's Council of a Member for Communications, to be responsible for railways, ports, inland navigation, road transport so far as it is a central subject, and posts and telegraphs. The member must be an experienced administrator, but not necessarily a technical expert. The Railway Board to be replaced by a Railway Commission, with a technical railway man as Chief Commissioner, who would be responsible, under the Member of Council, for arriving at decisions on technical questions, and for advising the Member on matters of railway policy, and would have the status of a Secretary to Government. He would be assisted by four Commissioners, one Financial Commissioner as Second in Command at headquarters, and in charge of Finance, Statistics, Secretariat and Establishment, and three Railway Commissioners in charge respectively of Western, Eastern, and Southern territorial divisions. The Divisional Commissioners to be normally engaged at headquarters, but to devote a substantial portion of their time to personal visits to their divisions. The technical staff at headquarters should be strengthened, especially on the traffic side, and should comprise six Directors in charge respectively of Accounts, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Traffic (operating), Traffic (commercial), and Ports, Inland Navigation and Road Transport.

The Finance Department ought to cease to control the internal finance of railways, and the Railway Budget should be separate, and should be presented to the Legislative Assembly by the Member in Charge of Communications. The Railway Department should be responsible for earning and expending its own income, and, after providing such net revenue as may be required to meet the interest on the railway debt, would regulate the disposal of the balance, being left free to devote it to new capital purposes, to reserves, or to the reduction of rates or the improvement of services. Subject to independent audit by the Government of India, the

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Railway Department should employ its own Accounting Staff. The reconstituted Railway Department should be relieved from control by the India Office and the Government of India except on large questions of finance and general policy. It should delegate increased powers of day-to-day management to the Railway Administrations, but, on the other hand, should be given greater powers in matters such as the initiation and enforcement of reforms and some control over the appointment of the principal officers.

To give the Indian public a voice in railway management, the Committee recommend the establishment, as soon as possible, of one Central and a number of Local Advisory Councils, the former, under the chairmanship of the Member for Communications, to consist of not more than 25 members, three or four representing the Departments of Government concerned, eight or nine to be nominated by trade and industrial associations, and a similar number, to represent agricultural interests and the travelling public, to be nominated by the Provincial Legislative Councils. The Local Advisory Councils to be about half the size of the Central Advisory Council and similar in constitution, meeting either at the headquarters of each railway with the Agent as chairman, or at each important railway centre, the agents of all the railways concerned being members and one of them chairman.

A Rates Tribunal, with an experienced lawyer as chairman, and one railway and one commercial member to be established with jurisdiction over all questions of reasonableness of rates and facilities. The Tribunal to investigate conditions attached to owners' and railway risk notes and to frame standard forms. In certain circumstances an appeal to lie against the decision of the Rates Tribunal to the Governor-General in Council. The utmost possible efforts to be made to stamp out the serious and widespread abuses connected with the allocation of wagons; also to minimise the inconveniences of lower-class passengers by the loan of stock from one railway to another when required by enforcing cleanliness and the provision of drinking water, and by the extended employment of passenger superintendents. The Committee consider a general and substantial increase in rates and fares overdue, and recommend such an increase, the present surtax on railway traffic, which is bad in principle, being withdrawn. Greater facilities are necessary for training Indians for superior posts and the process of their employment to be accelerated.

Branch lines should be as far as possible constructed and worked by main lines, and separate Branch Line Companies should be encouraged only in cases where the State is unable or unwilling to provide funds. When financial conditions permit of railway development, Indian States should be called into Council and invited to take part in working out a common scheme of development.

The Committee are unanimous in advising that the system of management by guaranteed companies of English domicile should not be continued after the termination of their present contracts, and that management by a combination of English and Indian domiciled companies is impracticable. But they are divided as to the relative merits of management by the State and by India domiciled companies.

The Chairman, Mr. Sastri, Mr. Hiley, Mr. Purshotamdas and Mr. Tuke are in favour of direct State management, provided that the Committee's recommendations for financial and administrative reforms are substantially adopted. They are opposed to Indian domiciled companies, mainly on the broad ground that, as a matter of practical politics, conpanies substantially independent cannot be formed in India to work the State-owned lines, and that, without such independence, the advantages claimed for private enterprise are lost. They recommend accordingly that, as and when the English guaranteed companies' contracts fall in, the undertakings should be managed directly by the State. All future capital to be raised directly by the Central Government. Funds required to put the existing railways into proper shape should be raised, even at to-day's prices, as fast as they can be economically spent. The immediate raising of capital for extensions is not recommended. Government borrowing to be by ordinary sterling loans in England and rupee loans earmarked for railway purposes in India. A systematic organisation should be established to familiarise Indians with the idea of subscribing to Government loans, and specially to interest the masses of people not hitherto accustomed to investment.

Sir Henry Burt, Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, Sir Arthur Anderson, Sir George Godfrey and Sir H. Ledgard, are against the Government being committed to a policy of State management only, and recommend the continuance of the system of State and company management side by side, with Indian companies in place of English companies. They accordingly propose a scheme for creating Indian domiciled companies to manage the East Indian Railway and possibly the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the lines to be considered on their merits later when their contracts become terminable. They agree that much capital must be raised directly by the Central Government, but urge also the fullest use of Indian domiciled companies to provide funds from independent sources. No channel through which money can be obtained to be neglected; for instance, further debenture loans through existing companies might be negotiated. They agree that money should be raised as fast as it can be economically spent, but do not wish new developments arrested, and consider that private enterprise should be enlisted to provide capital for new lines. Government borrowings, both in England and India, should be advertised as for railway purposes. They recommend enlisting the assistance of all banks when money is required, and that independent offers of loans on special conditions should be considered.

The Committee unanimously endorse the recommendations of the Mackay Committee that in periods of easy money funds should be raised in excess of immediate requirements.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114. Importer in Karachi (India) travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers and exporters. Specialities :—Exports : Medicinal herbs dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in Jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old, Dundee and Calcutta makes.

119. Russian gentleman, age 34 years, speaking fluently English and French, offers his services to a British firm or company, with a view to becoming acquainted with any special line they intend to undertake in Russia, so as to be able to act in their interest in that country.

**Travellers to the Near East**

Can obtain all information as to the journey from Continental Traffic Department, Victoria Station (S. E. & C. R.), S.W.1:

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# Engineering Topics.

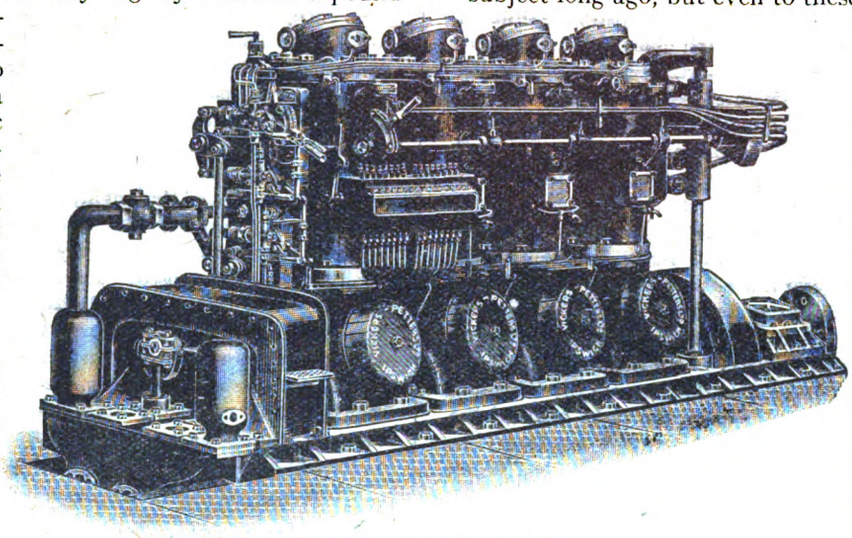
*By our Engineering Representative.*

## THE SHIPPING, ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY EXHIBITION.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

Exigencies of space prevented me last week from mentioning the interesting electro-hydraulic ram pattern steering gear shown by the Variable Speed Gear, Ltd., who are also showing a cargo winch which is capable of lifting 3½ tons on single purchase at 60ft. per minute or, alternately 1½ tons at 150 ft. per minute. Mechanism is provided to obviate any risk of overloading the driving motor, and comprises an hydraulic ram connected to the pump portion of the gear. Several other electro-hydraulically operated devices are shown, and these exhibits together with those of the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co., are shown in conjunction with Vickers Ltd. An interesting and comprehensive range of engineers' tools is also shown.

The Atlas Diesel Co. is showing a standard stationary type of two-cycle semi-Diesel developing 50B. h.p. at 350 r.p.m. This engine is of the vertical two cylinder type, and is fitted with a belt pulley and outer bearing. No use is made of water injection, and I understand that the fuel consumption is only slightly over half a pound per brake horse-power hour. An Atlas compressor is also shown, coupled to a 20 h.p. electric motor. The compressor is of the single cylinder type, and can deal with 76 cubic feet of air per minute and deliver it at a pressure of 100 lb. per square inch. Pneumatic tools are shown in operation in conjunction with this exhibit. The company are the British representatives of the Polar-Diesel Co., and claim to be the first engineering concern to instal a Diesel engine on board a vessel.



Marine Semi-Diesel Crude Oil Engine.

A stand of special interest is that of Messrs. Vickers-Petters Ltd., whose exhibits includes various types of semi-Diesel engines, notably a 152 B.h.p. marine four cylinder semi-Diesel crude oil engine, an illustration of which is given on this page. This firm are also showing a 1"-1¼" Petter Junior Lighting set consisting of a V.A. type Petter Junior Engine driving by belt a 1"-1¼" k.w. continuing current generator, and a small demonstration plant showing the units of the Vickers-Petters electric starting apparatus.

Engineers interested in gears should make a point of seeing the Hele-Shaw Martineau devices on the stand of Hydraulic Gears Ltd. This company show a working model of a steering gear with 6 inch rams, and a steering telemotor is also shown at work. There is also a crane and a high-pressure pumping set designed to work at 3,000 lb. per sq. inch. A low pressure pump for an output of 20 tons per hour is also shown, and component parts of other manufactures of the firm are shown in great variety.

Mr. H. R. Richard, well known in the engineering world as a designer, has a number of his productions on the stand of Messrs. Mark Webber, Ltd. One of these is a 10–16 h.p. paraffin engine of high efficiency, which presents many novel and interesting features, and another is a welding set, complete, and suitable for a single operator. The large capacity friction hoist and winch shown is also of more than usual interest.

Whilst on the subject of electric welding, both the engine driven and motor generator types of plant for this purpose are being shown by the Premier Electric Welding Co., Ltd. The engine driven outfit comprises a 10 h.p. engine coupled to a 4½ kilowatt generator on the same bedplate. The engine cooling is by radiator and fan, and the whole outfit is extremely compact and efficient.

Exhibits of strong electrical interest are shown by Siemens and Co., including wireless telegraph sets of the cabinet type. A generator driven by a petrol engine provides the necessary current for the set, to a total of 0.3 k.w., and the transmitter is worked from a 50 volt battery. The receiver has a wave range of from 200 to 2,000 metres, and the outfit would appear to have a number of practical uses. The firm are also showing an extensive range of telegraphic apparatus.

A good deal has been said and written recently on the subject of oil fuel, and a north country contemporary with some claims to engineering knowledge, but apparently with insufficient information, recently championed the burning of raw coal in furnaces and under boilers in preference to the use of oil fuel. The majority of engineers have, however, made up their minds on the subject long ago, but even to these a visit to the various oil fuel exhibits at Olympia will prove of interest. The stands of the Anglo-Mexican and the British Petroleum Companies, and of the Anglo-American Oil Co., are proving centres of attraction. The first-named is showing a large map giving the localities where supplies of oil fuel may be obtained.

The British Petroleum Co., have laid out their stand in a particularly attractive manner, and, as may be expected, bulk oil storage installations form a feature of the Anglo-American Oil Co's exhibits, and demonstrations are given of the ease with which oil can be delivered and removed.

The Universal System of Machine Moulding and Machinery Co., Ltd., have on view several types of power and hand moulding machines for foundry use, and Messrs. Nettlefold and Sons are also staging an attractive exhibit. Amongst other stands worthy of more than passing attention are those of Messrs. Worthington, Simpson, Ltd., Peter Brotherhood, Blackstone and Co., Haslam Foundry and Engineering Co., Reavell and Co., Clarke Chapman and Co., Laurence, Scott and Co., John Kirkaldy and Co., Ltd., the North-Eastern Engineering Co., Thorneycrofts and a host of others. There is no doubt that the exhibition is well arranged and comprehensive, and any reader who has not yet paid it a visit should lose no time in so doing.

An interesting exhibit is that of the Parsons Motor Co., who are showing a 30 k.w. generating set driven by a 60 h.p. four cylinder engine running on ordinary paraffin. The dynamo, which is producing energy at a pressure of 230 volts, is of Crompton manufacture. This firm have produced a highly efficient engine for running on alcohol which should attract considerable attention in the near future. A two-stage Reavell air compressor is shown on this stand driven by a 14 h.p. twin-cylinder engine, which is also driving an electric generating set.

### Miscellaneous.

It is interesting to note that the number of car owners

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joining the A.A. since May 1 last (the commencement of the touring season) shows an increase of 24 per cent. compared with 1920. Applications for home routes have increased by 64 per cent. over last year, whilst the number of triptyques issued to members going abroad has risen by 22 per cent. Over 42,000 calls were made at the London and Area Headquarters, by members and potential members in connection with motoring matters during the four months ended August 31, and it may be taken that, given no unexpected "depressions," the industry should soon be at "set fair."

## OIL NEWS.

### INDO BURMA OILFIELDS.

The Indo Burma Oilfields ( 1920), Limited, are in the fortunate position of a cricket team whose "tail" has had to go in first and has knocked up a respectable score, leaving the best men still to bat. When the Company was formed in February 1920 its hopes were centred in the Yenangyaung oilfield, which had already built up the fortunes of the Burmah Oil Company, the British Burmah Petroleum Company and others; but circumstances delayed the development of the well-sites on this field, and in order not to have production indefinitely postponed, attention was given to other fields owned by the Company. Unexpected success has been met with in these quarters, and the time is now approaching when the "star" field may also begin to be brought into the picture.

The holdings of the Indo Burma Oilfields ( 1920 ) are situated on the Irrawaddy River from 300 to 400 miles above Rangoon. The Yenangyaung field is the most northerly, and of this the Beme reserve area is the most favoured portion. Here the Burmah Oil Company have about 600 wells, with an annual production of 3,600,000 barrels. The new company has secured 77 well sites, which are considered to be excellently placed for production purposes. But wells may have to be drilled from 2,000 to 3,000 feet before the main supply of oil is tapped, and it takes fully nine months to reach these depths. When, therefore, it was found early in 1920 that a year must elapse before the £480,000 order placed in the United States for heavy drilling equipment could be executed, it was decided to make a start in developing one or other of the Company's areas where shallower drilling is required than at Yenangyaung. For this purpose the Yenanma site, some seventy miles lower down on the right bank of the Irrawaddy was selected. Sufficient plant and machinery to start drilling could be secured in Burma, and work was begun without delay. It had been originally estimated by the Company's Consulting Geologist that with an average production of three barrels per well per day this area could be developed into a sound commercial proposition. Up to the present date sixteen wells have been drilled; two of these were exploratory, three are still in process of being sunk; the eleven producing wells have yielded an average of 6¼ barrels. With the informatiom already gained, the area is now being developed laterally and materially improved average results are confidently expected. In the meantime drilling was started last January on another field at Pedaukpin still farther south. Four wells are in process of being sunk so far, and oil was struck in the third at a depth of 1414 feet in the last week of July. The initial yield gave 30 barrels, but by August 3 the actual yield was reported to be 60 barrels. "The striking of oil in this well in such quantity," the Company's Technical Adviser reports, "taken in conjunction with the oil proved years ago by the Burmah Oil Company, conclusively proves that this is a field of the greatest importance, and with the other wells now being drilled and all necessary plant actually on the ground, there can be no doubt whatever that a large production of oil from this area will be attained by the time the refinery is ready for operations, about October or November."

It is believed that several thousand wells can be drilled on the Yenanma area, and it is hoped to have at least one hundred in production early in 1922. Six special drilling machines and equipment purchased in America at the beginning of the year have arrived on the field and are now in use. With one of these drilling machines the actual time taken to drill a well has been less than ten days.

The refinery to which reference has been made is being built on a site of 330 acres on the left bank of the Rangoon River, fifteen miles south of Rangoon, under an agreement with the Yomah Oil Company. Of the estimated cost of £235,000 the Indo Burma Oilfields contribute two-thirds, and will have a proportionate interest in the refinery, which will deal with the products of both companies.

As circumstances have compelled the Company to concentrate its field organization in the Yenanma and Pedaukpin areas, it has recently been decided with a view to saving duplication of staff, to enter into a working arrangement with the Yomah Oil Company, who are themselves owners of a number of wells and well-sites in the Yenangyaung area, to drill some of the "Indo Burma" well sites on terms which are regarded as mutually advantageous to both companies. Under this agreement the Indo Burma Oilfields Company will supply the necessary machinery and plant, while the Yomah Oil Company supply the supervision and labour to drill these wells, receiving as their remuneration a proportion of the oil so obtained which is based upon a sliding scale dependent upon the quantity of machinery and plant which the Indo Burma may be called upon to supply. A start has already been made under this arrangement, and the first well is down to a depth of 490 feet.

Preliminary examination in the Lower Chindwin district has led to application for prospecting licences being made in respect of two areas, that of Nyaungbinle being four square miles and that of Kani two square miles in extent. In each case oil seepages have been found.

In a report dated August 1 the Company's Technical Adviser summarises the position as follows:—

"In spite of the many difficulties inseparable from getting started to work by a new concern the progress made has really been exceptionally good. There have been many disappointing hitches and delays, but it may be safely said that no oil company operating in Burma has ever accomplished the amount of work which this company has done in the comparatively short time since its inception. Recent developments have largely transposed the relative values of the Company's holdings. The Company's Yenangyaung Well Sites remain unchanged, being situated on an old-established thoroughly proved oilfield, but the Yenanma and Padaukpin areas, which had formerly only a potential value are now proved to be immensely more productive and valuable than has been supposed. The geological conditions had been carefully investigated, but only the drill could tell what oil would be met with, and the drilling results to date speak for themselves. We can now confidently assert that production will go on with steady acceleration, and the whole of the operations have been so timed that oil weells, pipe-lines, pumping stations, storage tanks, refinery and selling agencies will all be ready practically simultaneously to complete the chain of operations.

Of the several other undrilled areas which the Company owns or has applied for it is too early to say more than that they have had as much care devoted to their selection as the now proved areas have had and there is much promise of success in their exploitation."

### BEER PRODUCTION IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

Before the war the brewing of beer was one of the most important branches of Czecho-Slovakian (or Bohemian, as it then was) industry. Few brands were better known throughout the world than the Bohemian speciality of "Pilsen beer." During the war the industry steadily declined owing to the lack of raw material. In 1913 there were 666 breweries on the present territory of Czecho-Slovakia, and these produced 13 million hectolitres. This total declined in 1914 to 10½ millions; in 1915 to 9½; in 1916 to six millions; in 1917 to 1½ million hectolitres, while some 200 breweries closed down altogether. After the cessation of hostilities and the establishment of the independent Czecho-Slovak State, the industry began to revive. In 1919 the production was raised to 3½ million hectolitres while the number of breweries at work totalled 566. For the year 1920 the figures were 5½ million hectolitres of output produced by breweries. Although the pre-war figure has not quite been attained, the statistics show a marked improvement, which is expected to continue.

The importance of this industry lies not only in its close connection with agriculture (the annual consumption of barley being about 350,000 tons, and of hops 3,000 to 4,000 tons), but also in the amount it yields to the Government revenue. Moreover, at present, though the output is far below its pre-war level the treasury receives considerable sums from the beer tax, which for example, in the period 1919-1920 yielded 73½ million Czecho-Slovak crowns in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia only. (Statistics for Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia have not yet been published). The greatest portion of this amount was collected in Bohemia, the contribution of this province amounting to over 59 million crowns. During 1919-1920 there were 463 breweries working in Bohemia alone.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Coffee.—Prices are lower. Costa Rica has shed 4s. to 122s. while Indian at 110's has dropped 10s. Colombo at 110's is 2s., lower, but Nairobi at 102s. has gained 6s. Futures are :—September, 47s. ; December, 47s. 3d. ; March, 48s. ; and May 49s.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair request at the official rates. White Mauritius is 1s. down at 49s., and Czecho-Slovakia at 25s. has lost 2s. 6d. Other transactions include West Indian crystallised at 43s. to 48s. 6d. ; white Java at 24s. 6d. ; and beet sugar at 20s.

Oilseeds.—The market has been unsettled during the week. Indian linseed has shed 1s. to 22s., and La Plata at 19s. 3d. has lost 2s. 9d. Rapeseed has been firm with Toria at 22s. 6d.; bold Ferozepore, 21s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore at 20s. 6d. Indian cottonseed at 12s. is 6d. lower, while Egyptian black has risen 9d. to 15s. 3d.

Seed Oils.—Prices have ruled quiet and steady. Linseed oil has shed 2s. at 38s. Crude rape oil remains unchanged at 55s., while refined is 1s. down at 60s. Cotton oil is higher with common edible at 54s. ; Egyptian crude at 47s., and deodorized at 61s. ; increased of 1s., 1s., and 3s. respectively.

Oilcakes.—Business has been brisk. Linseed cake has gained 1s. at 330s., while finest Arachis cake has dropped 2s. to 298s. London-made cottonseed cake in unchanged at 220s.

## YUGOSLAVIA'S WINE PRODUCTION.

The Belgrade journal *Trgovinski Glasnik* reports that the wine trade in the Yugoslav Kingdom is seeking its Government's assistance to make possible the exportation of the surplus production of wine which is estimated at three million hectolitres and worth at the present time about one milliard of dinars. A commission of the Central Society of Croatia and Slavonia have investigated the position of the trade, and have resolved to ask the Ministerial Council to conclude treaties with Czecho-Slovakia and Austria which would assist the exportation of wine to those countries. They further request the Government to (1) raise the tax on exportation and substitute bounties (2) reduce the railway tariff on such wine (3) limit the culture of the vine to existing vineyards (4) take steps that the national copper mine produces the sulphur and copper sulphate necessary for the vineyards (5) create an agency for the exportation of wine produced by agricultural co-operative societies and (7) encourage the exportation of dried grapes.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The *Bulletin* of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of the crop conditions in August :—

Cotton.—The hot weather that prevailed this month has had a marked effect on hastening the maturity of the crop. Shortage of water and subsequent overwatering after the arrival of the flood have adversely affected the crop in some places. Pink boll worm is general and the attack is somewhat more severe than in past years. The crop is still somewhat backward. Picking has begun in some provinces of Upper Egypt and probably will be general by the middle of September.

Millet (Sefi).—Harvesting has begun in Middle Egypt, while it is approaching completion in Upper Egypt. A slight attack of smut and stem-borer has been reported from several provinces, but damage done is negligible. The crop is satisfactory.

Rice (Sefi).—The weather has been favourable and water supply sufficient, except at the tails of some canals. Ears have formed in the early sown crop. The crop is growing satisfactorily and free from pests.

Sugar Cane.—The weather has been very favourable to the growth of the crop. Water supply was generally adequate, though the crop has suffered to a certain extent from the lack of water in Minya Province. The crop is healthy and in a good condition.

Ground Nuts.—The crop is progressing satisfactorily. A good average yield is expected.

## ROUMANIA'S CROP OUTLOOK.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Bucharest, September* 6.

The agricultural department has issued the following report : The maize plant has suffered greatly in some parts of the country. On account of the drought the maize and potato crops will be average ones. Ploughing for autumn sowing has begun. Pasture-lands have benefited from the late rains and are good. Vineyards in general present a good appearance. Fruit is plentiful.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co , Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended August 27 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 13,965 bags compared with 4,155 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 11,465 bags, as against 3,155 bags for the same period last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 2,500 bags as against 1,000 bags for 1920.

Shipments.—The following ships are expected to load about 3-3,500 tons of sultanas and the first lots of figs due to reach the market next week. S.s. Castilian for London ; s.s. Lugue for Liverpool ; s.s. Ganymede for Amsterdam ; and s.s. Megale Hellas for New York.

The weather remains fine, and the gathering and drying of sultanas are in full swing in all districts. Considerable transport difficulties up-country are retarding the movement of fruit to the railway stations, but farmers are sparing no effort to send their produce to market. Financial stringency and adequate supplies are influencing prices downwards, and a further decline of 5s. and 6s. has been recorded over the week. Fine outstanding grades are still scarce. The market is gradually stabilising, and farmers have a tendency to resist further decline.

First arrivals of figs should reach the market on the 29th inst. But as certain differences have arisen between the Greek authorities and the administration of the Ottoman Public Debt with reference to the collection of the tithe duty, it is probable that arrivals will be held up a few days pending settlement of this question.

For the week ended September 3 Messrs. Giraud report :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 38,480 bags as against 15,390 bags for the corresponding period of 1920. The total estimated sales are 26,480 bags as compared with 14,390 bags, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 12,000 bags as against 1,000 bags last year.

Figs.—The week's estimated arrivals are 7,883 loads as compared with 18,200 loads for the corresponding period of 1920. The estimated sales are 7,883 loads as against 18,200 loads.

Shipments.—The estimated shipment per s.s. Castilian for London are 106,409 boxes sultanas, 695 cases figs, 140 boxes figs, and 5,627 bags figs, and per s.s. Lugue for Liverpool, 59,433 boxes sultanas, 872 cases figs, 1,116 boxes figs, and 1,202 bags figs. S.s. Ganymede for Amsterdam, s.s. Malatian for Liverpool, and s.s. Antigone for London are sailing on the 10th inst, and s.s. Destro for London-Hull is sailing on the 15th inst.

The Sultana market ruled fairly steady the first four days of the week under the influence of the heavy purchases effected for shipment by the s.s. Castilián and Lugue. The withdrawal of the leading buyers on Friday, pressure of arrivals, and financial stringency forced a sudden break in values of 5s. to 6s., and the market closed on Saturday very weak and irregular. The oversold account for September is estimated at over 4,500 tons, and shippers must commence buying on a larger scale before long. Farmers up country are resisting the decline, and the interior markets at Magnesia, Cassaba, etc., are at present well above Smyrna parities. Some reaction must consequently be reckoned with before long.

Figs are a steady market, and all arrivals will be daily absorded against September engagements, prices being regulated by the extent of the supplies. Estimates of the yield have been slightly lowered consequent on the loss of fruit by the extreme heat.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended September 10 amounted to £15,455.

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## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 155s. cwt.; (Canadian), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 112s. 6d. cwt.; butter (Danish), 239s. 6d. cwt.; (Australian), 197s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 227s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 113s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 118s. cwt. chillies, 155s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 25s. 6d. per 120; (Styrian) 19s. 3d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon' good to fine), 85s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 146s. 6d. cwt.' (East India), 140s. cwt.; (Jamaca), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha' longberry), 113s. 6d. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 65s. cwt.; lard' 89s. cwt.; ham, 160s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 47s. 6d' cwt.;' nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore' black), 4½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 9½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias)' 101s. 3d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 85s. 6d. cwt.; currants' (Vostizza), 75s. 6d. cwt.; (Calamata), 48s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (Lyle's granulated), 57s. 1½d. cwt.; (Tate's cubes), 62s. 3d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 50s. 3d. cwt.; (West India crystallized), 46s. 6d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 19s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt.; (flour); 17s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 22s. 9d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £9 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 8½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 3½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 4d. lb.; (Ceylon, common to good common), 10d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 4d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; (Java, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 58s. qr.; (La Plata), 82s. qr.; (Australian), 75s. 1½d. qr.; barley (malting), 88s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 33s. 3d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 37s. 9d. qr.; flour, 56s. 6d. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £67 5s. ton; copper (electro), £73 ton; gold bars, 110s. 5½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 134s. 6d. ton; hematite (mixed number), 161s. 3d. ton; galvanized sheets (24G), £20 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 41s. 3d. unit; nickel, £19s. ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 2s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 39d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 12s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £156 6s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 13s. 3½d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin p' tes (20 by 14), 22s. 3d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £13 11s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £31 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent), £16 8s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 125s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bi-chromate, 8¾d. lb.; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic, £30 10s. ton; nitrate, £48 10s. ton; permanganate, 11½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent), £19 ton; Sodium: Crystals, 141s. 3d. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 10s. ton; bi-chromate, 6¾d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 5s. ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £17 10s. ton; prussiate, 7d. lb.; nitrate, £18 10s. ton; glycerine: (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; industrial, (1260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 4s. lb.; quinine, 4s. 0½d. lb.; red lead, £39 15s. ton; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton; white ground lead, £53 ton; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 117s. 6d. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 10½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 10½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 10½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 10d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 8d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 9½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 9d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 8½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under 8d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5,1-8d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb.; Kips (first), 6½d. lb.; (second), 5½d. lb.; (third), 3½d. lb. Calcutta Market (Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic Hides (cows)—Agras, 7 to 12.8; Durbhangas, 6 to 7; Patnas, 4 to 6. Salted cows, 3 to 6; Arsenic hides (buffalos. 3 to 5.8. Skins—Calf, 8 to 10; goat, 250 to 285 per 100 piece)

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton: (American), 13.00d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakell), 20.25d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £20 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £22 6s. 3d. ton; soya beans, £15 5s. ton; palm kernals, £22 18s. 9d. ton; sesame seed (China), £30 ton; castor seed (Bombay), £19 10s. ton; Oils: Linseed, 38 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; palm, £42 10s. ton; rape (crude), £55 ton; soya, £43 ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; ground nut, £51 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £42 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £53 10s. ton; Shellac (T.N. second orange), 302s. 6d. cwt.; (A.C. garnet), 282s. 6d. cwt.; rosin (American), 21s. cwt.; turpentine (American), 65s. 9d. cwt.; Rubber: (Plantation No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb.; (smoked sheet), 8¼d. lb.; (fine hard Para), 1s. 0½d. lb.

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Monsieur E. Gueshoff, Manager of the Bulgarian Bank of Commerce who has just returned from a business tour in the United States, is making a short stay in London before proceeding to Bulgaria.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts and must be made by the dates mentioned,*

**Bulgaria.**

Brackets, etc.—The Bulgarian Ministry of Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply of brackets bolts, and other hardware furniture of telegraph and telephone lines. October 12.

**Egypt.**

Bags.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 10,000 money bags October 8.

Water Tubing.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of 5,500ft. 2in. galvanized wrought-iron water tubing and fittings. September 26.

**India.**

Cast Iron Pipes.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of cast-iron pipes, special castings, sluice valves, &c. October 31.

**Roumania.**

Linen, etc.—H.M. Consul at Cluj reports that the local Department of Social Welfare and Hygiene invites tenders for the supply of (1) Linen for underclothes and bed linen. (2) Mattresses, blankets, counterpanes, children's clothing and other made up goods. (3) Household utensils including saucepans (enamelled and not enamelled) fry-pans, cutlery, copper cauldrons, etc.

Tenders can cover all or any of these three groups. Tenders for parts of groups will not be accepted. The adjudication will be held on October 25 at 10 a.m. at the Inspectorate General, Calea Victoriei 20, Cluj. Tenders should be addressed to "Inspectoratil General a Sanatati si Octorotierei Social" at this address. Local representation is essential. (D.O.T.).

**Yugoslavia.**

*Oil.*—The "Ekonomoko Odelanje" of the Ministry of Communications invites tenders for all or part of the following oil contract:—For October 5, for the supply of: (a) 799,500 kilos engine and axle oil for summer use. (b) 931,500 kilos engine and axle oil for winter use. (c) 395,000 kilos cylinder oil. (d) 211,000 kilos cylinder oil for superheated steam. For October 10 for the supply of:—(a) 706,000 kilos oil for the production of gas and for driving Diesel motors. (b) 1,370,000 kilos refined petroleum. (c) 480,000 kilos petrol. Offers must be written on the special form supplied by the Ministry of Communications, Belgrade. (D.O.T.).

Hospital Stores.—The Ministry of Public Health, Belgrade invites tenders for the supply of the following hospital stores:—1,500 women's aprons of strong unbleached calico; 2,000 women's skirts of strong unbleached calico. Tenders close September 29. 900 flannel skirts, 900 flannel blouses. Tenders close September 30. 2,000 bed sheets of strong unbleached calico. Tenders close October 1. 500 overalls and 500 caps for use at operations These should be made of panama, pique, or drill. Tenders close October 1. 500 doctors' overalls, 500 orderlies' overalls doctors' overalls to be made of panama, pique or drill, and the orderlies' overalls of strong unbleached calico. Tenders close October 3. 500 coloured overalls for orderlies, to be made of American drill. Tenders close October 4. 4,000 pillow cases: 500 orderlies' overalls of strong unbleached calico. Tenders close October 5. 2,000 bed sheets of strong unbleached calico. Tenders close October 6. 20,000 kilos of soap in pieces of ½-kilo each. Closing date for tenders not stated but presumably about October 6. All tenders must be in sealed envelopes bearing a 10 dinars duty stamp and addressed to:—Ministarstvo Narodnog Zdravlja, Belgrade. (D.O.T.).

Cloth.—The Army Clothing Department, Donji Grad, Belgrade, of the Yugoslav Kingdom invites tenders for the supply of:—577,000 metres of khaki (Lovat) cloth for army great coats and breeches: 196,000 metres of khaki (Lovat) cloth for tunics, caps and puttees. Delivery is required as follows:—One third by January 1, 1922, one third by end of January 1922, and one third by end of February 1922. Tenders close October 1. Tenders are also invited for 300,000 metres of hemp cloth for lining. Delivery to be made in three consignments of 100,000 metres each in January, February, and March 1922. Tenders close October 15. (D.O.T.).

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The American Consul General at Athens reports that the population of that city has increased from 175,430 to 300,460 since 1907. The growth since 1918 has been about 400,000. Piraeus, the port of Greece, has doubled its population since 1907, the present population being 74,850. The population of other cities is Salonika, 171,981; Adrianople, 49,170; Patras, 45,500; Volo, 30,295; Kavalla, 21,862; Larissa, 20,809; Kalamata, 20,650; Syra, 19,500; Kirk-Kilissé, 16,335; Drama, 16,224; Serrés, 14,371; Pyrgos, 12,907; Laurium, 5,997.

OAKEY'S WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH.
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks 1d., 2d., and 4d. 1s. Boxes.
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d. 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers,
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## ITALY'S TROUBLES WITH KEMALISTS.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Smyrna, September 9.*

The Kemalists have not forgotten what they learned from the Germans in connection with the commandeering of goods. The coasting steamers arriving at Smyrna from Kuluk, Adalia, and Scala-Nova are loaded with goods which merchants have shipped away to avoid paying the 40 per cent. duty recently levied by the Kemalists. As the Italians are installed at these ports the greater part of the business has passed into the hands of their nationals, who are now experiencing very heavy losses. The only compensation offered by the Kemalists for goods commandeered is a rebate of 10 per cent. on the new import duty of 40 per cent., but as nobody will import goods on these terms, the result is that the merchants lose the value of the goods commandeered. A considerable loss falls on British Smyrna cloth merchants who have considerable stocks in Adalia. The Italians are much incensed, and are endeavouring to intimidate the Kemalists by increasing their forces at Scala-Nova, where they have recently landed 500 men, and Adalia, where they keep a naval force. The Kemalists, however, are in a very ugly mood, and it is feared that Italian merchants may have a choice of either abandoning their holdings or running the risk of being massacred.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 27) ; s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 11).

*Anchor Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, September 24) ; s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 1) ; s.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, October 8) ; s.s. Malia for Calcutta (Manchester, November 5).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 28) ; s.s. Oxfordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (London, September 28 ; Birkenhead, October 12).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Maid of Athens for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 28.) A steamer will sail from Liverpool on October 15 for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Macbrayne for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 27) ; s.s. Clan Macvicar for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead about October 7).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Phrygia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, etc. (Manchester, September 27; and Swansea, October 4) ; s.s. Brescia for Ceuta, Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk and Batoum (Glasgow, November 3).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Asturian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, October 8).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Manila for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 3) ; s.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 15).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay, Karachi, the Punjab, and Malabar Coast ports (Liverpool, October 1) ; s.s. City of Palermo for Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, October 15).

*Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 6) ; s.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 20).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Inventor for Calcutta (Liverpool, October 1) ; s.s. Professor for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, etc. (Birkenhead, October 6).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Henzada for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 5).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Incemore for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 1) ; s.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 22).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Siptah for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Syra, Piraeus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 24) ; s.s. Amasis for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, September 24) ; s.s. Lugue for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 4).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, October 22).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. China for Bombay (taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden ; also (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian Coast and Persian Gulf ports) (London, September 23) ; s.s. Padua for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden) (London, September 24) ; s.s Novara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 7) ; s.s. Devanha for Bombay (London, October 7).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports) London September 23) ; s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargorfor Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London September 30) ;

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97 15-32 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 72.50-73.50 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 220-230 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £..... | 22.43 | 378-387 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1 .5 3-16-1.5¼d |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 360-380 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1'5 3-16-1,5¼d |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 580-600 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3,70¾-3.71¼ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 52.35-52.80 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 305-315 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 87,00-88.00 |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 580-620 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 4000-4200 |
| Warsaw ... | Marks to ..... | 20.43 | 1,550-1,600 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.


**ANCHOR LINE**

**First-Class Passengers only.**

**LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.**

**KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt**

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

MASSILIA, OCTOBER 4,
ELYSIA, OCTOBER, 19,
CIRCASSIA, NOVEMBER, 2,
OLYMPIA, NOVEMBER 18.

**Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,**
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.



**GERMAN MARKS OVER 400 TO THE £**

**Has the Depreciation of the German Mark come to an end.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.—Exclusive information on the present position of GERMAN MARKS and an indication as to the future price movements. (Highest last year, 353—lowest, 147), together with CABLE INFORMATION FROM OUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE NOW IN FRANKFURT A-MAINE can be obtained free of charge by Investors writing to the :—

**Foreign Exchange Department,**
**THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,**
**Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London S.W. 1.**


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## CZECHO-SLOVAKIA'S TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

In less than two years the Czecho-Slovak Republic has increased its telephone lines by no less a length than 6,250 miles. At the moment of the proclamation of Czecho-Slovak independence in October 1918 there did not exist in the whole country even six miles length of copper wire with which to start new constructions and yet in the time which has elapsed since then, the Republic has constructed new telephones lines equivalent to all that was constructed by Austria-Hungary through several decades.

Two years ago there was only a single line between Prague and Brno, while the west of the Republic, Bohemia and Moravia, were not directly connected at all by telephone with the east. This state of affairs was the result of the Austrian policy of centralization, which demanded that all roads should lead to Vienna or Budapest. To-day there exists direct communication between Prague and all the principal towns of the Republic. Direct communication has been established with Austria and Germany, with Yugoslavia and with Hungary, and negotiations are proceeding for communication with Poland and with Switzerland.

This is really a noteworthy achievement when one considers the scarcity and high price of material, the enormous cost of labour, and the financial and other difficulties under which the Republic has laboured.

## THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ROUMANIA.

The Bucharest correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* takes a pessimistic view of the economic position in Roumania. Writing in the issue of September 2, he says that: In spite of all the semi-official announcements as to the extremely favourable economic conditions in Roumania it cannot be denied that that country is in the midst of a serious crisis. The financial reforms which have been accepted by the Assembly and will come into force in September will not for the present apparently fulfil the hopes which the Finance Minister, M. Titulescu, placed in them. In order to meet the most urgent expenditure, he is now negotiating with the National Bank for the issue of a large loan, but the bank is insisting on anything but favourable conditions. The loan concluded in the spring with a French group against a delivery of 20,000 truckloads of grain has been called in by the French since Roumania is in arrears with these grain deliveries. Accordingly, not only private individuals in Roumania, but the State itself as well, is passing through a serious crisis.

With regard to private individuals there seems no prospect of a speedy termination of the sales and output crisis. Last spring Italian, Austrian, French and last, but not least, Roumanian importers imported a vast quantity of industrial products, far more indeed than the Roumanian market could absorb. All the warehouses are packed with goods. A large number of Italian and Roumanian importers obtained their goods with the aid of large credits from the banks, and when these credits fell due, and there was no prospect of finding ready purchasers for the goods, compulsory sales were necessitated owing to the pressure exerted by the banks. Italian firms in particular suffered severely, and a large number of manufacturing firms were involved in financial difficulties These forced sales, together with the continually increasing supply, resulted in prices falling as much as 60 per cent. and more. Nevertheless, no modification of the sales crisis can as yet be foreseen, for the consumption capacity of the Roumanian population is limited.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**FOUNDED 1863.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Capital** | - | **£10,000,000** |
| **Paid-up** | - | **£5,000,000** |
| **Reserve** | - | **£1,250,000** |

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.

Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Sub-Directors.
J. UNGAR

DJEVAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

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**LONDON.**

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
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## ON 'CHANGE.

### GREEK SECURITIES WEAK.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday.

Conditions during the week have been distinctly adverse to any improvement in the markets, Irish developments in particular having a weakening tendency. There are no signs so far of a reviving interest on the part of the investing public, and anything of the kind is scarcely to be looked for until the situation in general is much brighter.

The gilt-edged group is distinctly harder on the week. Consols are ¼ up at 48,1-8, while War Loan Fives are 5-8 up at 88,13-16, and Fundings are 1,3-8 up at 73¼. In Near Eastern securities which rank as British Government stocks. Egyptian guaranteed 3 per cent. are 68xd, Greek guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are 66, while Turkish guaranteed 4 per cent., 1855 are 69. The Sudan 5½ per cent Loan is now 94½, while the India 7 per cent. Loan is 103.

There has been little doing in the industrial group. A few specialities developed strength, but the tendency on the whole was irregular. Iron and steel shares were on the weak side, while Textiles were rather dull. A strong tone has developed in Shipping securities. P. and O. has risen 15 to 365, this being on account of expectations with regard to the dividend, while Furness Withys are 24s. 3d. Motor shares have been weak. Kaffirs have been rather a bright feature, Rand Mines rising to 2½, and Modders to 7¾. A feature in the mining groups was the weakness in De Beers and Rio Tintos, the former being 12,1-8 after being lower, while Tintos have touched 28½.

**Oils Dull.**

It has been a bad week for Oils, and prices are generally low. There would appear to be some prospect that, considerably reduced dividends are in view, in which case we shall see lower values all round. Anglo-Egyptian are 1-16 down at 1,3-8, while Roumanian Consolidated have dropped 9d. at 9s. 9d. Steaua Roumana are exceptionally 3d. up at 11s. 3d., while Phœnix are unchanged at 9s. Burmahs at 5,5-8 are 1-8 down.

The outlook seems to be rather better with regard to Rubber, and the market is assuming a somewhat firmer aspect. The latest trade returns show a marked development in the export of the commodity, and should this tendency develop it will not be long before stocks have reached a point at which a share revival will become possible, though in view of the general conditions it would be unwise to harbour great expectations.

Bank shares have been firm. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are 3, while the Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are ¼ up at 55¾. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 3-8 down at 7,7-8, but National Bank of Egypts are ¼ up at 20. Bank of Athens are unchanged at 2,3-8, while Ionians are 3¼.

A weak tone has developed in Greek securities. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 1½ down at 42, while the 5 per cent 1884 issue is 2 down at 39. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan has gained ½ at 34½. The 5 per cent. Funding Loan is 39, while the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 41½.

**Egyptians Firm.**

The firm tendency in land shares has continued. Beheras are 11, while Behera Prefs are 3¼. Egyptian Delta Lands are 3d. up at 9s. 6d., while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s. 3d. New Egyptian are 25s. 6d., while Sudan Plantations are 1-8 up at 3,1-8. Union Foncieres are 1-8 down at 2,7-8.

### CZECHO-SLOVAK SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The Czecho-Slovak sugar companies are now beginning to hold their general meetings, and the balance sheets which have been submitted show that, as a whole, the assets are considerable. The season 1920-1921 was one of the most successful which the sugar companies have had. The profits have been far greater than was expected, especially as production of beetroot is still only two-thirds, and in some cases, one-half of what it was before the war. The balance sheet issued by the Nymburk Sugar Refinery which held its fifty-first general meeting on August 20, is typical of the present situation. The Nymburk Sugar Refinery is a very small concern, its output having been only 36,000 quintals for the past season. It belongs to a joint stock company with a capital of less than half a million crowns. The shares, whose nominal value are 600 crowns each, are quoted at 729,1-9. As a result of last season's activities this company has realised a profit of 2,358,000 crowns, which, with the sum of 2,402,000 crowns brought forward from the preceding year, produces a total profit of 4,760,000 crowns, or ten times greater than the share capital. The share-holders received a dividend of 185 per cent., or 1,050 crowns per share, and this does not represent even a quarter of the actual profit. The company could actually pay a dividend of 500 per cent., and even then it would have a surplus of 1¾ million crowns at its disposal. The Czecho-Slovak Company for the Sugar Industry (Sugar Bank) which is one of the most important sugar concerns in the country, announces a dividend for 1920 amounting to 110 crowns per share, or 55 per cent, as compared with 60 crowns or 30 per cent. last year. The company is increasing its capital by 8 million crowns.

### ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on September 2 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 17-32 ; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7 ; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½ ; Associated Cotton Ginners, £27-32 ; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 57½ ; Behera Ord., £E 9¾ ; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £5-8 ; Cassa di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100 ; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 55 ; Ciments d'-Egypte Div., Fr., 30 ; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £15-16 ; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5½ ; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 810 ex ; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 642 ; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 319½ ; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110 ex. ; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130 ; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr., 78 ; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 104½ ; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 6d. ; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4,5-32 ex. ; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10 5-8 ; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 7-16 ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s. ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2 9-16 ; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £4 19-32 ; Kom Ombo Ste., Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex. ; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37 ; Lots Turc., Fr., 37½ ; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270 ; Nungovich Hotels, £6 5-8 ; Ramleh Railways, £2 15-16 ; Salt and Soda, Pt., 353 ; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr., 51½ ; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr., 65½ ; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2 13-16 ; Egypt Hotels, £1 27-32 ; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

Bulgarian Five per Cent. Gold Loan 1902—The Bulgarian Government is prepared to pay to French, British and Belgian bondholders coupon No. 38 of the above loan maturing on September 14, 1921, at French francs 12.50 each, and bonds drawn for redemption of that date at French francs 500 each.


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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester, Friday.*

Trading conditions in the market during the past week have not been favourable to a large turnover. Many people are not confident that the present level of values will be maintained. Orders, therefore, are being placed with caution. The advices relating to the Egyptian cotton crop state that the plants are now making normal progress. Buying by spinners this week has not been important. Rates have fluctuated from day to day, but on balance there is not much change. A feature of interest has been the extensive buying in Peruvian cotton, the week's sales being over 20,000 bales. Good grade American material has also attracted considerable attention, and Lancashire spinners seem determined to secure their supplies for several months ahead. Prices in Egyptian yarns seem to be out of the reach of buyers, and only a limited business has been done. Operations in American yarns have been on a restricted scale and quotations remain very irregular. A rather increased turnover has taken place in piece goods for the Near East, and buyers for Egypt, the Levant, and Persia have been fairly active. Most of the buying has been out of stock. On the other hand, India has given very little support, and only occasional lines have been put through for China. Manufacturers are still full of complaints, and it is exceedingly difficult to secure prices which are worth having.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 15 :—

Although fluctuations have again been frequent and somewhat violent in all markets, the past week shows a certain improvement on the preceding one, and as we write the trade looks distinctly more settled than it did a week ago. The tendency of prices is still upwards, but we cannot say that business, as yet, shows many signs of broadening in this department. Egyptian yarn is not moving off as we would like to see it, and, although various sources speak of an increased enquiry, the offers made are by no means compatible with the enhanced value of the raw material. However, a threatened labour dispute at Oldham has fortunately been settled, and, provided that the markets in Alexandria and Liverpool find a steadier basis, there is quite a fair prospect of spinners and manufacturers coming to terms.

The enquiry on the spot here has been only a moderate one until yesterday when a marked improvement took place, practically all grades and classes of Egyptian cotton being in request. Still, no interest has been shown by spinners generally in the new crop, which is the more remarkable considering the varied and somewhat doubtful accounts which have been received concerning it. A cable just to hand from Egypt predicts a lower yield and lower quality than last year, and gives as a preliminary estimate a figure of 4¼ million kantars. The critical time will be during the next six weeks, and crop reports should be carefully studied during this period by those interested. Very little c.i.f. business has been reported of late, and it seems likely that before the end of the season something in the nature of a scramble for cotton may be witnessed on the part of spinners who find themselves running short before the new crop has time to arrive.

Rather more interest has been displayed in this market of late by spinners of American cotton, as, owing to the high prices asked for American staple at present, Egyptian cotton appears relatively cheap. This, however, is a more or less normal occurrence which is often seen at the tail end of the season, and we do not expect very much from this enquiry. Total sales, 1,900 bales, which includes 300 bales Sudan. Quotations are raised 50 points all round.

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It is announced that the Trieste Samples Fair has been postponed until May, 1922.

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Sir P. W. Newson Bart., of Messrs. Jardine, Skinner and Co. of Calcutta, has been appointed a director of the Eastern Bank

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It is proposed to hold an All India Hand Weaving Exhibition at Patna, commencing the first week in December.

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Numbers are announced of bonds of the Piraeus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Bonds drawn for repayment at par on October 15.

## COTTON INDEX NUMBER.

### STRIKING ADVANCE.

The recent pronounced upward movement in raw cotton rates is reflected in the index number of current cotton prices which appears in the monthly Cotton Trade Circular published this week by Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester. In each case the basis of calculation is 100 and this represents the price ruling at the end of July 1914. The general average now is 219, compared with 174 a month ago, which brings the figure to the same level as at the end of 1920. Egyptian cotton has advanced 65 points and American cotton 61 points to 253 and 195 respectively. Yarn prices have not increased to the same extent, the rise being 42 points to 221 for American descriptions, and in the case of Egyptian the number now is 228 which is 37 points higher. The appreciation in cloth values has been 21 points, from 177 to 198.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON COMPANY DIVIDENDS.

### COMPARATIVE FIGURES.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall has just issued his usual monthly analysis of the stocktaking returns of Lancashire cotton spinning companies. For three months trading to the end of August 22 companies with a total paid-up ordinary share capital of £2,440,682, have paid an average dividend per company of 8.56 per cent. per annum. Of these 22 companies seven were unable to make a distribution to shareholders, but four companies paid 5 per cent., five 10 per cent., five 20 per cent., and one 25 per cent. per annum. The previous average dividends for the same 22 companies were : quarter ended May 1921 8.95 per cent., quarter ended February 1921 27.24 per cent., quarter ended November 1920 47.45 per cent., and quarter ended Agust 1920 51.23 per cent. per annum.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 10 :—American sensations reflect in Bombay cotton market where considerable excitement prevails. Fine Broach cotton price rose from Rs. 442 on September 1, to Rs. 491 and 8 annas on September 7, and closed at Rs. 489 on September 8. Large quantities purchased by exporters to Japan and Europe. Ready supplies dwindling. Calcutta jute mills will continue work for four days to end of the year, with proviso of one month's notice. Hutur-Hesla railway survey by East Indian Railway s anctioned, covering 101 miles near south Karanpura Coalfields.

A further cable dated September 13, states :— Season: September 5 to 7—Heavy rain in parts of Central Provinces, and in Central India West. September 9—Monsoon strengthened slightly in Burma, North-east India and to the south of Peninsula, but weak over rest of country. September 10—Active in south of Peninsula and Gangetic Plain. September 11—Active except in North-west India and Deccan. Condition of crops. September 9—Punjab—unchanged. Central Provinces—some rain has fallen but more needed. Rice excellent. Cotton very good to excellent ; break has improved cotton. Sesamum good. Assam—unchanged. Markets. Cotton.—Bombay cotton market, September 8—Steady. Oomras Rs. 440 December—January, Rs. 470 September. Cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to August 31, 1921, were 2,879,000 bales as compared with 3,427,000 bales last year. Piece-goods.—In Bombay piece-goods market, enquiry not encouraging. Jute and Gunnies.—Calcutta jute market on September 9, firm. Rates unchanged. Gunnies on 10th quiet but steady. Tea.—At the taa sale on September 6 quality was irregular, fie second flush Assams,d Darjeelings, and early Dooars cominng to an end. Prices followe quality. Whole leaf teas barely steady ; Dusts firm. 160,715 packages sold to date at an average price of nine annas one pie per lb. Rice.—In Rangoon rice market speculative element strong. Special rice, September 9—Rupees 635. No change in bank rates.

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It is hoped to increase the production of phosphates in Morocco to 500,000 tons by 1926, and 1,750,000 tons by 1930.

It is reported that the output of oil of roses in Bulgaria is 50 per cent. larger this year, than that of last year.

The pre-war coal production of Bulgaria amounted to 358,000 tons, and 108,000 tons were imported. Last year's production was 711,687 tons, and only 1,500 tons were imported, whereas Bulgaria needs at least 1,500.000 tons yearly.

The Bank of England give notice that Sudan Government £5½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds will be ready for delivery in exchange for fully-paid scrip certificates on and after September 9. The scrip certificates should be lodged at the Loans Office, 5-6, Lombard-street, E.C., and must be left at least three clear days for examination prior to the issue of the bonds.

517,134 tons of coal were imported into Alexandria from January 1 to August 19. Of this total 58,130 tons were Welsh, 13,671 tons Scotch and 445,333 tons other qualities. During the corresponding period last year 262,758 tons were imported. The stock of coal now held ashore is about 11,500 tons.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 542—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Asia Minor Struggle.*

After the Greek Army had recrossed the River Sakaria its withdrawal would seem to have been carried out without any serious interference by the Turkish forces. It now holds a line some fifty miles east of Eskishehir. The Greek Minister of War is reported to have announced at Broussa that the Hellenic Government proposes to proclaim the annexation of "the territory occupied by the Greek troops," but it has yet to be confirmed that the Government's intention has reference to all the territory west of the line actually held by the army. Possibly some of the enemies of the present regime in Greece would like to see it make this mistake; for even if the Allied Powers acquiesed in the proposal, it would not be long before the Turkish population, who now, smarting under Mustapha Kemal's exactions, are prepared to welcome the Greek occupation, would remember that they were Turks and lend themselves to irredentist propaganda. Unless all the indications are at fault, the time is coming when public opinion the world over, freed from the prejudices and pacts that have lowered the prestige of the Supreme Council, will make short shrift of imperialist designs in the Near East. Greece will then stand to lose much more than would be the case if she voluntarily accepted an equitable settlement now.

### *Bulgaria's Army.*

The Council of Ambassadors has accorded permission to Bulgaria to retain temporarily thirteen thousand frontier guards and gendarmes on a conscript basis. Its action is a commonsense one in view of all the facts. By the terms of the Treaty of Neuilly Bulgaria had to disband entirely her conscript army and was to be allowed to keep only twenty thousand men under arms, to be obtained by voluntary enlistment for twelve years' service. The first efforts to enrol men on the voluntary system failed, and the Bulgarian Government pleaded for permission to retain a conscript force. When the Ambassadors' Council proved deaf to entreaty, as well as to the recommendations of the Inter-Allied Military Mission in Bulgaria, the members of the Government made it a personal matter to attempt to secure voluntary recruits. Aided by the presence of large numbers of unemployed refugees from Thrace and Macedonia, they succeeded in raising 3,500 volunteers, and at the eleventh hour the Ambassadors in Paris, influenced, no doubt, by the folly of leaving Balkan frontiers to the mercy of *komitajis* of all the local nationalities have compromised by sanctioning the temporary retention of thirteen thousand conscripts. The total force of soldiers and gendarmes thus falls short for the present of the twenty thousand contemplated; but if the Bulgarians maintain the level-headed and correct attitude that they have maintained hitherto in their troubles since their defeat, the number will be sufficient for practical purposes. It is to be hoped that all sections of the population, including Macedonian and Thracian refugees, will recognise that the concession in regard to the conscript army has been made on the strength of Bulgaria's good behaviour, and will draw the appropriate lesson from this fact.

### *Serbia and Albania.*

All the admiration that the new Yugoslav State won for itself as a result of the correctness of its attitude over the Fiume question is being endangered by the actions of the Serbian Military party in regard to Albania. The Allies turned a blind eye to what happened in Montenegro; they are not likely to repeat their criminal neglect in the case of Albania, a member of the League of Nations; and unless public opinion in Yugoslavia can restrain the elements in Serbia responsible for a policy of frontier aggression, the new State will find itself handicapped by universal distrust and prejudice. Centrifugal forces are already at work in the Triune Kingdom, and the action of the Serbian Military party can only strengthen them. Anyone acquainted with the Balkans is prepared to hear of rifles going off of their own accord on either side of a frontier, and in ordinary circumstances not much attention is paid to such incidents. But it is a different matter when a 24 hours' ultimatum passes between the two Governments. Fortunately for Albania the League of Nations is in session, and as far as can be judged from reports from Geneva the Yugoslav plea of innocence failed to carry conviction owing in part to the *komitaji* manners of the Serbian delegate, which seem to have elicited a well-merited rebuke from Lord Robert Cecil.

### *Frontier Fighting.*

In frontier incidents in the Balkans it is always rash to infer that the fault is altogether on one side; but there can be little doubt that the Serbians have put themselves in the wrong by sending an ultimatum to the Albanians without referring their quarrel to arbitration, as they

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bound themselves to do under the charter of the League of Nations. As a matter of fact at the very time when the ultimatum was delivered, the frontier question was before the League. The only interpretation that will be placed on their action is that the aggressors were eager to forestal the League's decision. The Balkans, to say nothing of the Allies, expect better things from the Yugoslav Kingdom. For once in a way the advantage of getting in the first blow has not outweighed the value of a just cause. Russian mercenaries—their employment in this work will tend to modify the good opinion hitherto held of Serbian altruism towards Russian refugees—would seem to have been found no match for the Albanians. The whole business is unsavoury, and we are confident that the best public opinion in Yugoslavia must be against it.

### *The Constantinople Plot.*

The attitude of the Constantinople Government in regard to the plot discovered for the assassination of General Harington and other British officers has been expressly commended by the General, who has expressed his satisfaction in another *communique*. He had already extended the time limit of seven days originally granted for the arrest of the conspirators ; and though one report from Constantinople stated that nine persons had been arrested, including an *aide-de-camp* of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, it appears to be uncertain whether all those named on the General's list have yet been secured. It is possible that further investigation has proved the plot to be far less important and less widespread than the first sensational reports cabled over here would have led us to think. But until the results of the official inquiry are published—if they ever are published—it would be unprofitable to speculate further on that aspect of the case.

### *Disturbing Rumours.*

Unfortunately, the affair has taken on a fresh aspect in the past week, and, moreover, a highly unpleasant one. Messages from Constantinople, received in the latter part of last week, referred to the alarm caused in Turkish circles by rumours that the British had 'manufactured' the plot in order that they might have a good pretext to overthrow the Constantinople Government and to tighten their hold on the city. It is not the first time that malicious rumours of this kind have been spread in Constantinople, but on previous occasions they have usually been treated with contempt, as they deserved. This time, however, the case is different ; for it is reported that the present rumours emanate from French sources, and there appears to be only too good reason to believe that such is the case. Naturally this report created much irritation when it reached London, and it is certain that unless French agents are restrained by headquarters from spreading such baseless stories, real harm will be done to the relations between our two countries. In the circumstances it was not unnatural that the announcement that General Harington had left Constantinople on September 22 on a month's leave should have given rise to the belief that he had been recalled. A report published in certain English papers on the previous day, to the effect that both the High Commissioner in Constantinople and the French Ambassador in London had formally protested against the measures taken by General Harington is hard to believe ; but in view of past events it found ready credence in many quarters. We are glad to believe, however, that General Harington's departure is due to his own desire to put his views before the Foreign Office and the War Office.

### *Zaghloul Pasha's Guests.*

The Labour Members of Parliament who are visiting Egypt at the request of Zaghloul Pasha had an extremely demonstrative reception from the extremists at Alexandria on their landing, and from the same party a few days later on their arrival in Cairo. They have issued a manifesto of precisely the kind to be expected from them, with suitable references to 'self-determination' the 'elected representatives of the Egyptians,' and the abolishing of 'repressive measures' ; and some of them at any rate, have indulged in a flow of 'oratory' which can hardly have created a favourable impression upon the educated members of their audience. In fact, it is clear that their visit is not regarded with unmixed favour even in circles which profess keen anxiety for 'independence.' One native journal, before they arrived, was unkind enough to refer to "this ill-omened month, September, in which the British troops entered Egypt" and in which some of "the British Imperialist Members of Parliament intend to come to Egypt." It went on to suggest that it would be said that by inviting the Labour delegation the Egyptians had laid themselves open to a charge of being unable to do without their help ; and it spoke—rather bluntly, we feel—of 'the coal-miner Swan wishing to consolidate the British Occupation and perpetuate British rule.' Moreover, it was indiscreet enough to refer to the expenses of "Swan and his colleagues" being paid by the Zaghloulists. If Messrs. Swan and company recognize themselves as the "Imperialists" referred to, they will perhaps entertain some doubts regarding the fitness of the Egyptians as a whole for self-determination, etc., etc.

### *The Rowanduz Rising.*

A Colonial Office *communique* reports that the trouble with the Kurds in the Rowanduz area has been dealt with successfully by a combined force of local levies and police under British officers, assisted by aeroplanes. It mentions also that the trouble was due to Turkish intrigues among the Kurds, and that a small Turkish force actually invaded Mesopotamia. The entry of this Turkish element into the affair lent it a certain seriousness at the present juncture, and it is all the more satisfactory that the trouble has been dealt with so promptly and successfully. Another pleasing feature of the report is the statement that "both police and levies showed great gallantry." If carefully chosen, the Native presents good material for British officers to work upon, and the present instance seems to point to the possibility of his training taking less time than it was generally expected to take ; and this is of good augury for the future of Irak. But it is necessary to remember that this is but one case, and that in the troubles of eighteen months ago there were cases which were by no means so satisfactory. That, however, is by the way, and for the time being we may content ourselves with congratulating all concerned in what appears to have been a particularly successful little punitive expedition. The leader of the malcontents has presented himself for the purpose of making his submission ; and the lesson, though its effect may not last long, will not be thrown away on his neighbours.

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### *South Persia Rifles Again.*

According to the latest reports from Persia it appears that the Teheran Government has made an offer to take over the South Persia Rifles, and that this offer has been rejected by Lord Curzon. The reason for the refusal is said to be the absence of guarantees for the "effective taking over of a highly disciplined force with a very considerable quantity of munitions." It is no doubt regrettable that such a useful force should be broken up; but it is extremely doubtful whether its usefulness would have been maintained after the withdrawal of the British officers, upon which the Persian Government laid so much stress; and there can be no doubt at all that, with things as they are at present in Persia, our own Government is acting wisely in keeping that "very considerable quantity of munitions" out of harm's way. If the Persians have learnt the value of the force, as it is to be hoped they have done, there can be nothing to prevent their organizing one on similar lines for themselves, if they have the ability to do so; and the disbanded men and officers of the S.P.R. will, perhaps be available for such services. As to munitions, they will now, presumably, be free to buy them how and when they please; and possibly Soviet Russia may be willing to give them the financial help necessary for such a transaction. Failing that, some other new friend might be willing to step into the breach.

### *The Meshed Military Mission.*

A report on minor operations in North and North East Persia from 1917 to 1921 has been made by General Rawlinson to the Government of India, and was published last week. It deals, all too briefly, with a stirring period and a field in which Imperial troops from British India did most excellent, though not showy, work, in the early stages of the war. Pan-Islamic intriguers were hoping to stir up trouble in Afghanistan and in India, and Germans and Turks very naturally sought to turn them to account. It was necessary, or at any rate advisable, to establish military order along the Perso-Afghan border; and this was done partly with Russian and partly with Indian troops. The Russian Revolution subsequently cast all the burden on our shoulders, and at the same time threw the province of Khorasan into a state of ferment that made it a particularly happy hunting ground for enemy agents and intriguers generally. This necessitated the dispatch of strong reinforcements from India, and led to our pushing up to Meshed, and, later, to frequent "scraps" with Bolshevist troops in Transcaspia—"all of which," says the Report, "were successful, and added greatly to the prestige of our Imperial forces in Persia." In the Spring of 1919 the force was withdrawn from Transcaspia to Meshed, and in May of this year it was finally withdrawn entirely, leaving only a consular guard at Meshed. It would be interesting to know what state the country has fallen into since that date; but we are unlikely to get trustworthy information on the point just yet.

### *Indian Politics.*

The latest news from India seems to justify the cautious view expressed by one correspondent that an improvement in the general situation has begun, though things are very far from normal, and numerous grounds for anxiety still exist. The arrest of the principal Moslem agitators has so far resulted in no disturbances, and in itself that fact is satisfactory, though it must be remembered that in various recent cases the actual hearing has been made the occasion for disorder. Meanwhile the restoration of civilised government in Malabar goes steadily on, and it is possible to hope that the Hindu inhabitants will shortly be relieved from the terror of their Moslem "brethren." The proclamation of an independent kingdom in these parts will not come as a surprise to readers familiar with the troubled history of the Moplah race. By Indian reckoning it is not very long since an enterprising Moplah proclaimed himself Lord of the Indian seas and Defender of Islam, but he ended his days chained to his oar in a Portuguese galley, and that was a much worse fate than any which is likely to overtake his modern imitator.

### *The Food Question.*

Much the most important item of the week's Indian news is the concise statement that recent rains have removed the last traces of anxiety regarding the monsoon. That means that the country, taken as a whole has food in sight and to spare for the next twelve months, and also sufficient raw materials to keep the principal industries going. An index to the food-position is furnished by the reports on the rice-crop, which is said to be rather better than "normal." The somewhat puzzling official definition regards a normal crop as one which should satisfy growers, and the standard is very seldom reached in practice, so that a yield which exceeds the normal should relieve the scarcity of this particular staple from which Asia has been suffering for so long. It is to be hoped that the favourable season will soon bring down the price of wheat, which at the end of last month had been pushed up to an indefensible figure. So far as we can learn, the rise was due entirely to violent speculation in stocks which, though smaller than usual, were not really inadequate; the result was acute distress in the towns, and a corresponding increase in political anxiety; and if the gamblers have beendisappointed, they will find no sympathy either in town of the country.

### *Repressive Legislation.*

It may seem a little curious that a committee composed mainly of Indian politicians should have chosen the present time for recommending the repeal of what

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have come to be known as the repressive laws. But the truth is, as we have previously pointed out, that the laws in question are so mild in themselves, and have been so leniently administered, that their existence has made very little difference in the situation. The most significant feature of the Committee's report is the recommendation to retain a few of these laws for the present, on the ground that the efforts of certain agitators have for the time being shaken the respect for law, and created an atmosphere of preparedness for violence. The fact has long been obvious, but it is one to which many politicians have deliberately closed their eyes and its formal recognition may be taken as marking one more step towards reality, the goal which only a few years ago seemed to be hopelessly out of reach, but which the working of the new institutions has already brought so much nearer.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

**The Irish Negotiations.**

In politics, as in metaphysics, it is almost beginning to seem that time does not exist, so leisurely are the moves of either side in the Irish negotiations, or rather the preparations for the negotiations. But in politics at any rate, we know that time really does exist, and although it may not be the essence, it is still an element of the problem. However, one step forward has to be recorded.

Mr. de Valera has more or less definitely withdrawn his demand as to independence, thus securing a continuance of the discussion, and, according to some, "demonstrating at once his sincerity and his moderation." Other observers suggest that his conduct is compatible with dissemblance until the last possible moment, and that it does not suit his purpose to play his full hand at once; still others think he is bluffing all the way through. I believe the real situation is that he is a very ordinary person, who has come to the top by force of circumstances rather than character; that he is doing his best for his side, and that he is not a particularly skilful player, or altogether sure of himself or his position.

The Government has drawn up its reply to his note, but this has not yet been published or despatched, as it is considered wise that it should be submitted to all the Cabinet for approval. The Cabinet being scattered at the moment from the Highlands to Geneva, this is rather a lengthy process; but it is held to be certain that it will not block the path for a conference, and unless some untoward event intervenes—as it has done so often when there has been the dawn of a better day in Ireland—it is likely that the conference between England and Ireland will take place in October. It is to be noted that there is still rioting and shooting in Belfast, but elsewhere the truce seems to be faithfully kept, and Irish public opinion wholeheartedly hopes for the success of the discussions.

**Mr. Lloyd George and Washington.**

The Prime Minister is better in health, the offending tooth which caused so much pain having been removed by a local dentist. (The report that the Inverness Museum had claimed the molar as an illustrious exhibit will have to be investigated exhaustively by some future historian). But Mr. Lloyd George is still by no means well, and he will do wisely to make the most of his next three weeks' holiday before Parliament meets again on October 18.

With the Irish negotiations likely to occupy the rest of this Autumn, to say nothing of the unemployed problem, his time will be fully occupied; and although it is well known that he would have liked to have visited America, he will be unable to visit Washington for the Conference there.

It is very doubtful whether Lord Curzon will be appointed to attend. Mr. Balfour would have been warmly welcomed by the Americans, who still recollect his tact and urbanity during his war mission to the States, but his presence is also desired at Geneva, where, despite the gibes of his cousin Lord Robert Cecil, he is doing good work in the direction of making the League of Nations more of a force in European politics.

In these circumstances we may have to fall back on Mr. Bonar Law, whose health is now nearly recovered. Mr. Law suffers from the disadvantage (in American eyes) of being a Canadian, and he is rather a pessimist by nature—although the buoyant air of New York and Washington may restore him; but he is a hard worker and an honest dealer in politics, both national and international, and the country might have a worse representative.

It is curious, by the way, that although both the British and the American Press have been full of the Conference and the great work it will do in securing the peace of the world, very little public interest is as yet taken in it on either side of the Atlantic. We were told once before that the world was made safe for democracy, and we do not believe quite so readily nowadays.

**Another Woman M.P.**

The Liberals held the seat at the Louth by-election, and the late member's widow headed the poll by a considerable majority. This is the second woman in the House of Commons, and the first British-born woman. Lady Astor is an American by birth. She has often taken part in debate, but she has not made much impression, being seemingly unable to get away from sex-antagonism and pussyfoot propaganda, neither of which is very popular. Mrs. Withrington, her new colleague, is more silent by nature, but an active worker in Lincolnshire, where she did much good in alleviating the distress consequent on the Louth disaster last year. She is, I understand, a Liberal of the old school without any qualification—a proper Wee Free.

**The Unemployment Discussion.**

The London Mayors have seen Mr. Lloyd George in Scotland, as well as a good deal of Scotland in the process—let us hope with some satisfaction to themselves, if not to the unemployed whom they represent. Meanwhile the latter are being exploited by Socialists and Communists and others—even by Free Traders in a feeble way; and Labour has propounded its remedy, which, as everybody knew beforehand, would simply be the State. The idea that the State has a bottomless pocket seems ineradicable in the official Labour mind; it does not realise that this is merely a question of taxing the employed for the unemployed, and that by doing so, it may increase the amount of unemployment, and make things worse.

A more able contribution to the discussion has been made by Mr. Philip Snowden, in *The Times* and *The Daily News*. Mr. Snowden appears to have been more or less cold-shouldered out of the Labour Party; which is a pity, for he has both brains and courage—qualities somewhat to seek in the ranks of parliamentary Labour. He points out that the real trouble is that Capital and Labour both want too large a share of the product, and are working against each other instead of together. He urges that "ca'canny" should be stopped, that machinery should be exploited to its utmost, and that Capital should endeavour to see that Labour is secured against its main incentive to slacking—the fear of the sack when the job is done. In essentials this is a plea for goodwill and better understanding; and although both sides are irritated with each other, it should not fall entirely on barren ground.

**Foreign Exchanges and Exports.**

The discussion does not, however, touch one of the great difficulties of the position. Britain supports the surplus population which she cannot feed herself by the profits of her export trade, which enables her to import food. It is, as the Germans recognised before the war, our "Achilles heel"—but only one heel is vulnerable, and the Germans, as usual, got hold of the wrong leg. It is not in the politics of war, but the finance of peace

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that the trouble has come, and that by reason not of submarines but of foreign exchanges.

Our own currency is inflated, but not beyond the reasonable limits of health; but foreign currencies are inflated to a degree at which they can neither buy nor sell with any precision outside their own boundaries. They want our goods, and we want theirs; but in the present "economic Bedlam"—as Sir Alfred Mond rightly characterised it—what should be a simple matter of exchange becomes an impossible barrier.

The position improved to a certain extent during the earlier part of this year, but it has recently become worse, from a combination of different causes: And there are signs that this will again react on our home economic position by necessitating a further inflation of prices this coming autumn and winter, with its concomitant, an increase of the cost of living—or at least a cessation of the decreases which have characterised the index number since last December.

**Why Australia Won.**

Armstrong, the Australian captain, has been giving his opinion as to the reason why we lost the Test Matches. For one thing, our fielding was at fault; some of our players gave away as many runs as they made. For another thing our men were too old—although most of them were younger than Armstrong himself; but perhaps a cricketer, like a lady, is really only as old as he feels. The third and deciding factor was that we played too many professionals, and these, according to Armstrong, are bound to play more for themselves and less for their side than the amateur. There is something in this contention, particularly when it is coupled with the fact that the only teams that beat the Australians were young amateurs. But I am bound to add that the amateurs in the England teams did us better than the professionals, and that whether the professionals played for themselves or their side they made a pretty poor show in any case.

**What is Full-length.**

Lord Leverhulme is again the hero, or the victim, of an art controversy. A year ago, when Mr. Augustus John painted him, he found the picture too big for the place chosen for it to hang, and cut off his head to spite the artist, leaving a decapitated magnate and a furious painter. Since then he has sat to Sir William Orpen, who quoted him various prices for half, three-quarters, and full-length portraits—the head to be included in each. Lord Leverhulme went the whole hog, so to speak, and ordered a full length; he now claims that there is not enough of it for the price. Apparently one buys pictures like Sunlight Soap, by the yard, in the twentieth century.

**The Week's Books.**

The Autumn publishing season is not yet in its full swing, but some interesting books have already been produced.

"The Life of Jean Henri Fabre" (Hodder and Stoughton) by the Abbé Augustin Fabre, is a capable life of the great French naturalist, which needs little recommendations to those who have enjoyed Fabre's writings.

"Angels and Ministers" (Jonathan Cape) by Laurence Housman, is a series of three short plays; I mention it partly because it is the first time, I fancy, that Queen Victoria has been one of the *dramatis personae*, and partly because there is a distinct play-reading public which enjoys these delicate trifles.

"Lords and Commoners" (Fisher Unwin) by Sir Henry Lucy, will appeal to a wider circle. It is another of the author's political scrapbooks—his store of recollections seems inexhaustible—and it contains several happy portraits. Most interesting, perhaps, is his contrast or comparison between Churchill pére and Churchill fils. In both Mr. Lucy discovers the same kind of eloquence, the same marvellous memory, "the same slightly bent figure as if pressing forward in a race, the same long stride and the same loosely swinging arms." It might have been added that Winston has proved himself a greater man than Randolph—or is it that the times are kinder? The father made only one bad mistake, and it ruined him; the son's career is strewn with blunders, but the blunders only seem to set off the solid achievements.

Everybody knows the *Times Literary Supplement*, and therefore everybody knows Mr. Clutton-Brock, who often writes the leading article, and who frequently discurses religious as well as literary matters. He is occasionally a little rhetorical and diffuse, but nearly always interesting and sometimes provocative; and on the whole I think I like him as well wholesale in a book as retail in a weekly. The reprint of his papers is called "More Essays on Books," and is published by Methuen.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

In addition to the 3,000 Cossacks who had already entered Bulgaria, a further batch of 2,500 from Gallipoli and Constantinople last week landed at Burgas. The men, who were fully armed, will shortly be disarmed.

Five aeroplanes at Bucharest were destroyed by a falling bomb; 10 men were killed and four injured.

A report by Lord Rawlinson on the operations of the force employed in North and North-East Persia, 1917-21 was issued last week. The force was withdrawn last May, leaving a small Consular escort at Meshed. In very trying circumstances the conduct of the troops, both officers and men, was, says Lord Rawlinson, "worthy of the highest praise."

The Egyptian Government has decided, states a Reuter message from Cairo, to continue the present restriction of cotton growing areas for a further period of two years.

The *Morning Post* understands that the British and Italian Governments have virtually reached an agreement regarding the steps to be taken to safeguard Albania from aggression and thereby to safeguard Italian interests in the Adriatic.

It is reported from Athens that an express train was derailed at Larissa through coming into collision with a goods train, and that several people were injured.

An Armenian youth believed to have become insane as the result of a massacre from which he recently escaped in Turkey has murdered the sacristan of the Armenian convent in Jerusalem.

A resolution brought forward in the Council of State at Simla, reports Reuter, for the transfer of the German portion of the Rhodes Scholarships to India was accepted by the Government.

Messages from Bengazi (Cyrenaica) state that the Italian Crown Prince, who is making a tour of the Italian possessions in North Africa, was enthusiastically received by the population when he landed there.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (September 19):—The ex-Emperor Karl's "Royal and Imperial" train has been allotted to Yugoslavia by the International Committee, and has arrived at Liubliana.

## CARDINAL BOURNE AND THE ARAB DELEGATION.

The Arab Delegation recently interviewed the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. After a review of their interview in Rome with the Pope the Delegation explained the reasons why they had approached his Majesty's Government on the subject of Zionist activities in Palestine. Cardinal Bourne reminded the Delegation of the speech he had made in Liverpool on his return from a visit to the Holy Land in 1919, and expressed his sympathy with the Arabs in the difficulties in Palestine at the present time. He expressed regret that the Commission appointed to inquire into questions concerning the sacred sites had not yet been able to carry out its work.

## LORD ALLENBY'S DONKEYS.

"No one seems to have remarked" writes a correspondent of the *Morning Post*, "that Lord Allenby was the first military commander to discover the value of the donkey. When the "Bull" (as the Egyptians call him) took over the command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces there were not enough horses to mount his cavalrymen. So this master of ways and means requisitioned practically all the asses in Egypt. There was genius in the move, for the achievements of the donkeys were a revelation, rivalling the camel's. Having a thick coat, the donkey, like the camel, does not perspire, and so can go for a long time without water. On a fistful of tibbin it would trek from 20 to 40 miles a day. I shall never forget the occasion when the Field-Marshal was held up in the narrow paths of Gaza by droves of donkeys, each carrying a trooper and his equipment. Allenby was racing to the front in a fast car. One of his staff had to set about the mokes with a riding crop to clear a path. The donkeys raised a discordant chorus, and Allenby resumed his progress with a smile."

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, September 9.*

### The Changing Situation.

Since my last letter there has been no obvious change in the local political situation ; but it will be remembered that in that letter I laid stress on the sudden change to a feeling of optimism among the prominent Egyptians who glean carefully such information as leaks from official circles here, which, of course, includes any scraps that may emanate from the Official Delegation abroad. I felt, then, that it was too sudden to be natural. To-day another swing back can be recorded, not altogether pessimism regarding the outcome of the negotiations—though Adly Pasha's interview to the *Daily Express* correspondent in Paris, wherein he stated that he was optimistic "on principle," has damped some of the more ardent hopes—but a reversal of what I may term confidence in the country. Hitherto the prominent Egyptians who have been supporting the Adly Cabinet, who include the influential dissentient ex-members of Zaghloul's delegation, have been sure that if Adly Pasha could return from London with a signed provisional Treaty guaranteeing the independence of Egypt, the country would accept it. As things were then, it was a natural assumption. There was a lull; Zaghloulist propaganda was not, as far as could be judged, making any great headway; and all things pointed to the common-sense of the majority inspiring support of the Official Delegation if an acceptable compromise was reached in London.

### Zaghloul's Tactics.

But lately Zaghloul's tactics have caused a certain perturbation in high circles. To an onlooker it is a situation pregnant with interesting developments: to the Egyptians who are standing behind Adly it is disquieting. One must understand the circumstances to appreciate it. According to the present law of the land, unauthorised public meetings are forbidden. It has been realised for some time that Zaghloul wished to hold meetings, but to date he has not made any open move of the sort. A few days ago, however, an apparently inspired delegation from one of the provinces visited Zaghloul and invited him to come to their district and address the people. Zaghloul, according to well-informed sources, has accepted the invitation. The precedent having been set, other deputations probably will give similar invitations and before long Zaghloul will have a strong campaign arranged.

The Government foresees itself being placed in a very delicate situation: if it prohibits the meetings, it will be accused before all the world of stifling liberty of speech and curtailing political freedom from motives of fear; if it does not prohibit them it will be countenacing breaches of the law of the country. Added to all this is the uncertainty of the outcome of the London negotiations, the progress being daily made by the old Nationalist Party, with its policy of unbounded extremism, the pending visit of the British Members of Parliament, and the audacious propaganda of the Zaghloulist newspapers.

### Government's Difficulties.

It is a delicate situation. And I think I am not unduly pessimistic when I say that it may even prove to be the prologue to a situation still more delicate. It is not the fault of the Government, rather is it due to the untoward circumstances in which the Government unhappily has been placed. The absence of the leaders of the Cabinet has weakened the Government: English officials have told me during the last few days that they have been forced to assume responsibility for urgent policies which should never be decided upon by anyone but the Minister. Egyptians of many classes are complaining that the Government is turning all its attention to politics, to the exclusion of administration. Public security is becoming affected; robberies are increasing, and from the provinces come daily reports of daring crimes. The police are doing their best; but in the absence of a strong and determined rule the inevitable disrespect for authority is having its natural consequences. These features are all natural to the situation as it is. I would emphasise that it is not a situation created by the Government, but rather a situation into which the Government has been forced. There are two safe remedies: the strengthening of the Administration, which is impracticable pending the return of the Prime Minister and his colleagues, or the stronger application of martial law, which is undesirable at the moment because of political considerations.

### "Zaghloulism" and Sedition.

Having shown the drift of things, I think it is easy for the logical deductions to be made. Weeks must elapse before the end of the negotiations comes into sight. In the meantime Egypt will be invaded by curious Members of Parliament; Zaghloulist propaganda will continue; and the continued enforced laxity of the Administration will weaken further that respect for authority which is so imperatively essential for public order in all countries and in Oriental countries more particularly. The troubles in India are proving fruitful sources of propaganda; and the effect of the Irish situation may be indicated by mention of the fact that Zaghloul Pasha sent a cable to de Valera congratulating him upon his reply to the British Government's offer for a settlement. It is often urged in the Zaghloulist Press that the Adly Cabinet remains in power because it has the support of the British Government. But it is a pathetic paradox that the British Government can do nothing to help the present Cabinet without inflicting upon it injuries more serious than that from which it is now suffering. Yet the time is ripe for the strong hand. No man, however popular he may be, however powerful he may be, should be immune from the law. Zaghloul Pasha's policy and Zaghloulist propaganda are driving masses of ignorant Egyptians to a discontent which may result in frenzy. One can understand the reluctance to check him, because of the capital that would be made from it. Plainly it is a question of two evils: the effect of Zaghloulism, if I may so term it, or the effect of the stoppage of Zaghloulism, on the justifiable grounds that Zaghloulism is, in the circumstances, sedition.

## SUDAN.

*Khartoum, September 1.*

### Floods and Storms.

Heavy rainfalls are reported throughout the Sudan, causing extensive damage in certain localities. Serious floods occured at Atbara—the town being flooded to a depth of some three feet, resulting in a collapse of many buildings. It is estimated that at least 200 houses and 94 shops are in ruins, and some 700 people are homeless, being housed temporarily in tents, etc., which were sent post haste from Khartoum. A certain number have been accomodated in railway sheds and wagons.

At Merowe a succession of rain storms and floods poured through the town doing severe damage. A similar state of affairs is reported from Tangassi, where 75 shops, 50 of which were Government property, have been completely demolished. The floods were so severe that the large "Abu Haras" trees in the market place were not only uprooted but were carried away for several hundred yards.

Dongola town and Korti have also suffered severely, especially the latter, where all Government buildings with the exception of the Rest House, part of the Zaptia, and the Mamur's house have been destroyed.

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The damage to the Railway has been very extensive 2,000 yards of track being washed out between Dagash and Abu Dis; while between Abu Hamed and No. 6 Station some 4,500 yards of track were destroyed, and between Nos. 5 and 6 about 15 kilometres of line were badly damaged. The Kareima line was also badly washed out, and is still under repair. Naturally there have been abnormal delays in the mail service, all communications having been cut for about 15 days. No. 4 Station, situated in the middle of an arid desert was completely destroyed, the only signs of a station having been there, being the tablet machines, which stood forlornly upon their pedestals.

His Excellency the Acting Governor-General has been indefatigable in his efforts at organising relief works in the various flooded areas. and is reported to have made Merowe his Headquarters for the time being.

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*Khartoum, September 5.*

**Egyptians and the Sudan Civil Service.**

In a recent article on the Sudan which appeared in the *Omma* the Sudan Government are accused of filling up government appointments with Englishmen and Syrians, to the exclusion of Egyptian candidates. This is interesting in view of the fact that the rank and file of the Legal and Posts and Telegraphs Departments are almost entirely of the Egyptian Effendi class, and that there has been a certain amount of 'grousing' on the part of the Sudani that he cannot obtain employment in these particular offices. The feeling was so strong that in the League Matches where an All-Black team met one from these Departments proceedings were rather in the nature of a free fight, with sympathetic argument amongst the various lookers on. The *Omma* make a point of the fact that the medical service is almost exclusively recruited among Syrian graduates from the Beyrout College, to the exclusion of graduates of the Sultanic School of Medicine. If the facts were examined more carefully the *Omma* would find that the average Egyptian medico is very much averse to service in the Sudan, in view of the fact that a doctor is liable to serve in all sorts of unpleasant spots in the Back-of-Beyond, many hundreds of miles away from the specious delights and doubtful pleasures of even such great places as Khartoum and Port Sudan. Apart from the fact that the Egyptian is by temperament unsuited to the country, it is generally recognised that, although thay make brilliant surgeons, the Egyptians are not so successful in the role of physicians or general practitioners, and must take second place to the versatile Syrian in this respect. The posts of mudirs, inspectors, commandants of police, etc., are filled by Englishmen for the simple reason that the Egyptian cannot administer the Arab or Sudani as efficiently, as is fully evinced by a brief study of the history of the Sudan under Khedivial administration. Even in those remote days the Egyptian Ministers in Cairo found it necessary to bring in foreigners to administer their Sudan territories, and the rapid advancement of men such as Lupton, Dr. Emin and Slatin Pasha over the heads of Egyptian officials long resident in the country, under a purely Khedivial administration, can in no way be attributed to favouritism. It is unfortunate for the aspirations of the Nationalists that after even a lapse of so many years they are unable to produce an Egyptian Warren Hastings.

**The Political Situation.**

The apparent deadlock in negotiations between the Delegation and the British Government is looked on here as the natural sequence of events. Local opinion is to the effect that had Adly Pasha given way on minor points and an agreement been signed, Zaghloul would have made the most of this in a political campaign which would have resulted in the overthrow of the Adly Cabinet and the appointment of Zaghloul and his satellites in their stead. As it is the Delegation will come back and, as a friend put it to the writer, say to Zaghloul: "Sorry old bird, but we could not do any better, suppose you push off and see what you can do after all your hot air." Result Zaghloul and his lieutenants will proceed to England, have an extraordinarily good time at the expense of the Nationalist Party Funds, and come back eventually discredited, by which time the populace will have tired of him and will have set up another idol in his place. Considerable amusement is evinced at the selection of the Members of Parliament who are to visit Egypt and go into the momentous question, the more especially as they appear to be all lights of the Labour party, and the odds are heavy that they are totally ignorant of the Oriental mind. A query has been raised whether the three ex-colliery employees have been specially selected to deal with the Sudan question.

**The Floods.**

An interesting incident in connection with the recent flooding of Atbara Town was that telegrams were despatched to both the *Sudan Times* and the *Hederet el-Sudan* alleging that the damage caused to private property etc. was entirely due to official negligence. The authorship of this charge has not been made public, Similar charges were brought against the authorities in respect of flood damage to cultivation in Khartoum Province during 1920. It is quite possible that these messages were composed by sympathisers with the Nationalist party; but on the other hand there has been a certain amount of chafing at the somewhat antiquated methods adopted, or possibly inherited, by some Departments, and the occasion of the floods may have been seized upon as an opportunity of venting the discontent of the non-official element. The Government are to blame in maintaining a ponderous secrecy on the subject of the various projects they undertake, and it is only recently that a Press section of the Intelligence Bureau has been instituted for the purpose of making known officially the various occurrences throughout the country.

The question of flood protection has always been a difficult problem in the Sudan, as it is impossible to forecast what volume of water will have to be dealt with. Atbara has presented greater difficulty than other localities, in view of the town being built at the foot of an eastward slope from the desert and across the natural water ways towards the Nile. It has therefore been necessary to evolve a scheme of drainage in a southerly direction towards th Atbara river; and this has hitherto consisted of a system of banks and ditches east and west of and between the town and the railway main line, which converged at a point to the south of the town, discharging into the Atbara river through a cutting and regulator in the bank. This system has been very effective for many years, in spite of the usual difficulty of heavy sand deposits in the ditches, from *habubs* immediately preceding heavy rain, which impedes the free discharge of the flood water. In the case of the recent floods, however, the volume of water was so stupendous that no protective works except on a colossal scale would have proved adequate. Under these conditions it would appear only reasonable that the author of the telegrams should be made to substantiate his charges against the authorities, and the proceedings be made as public as possible.

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## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, September 13.*

**The Political Situation.**

General Averescu on his return from his provincial tour has resumed the presidency of the Cabinet Council, and is also acting *ad interim* as Minister for Foreign Affairs, during M. Také Jonescu's absence. The General's appeal to the democratic elements in the country for collaboration has been favourably received not only by the Government papers but also by those of independent views, and hopes are expressed that those to whom the appeal is addressed will respond to it. Opposition journals, however, doubt whether the Cabinet's efforts for a compromise will succeed so far as to smooth matters over. Apart from the Liberals, who are avowedly working toward the overthrow of the Cabinet, the other important opponents are the Ardeeni (National Transylvanians), the Tzaranists and M. Jorga's group. The Ardeleni under M. Maniu and M. Vaida maintain their antagonistic attitude toward the Cabinet, and seem to have come to a tacit agreement with the Liberals. M. Jorga advocates a national Government. The Tzaranists alone show signs of an eventual understanding with the Government, but formal *pourparlers* have not yet been broached. No hurry is evinced on either side, but it is believed that official negotiations will be entered upon in due course.

**The Falling Leu.**

Home politics have this week been largely put in the shade by the extraordinary manoeuvres on the Paris Bourse in connection with Roumanian exchange. This has fallen to an alarming and quite unjustified rate. People here are inclined to believe that the collapse is only temporary, and brought about mainly by wild speculation *à terme* on lei, which has been going on in Paris during the past two or three months on an unprecedented scale, resulting in forced realizations and the merciless sacrifice of speculators who were unable to meet their obligations. But once this gambling fever has passed, it is confidently held that the Leu will return to its true level, commensurate with the potentialities of one of the richest countries—if not the relatively richest country—in Europe; although the exploitation of its vast riches is for the moment hampered by inadequate transport facilities. It must not be forgotten that this handicap is a direct outcome of the war, a result of the deliberate plan of the implacable enemy, who dealt his last blow by destroying and carrying off the rolling stock in order to thwart the ulterior economic development of the country. But the railway traffic is being visibly improved—although it cannot for the moment cope with the progressive development of the various branches of production—and to judge by what has been achieved during the last two years, it may reasonably be assumed that normal conditions will be restored at no distant time.

In some quarters here the collapse of the exchange is not viewed altogether with disfavour, because it is considered that, with the foreign exchange resulting from the coming grain export, the State will be enabled to redeem a considerably larger amount of lei than would otherwise have been the case. Thus, this particular dark cloud has its silver lining. It must be admitted that importers with liabilities in foreign currencies will have very hard times unless their creditors take the circumstances into consideration and renew their bills until reasonable times. On the other hand profiteers, urging the low value of the leu, are not slow to extort higher prices for commodities, to the discontent and dismay of the consumer.

**Various.**

The Royal Family is expected to arrive on September 20.

H. E. Dr. Hendrik Muller van Werendycke, Netherlands, Minister Plenipotentiary to Roumania has returned from leave.

Two English scholars Dr. A. R. Wright, the Vice-President of the Folk-lore Society, and Professor Sidney Chapman, of Manchester University, have delivered lectures at the Fondatia Carol here, on the invitation of the Roumanian Society of Sciences. Dr. Wright lectured on the history and origin of the Alphabet and Writing, and Prof. Chapman on the relation between the sun and the earth's electricity. Both lectures, accompanied by lime-light views were of a fascinating and instructive character and were greatly enjoyed by as elect and appreciative audience. Both the visitors have been touring in this country for the last few weeks, lecturing at the various educational centres.

A group of English politicians and journalists is expected to arrive here shortly. They will be headed by Sir Harry Brittain and other Members of Parliament, and will spend about three weeks in this country, visiting various regions.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, September 14.*

**Relations With Hungary.**

Satisfaction is felt in Yugoslavia at the unwise behaviour in Hungary, which has necessarily provoked the wrath of the Entente; and events are watched with the keenest interest, and it is hoped that the rumour is true that the Supreme Council will give a mandate, in the event of sanctions being necessary, not to Italy but to the Little Entente. Italy is naturally interested in keeping Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia apart, and fears that concerted action on their part would lead to the formation of a corridor through Western Hungary. The part which Yugoslavia would have to play would be the immediate re-occupation of the Baranya. News comes through that the Magyars are persecuting the pro-Yugoslavs there, that at Baja a wine-merchant named Yovanovitch has been flogged to death, and a land-owner named Vladimir Djkuitch hung. Large numbers of the miners of the Pechuy collieries are being interned, and the output has almost ceased, as many thousands of the labourers have fled into Yugoslavia. The consequence is that Hungary is failing to deliver the quantum


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of coal which it is bound to do under the Treaty, thus bringing about a serious threat to the fuel supply of the Danube steamers and Voivodina railways. Yugoslavia has here a very solid grievance ; for it is another instance of Hungary's bad faith and refusal to fulfil her obligations. Yugoslavia is naturally pleased to see Hungary showing itself in its true colours before the world, and thus counteracting the propaganda which the Magyars had so successfully exerted on the Allied missions in the country.

A convention with Italy concerning the Adriatic fisheries has been signed at Pola.

**An Amazon.**

A girl named Jelena Gruitchitch, from Gromachnika, near Pozhega, in Slavonia, who must be of an unusually enterprising disposition, won notoriety as a leader of a gang of robbers before the war, was captured and sentenced to five years penal servitude. Now she has succeeded in escaping, taking with her a little boy to whom she had given birth in gaol.

*Belgrade, September* 19.

**M. Protitch's Proposals.**

The latest political sensation is the present attitude of M. Stoyan Protitch. The Opposition press maintains that the Democrats are greatly disturbed by it, but the Democratic press regard it as an anti-climax, as a *ridiculus mus* : they say that both the Narodni Club and Raditch are very disappointed, that the latter is seeking a new orientation, which may even persuade him to make up his mind to do something. To the Radical Party it is a blow, certainly, for M. Protitch has a great record of services to his party, but it is doubtful whether his attempt to split it will have any really serious consequences. M. Pashitch's prestige is too great, and M. Protitch is, after all, a rather uncomfortable man to work with. His action may involve the Coalition in difficulties, but the Radicals and Democrats know well enough that they are both too weak to stand alone, and are dependent upon each other for their power. There is a report that the former are pressing for the Portfolio of the Interior, in which case M. Pribitchevitch would ask for Communications or Justice.

**Serbia and the Anatolian War.**

The war in Asia Minor is watched with a certain detached interest. The Serbs have had experience of both parties in war, and have a proper respect for the Turk. Of the Greeks their opinion is not so high. Practically they are interested in view of the spread of Kemalist propaganda among the Moslems of Southern Serbia and Macedonia and the rumours of an understanding between Kemal and the Bulgarian chauvinists. Sentimentally, they are interested in the fate of Angora ; for when Tamerlane defeated the Turkish Sultan Bayezid there, in 1402, the Serbian Prince, Stephen the Tall, was brother-in-law of the Sultan, and brought reinforcements in the form of a detachment of his Serbian heavy cavalry, who so distinguished themselves that Turkish historians are full of praise for their value.

**Rumours Again.**

Yugoslavia in general, and Zagreb in particular, are great places for sensational rumours. All sorts of silly stories have been current, for instance, about King Alexander's illness and absence in Paris. The question of the succession gave the gossips a grand time, and this reached foreign newspapers. One, for instance, was that Prince George was asserting his claims to the throne, as the elder brother. At length the Press Bureau issued a *dementi* categorically denying all these rumours as baseless, and reminding the public that Prince George, together with his uncle Prince Arsen, and his cousin Prince Paul, were the first to take the oath, at the head of the corps of officers, to the new king.

**Alfred Jensen.**

A prominent Slavologue and great friend of the Yugoslavs has died in the person of Alfred Jensen, a Swedish journalist, who was a recognised authority on the Slavonic languages and literature. He was born in 1859, and died on September 15, of apoplexy. He had written a great deal on Russian literature and translated much into Swedish. On one occasion he stopped a whole year at Dubrovnik to make a special study of Gundulitch, the Ragusan nationalist epic of the XVIth Century. He had also translated into Swedish Peter II. of Montenegro's famous "Gorski Viyenats," Mazhuranitch's "Death of Chengitch," and much of Zmaj Preradovitch, Matavulja, and other Yugoslav literary men. Since 1901, he had been adviser on Slavonic literature to the Nobel Foundation. Owing to his activities, Slavonic literature is probably more accessible to the Swedish reading public that it is of the English.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, September* 18.

**Political.**

The Sobranje finished its extraordinary autumn session on the 16th, and has adjourned until October 28.

The amendment to the Law regulating trade in cereals has been passed, and free trade is now the order of the day.

During the absence of M. Stambolisky, at Geneva, M. Tsanko Bakaloff, Minister of Public Works, is acting as Prime Minister ; while M. Daskaloff has become Minister of Foreign Affairs in place of M. Radouloff, who has returned to the Ministry of Justice. The *affaire* Boteff has been sedulously hushed up, and although at least two well-known public men are involved in the scandal, their names are being carefully kept in the background. M. Dimitroff is still acting as Minister of Railways, whilst the two chief candidates for the post are M. Karadjoff, Director of the Consortium, and M Manouloff, President of the Sobranje. After the affairs of the Consortium have been liquidated, M. Karadjoff will be without a post, so it looks as if he stands the best chance of succeeding M. Boteff. He is one of the old members of the Agrarian Party, and his selection would be highly popular among his fellow deputies.

In other respects, there is a lull in politics, although the Narodniak Party have embarked on a vigorous electioneering campaign throughout the country.

**The Army.**

Nothing fresh has taken place during the last week regarding the situation of the Army, although a reply from Paris to the request of the Bulgarian Government for the continuance of the 2,000 Frontier Guards on a conscript basis is daily expected. Only a few more voluntary recruits have been obtained, and these have been counter-balanced by the desertions that have already taken place among the newly enlisted volunteers.

Six thousand Cossacks, who used to form part of General Wrangel's Army, are now in Bulgaria, and as the great majority of them are reported to be free from Bolshevism, it would seem that the Bulgarian Government might do worse than to enlist the services of at least a few of them as Frontier Guards. They will not be exigent as to pay, and as they will only be engaged temporarily, it is not likely that any of the neighbouring countries would see in this action any menacing attempt on the part of the Bulgarians. At present 3,400 of the Cossacks are at Kovno and the remainder at Burgas, all under the orders and control of their own officers.

**Communist Activity.**

The decision of the Council of Ambassadors to suppress Bulgaria's Army has begun to have unpleasant effects already, and the recent events at the village of Kopriustica, which is situated some 10 miles S.E. of Pirdop, in the middle of Bulgaria, are significent of what may soon become everyday occurrences. The Mayor of Kopriustica was a Communist ; and the Government decided to replace him. A Government official proceeded to Kopriustica, but found that the Mayor was unwilling to vacate his office, and a mass meeting of the villagers held the same day heartily endorsed his refusal. The official returned to Sofia and recommended that a squadron of cavalry be sent out to quell this attempt at

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insubordination; the Government requested the War Office to send the necessary soldiers, only to be met with the reply that there were none available. The matter, it is understood, has now been satisfactorily settled, but a little incident like this serves to show the impotent position the Government will henceforth be placed in.

This is not the only instance of Communistic activity; for an organised attempt was recently discovered at Burgas, where it was planned that about 200 local Communists should enrol themselves in the voluntary army. The presence of such a number of Communists wouldl have very seriously impaired the loyalty and discipaine of any regiment, and the authorities are to be congr tulated on having been able to avert the enlistment of the men.

While opinions differ very much regarding the real power of the Communist Party in Bulgaria, some people declaring that they constitute only a neglible factor, it should always be borne in mind that the Soviet are on the constant look-out for any adherents to their cause, and that money will be soon forthcoming if it is thought likely to justify its outlay. Although one does not want to raise again the bogey of the much talked of Soviet invasion of Bessarabia, supposing that this invasion actually did take place, it would be of incalculable value to the Soviet if they were able to count 6n assistance from the Communistic Party in Bulgaria. At present one can assert with a fair amount of certitude that the vast majority of Bulgarians are Anti-Communist; but the small minority who are not, could, if unchecked by armed force, cause great embarrassment to the neighbouring governments, as well as to the Bulgarians.

**The Arrest of Colonial Nicoloff.**

The case of Colonel Nicoloff is attracting a good deal of attention amongst the English residents here, and much indignation is expressed at his arrest. Briefly, the facts of the matter are that Colonel Nicoloff, who lives at Philippopolis, and was the Commandant of the Prisoners of War Camp at Philippopolis, was arrested on August 29 under "Article 4." Colonel Nicoloff is well known throughout Bulgaria for his English sympathies, and during the war he was exceedingly kind to the English officers who were prisoners of war. In fact the latter presented him with a gold watch as a mark of the esteem in which they held him.

It appears that Colonel Nicoloff is now accused of having indulged in some illicit trading during the war, but it is generally recognised that an intrigue is afoot against him, and it is hoped that he will be able to clear himself completely when he is tried.

It is said that the affair is connected with his pro-British feelings and that the intrigues form part of the Chauvinistic element, which was mentioned a few weeks ago in "The Near East." The Government stoutly deny this, and have promised to accelerate the holding of his trial in order that the matter may be quickly cleared up. In the meantime one cannot go into more precise details, although one wonders why his arrest was so long delayed and was finally made only three or four days before "Article 4" was abolished.

## GREECE.

*Athens, September 16*

**The War in Anatolia.**

The advance of the Greek Army which was somewhat arrested last week, has come to a complete standstill now. This, however, was only to be expected after the exceptionally heavy fighting of the last fortnight. The battle of the Sangarius river was by no means a small affair; on the contrary it is considered as the biggest battle that has been fought between the two enemy nations since the days of Byzantium. The stiff defence put up by the Kemalists was a surprise to the Greeks, who, instead of making the anticipated "promenade militaire" to Angora, had to fight desperately for every inch of ground they won.

The losses on both sides are said to be enormous. No estimate has yet been made, but one could safely say that the Hellenes have had at least 20,000 men "hors de combat." All the hospitals in Athens, Smyrna, and Salonika are full to overflowing, and more wounded are arriving daily.

The Army is now having a rest and is at the same time organising its new lines of communication. It is really wonderful to think that King Constantine's soldiers are fighting inland over 300 miles from their base, in a strange and most difficult country, with no roads and a very inefficient railway system. In spite of these serious handicaps the "Intendance" has excelled itself, and both war material and supplies are reaching the advanced lines regularly.

The sub-Chief of Staff, Brigadier-General Stratigos, arrived in Athens quite suddenly from the front last week, and was present at the many Councils of Ministers held during the last few days. Decisions of extreme importance are said to have taken place with regard to the future operations, but those in the know are maintaining a fish-like silence; and the many hours spent by expectant reporters in the long, chairless corridors of the Ministry of War were wasted. According to all indications, however, the idea of occupying Angora has now been abandoned. Winter in Anatolia is not pleasant, and soon after the rainy season sets in the entire country becomes impassable, rendering operations of any description absolutely impossible. Probably the Hellenes will find themselves obliged to withdraw from some of their advanced positions in order to prepare and establish themselves in their winter quarters.

It is to be hoped that before the armistice, imposed by circumstances, comes to an end, diplomacy will step in and succeed this time in untying the Gordian knot of Anatolia. Both Greeks and Turks are tired of war, and it is most certainly the duty of the Powers to do their utmost, and even use force if necessary, to stop any further purposeless bloodshed.

**The Outrage on Journalists.**

G. Soureas, one of the thee individuals who attacked M. Cavafakis and M. Melas in Stadium Street a fortnight ago, gave himself up to the Chief of Police. He stated that he did not know either of these gentlemen, but when he heard one of them say that the Hellenic front had been broken and that the Army was retreating, he attacked them with his stick. Soureas added that it was his intention to treat in a similar manner any other person spreading false rumours about the Army. The Chief of Police promptly ordered his release!

**General News.**

An agreement has been concluded between the British Minister in Athens, Earl Granville, and the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to the maintenance of the graves of the British soldiers who fell in Gallipoli. A mixed Anglo-Greek commission will be appointed shortly for this purpose.

The departure to the United States of a Greek Mission has been postponed indefinitely.

The 1922 class has been called up.

The Russian Colonel Martation at present in Athens has volunteered to proceed to Asia Minor at the head of 400 Russians to fight against the Turks. The Greek Government has not yet replied whether it accepts this generous offer.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, August 16.*

The late success of Cypriots who have been called to the Bar in London has had a stimulating effect. M. Halid Bey, Turkish Judge at Famagusta, is the latest addition to the rank of barristers, and several Greeks have been called in the last few years. Fuad Effendi, son of the Mufti of Cyprus, who is Turkish Judge at Nicosia, and Munir Effendi, of the Treasury Department, have now obtained long leave in order to study in London; and there are several other applicants.

The heat continues to be very oppressive, and the season is one of general holiday and slackness. There is a serious out break of typhus among the Russian refugees at Polemidia near Limassol, with over 30 cases in hospital, while there are a few cases in Limassol. The steamers continue to bring visitors, and the difficulty is to find accommodation.

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*Nicosia, August 30.*

**Dispatch of the Secretary of State.**

Once more the Colonial Secretary has replied to the Greek Archbishop and Members of Council, who on May 31, sent a volume containing resolutions passed at various villages in support of the "union with Greece" agitation. The reply, which has been communicated by the Acting Chief Secretary, states that the Government of His Majesty the King can hold out no hope that this union can be approved. Regret is expressed in the papers, but an answer to this effect was of course anticipated by all concerned. It is to be hoped that the Greek leaders—although they, of course, declare that they will maintain the struggle by all lawful means—will now at last recognise the futility of troubling the Secretary of State with any more of these tiresome memorials.

**Cypriots in the Greek Army.**

The papers give the names of several Cypriots who have been wounded in engagements in Asia Minor, and of others who are taking part in the advance on Angora. Some of these were volunteers in 1912. Some of their letters are published. They describe the pride and enthusiasm with which the Cypriots are are taking part in the fighting. One of them who has been decorated by the King is called "the hero of Philadelphia."

**A Letter from Smyrna.**

A Correspondent, whose letter is published in the *Phone*, writes that great anxiety prevails regarding the status and nationality of Cypriots in that city. The British Consul, with all his good will and sympathy, states that he is unable officially to give his protection. Cannot, the writer asks, his compatriots in Cyprus, either through the Government or the members of Council, being about an arrangement by which Cypriots may be registered as British subjects, or, if this is not possible, as of Hellenic nationality? (This is quite in keeping with native ideas. It is imagined that a Government can "arrange" such a matter as a sudden change of nationality, regardless of laws that regulate such matters, if only it chooses to do so). The letter says that not only does the presence of the King at the front inspire in the highest degree the Greek troops, but that the manner in which the Ottoman people are treated both by the military and civil authorities causes surprise and "the deepest gratitude" among them. The Turks whose fighting force is given as 50,000, fight bravely but cannot resist the *elan* of the Greeks, who can assuredly overrun, if necessary, "the whole of Asia Minor."

**Government Examinations in English.**

Evidently a great impulse is being given to the study of English. At the recent examination an unusually large number of candidates entered and passed. The majority were of course Greeks, but there was a considerable number of Turks. An interesting feature in this examination was the success of the first girl candidate, who passed with flying colours. This was Angelica Christopoulou, daughter of one of the Greek Judges. She was warmly congratulated by the examiners, Canon Newham and Captain Ellis.

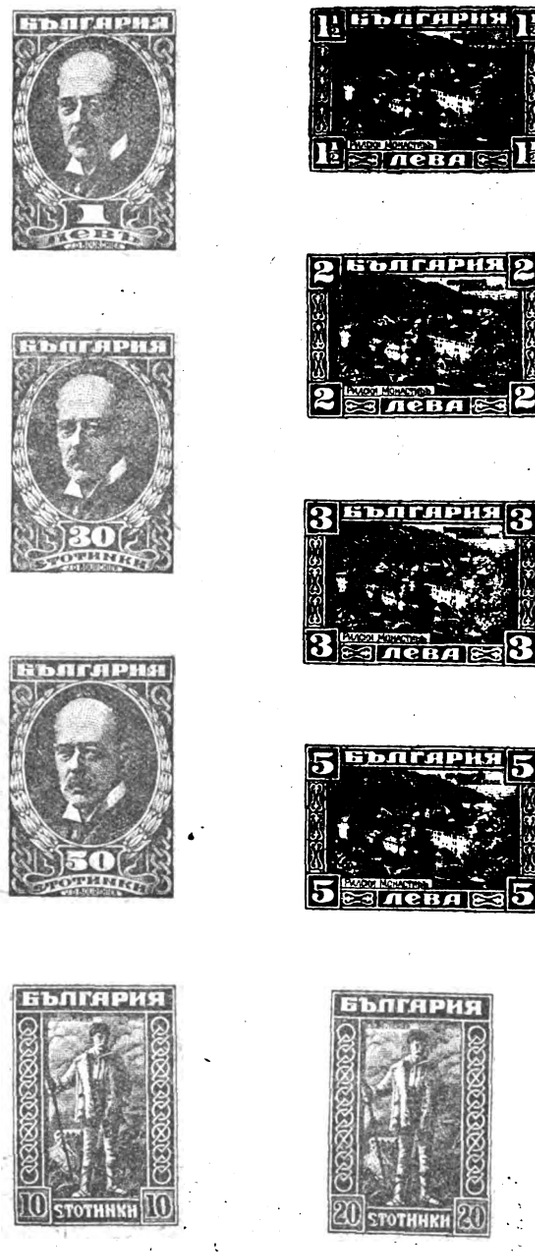
**General News.**

The Archbishop has been making a tour. The Bishops of Kitium and Kyrenia are also carrying out their annual progress through the villages of their sees. During these tours the fees due to their establishments are collected. and an opportunity s given to villagers to settle local questions affecting the churches, and also to lay before the prelates grievances which for various reasons they have not submitted to the Government directly, or through their representatives in the Legislative Council.

There has been some cooler weather, but the hot season does not end till mid-October.

## THE "BOURCHIER" STAMPS.

We publish below impressions of the set of nine stamps issued by the Bulgarian Government to commemorate the late J. D. Bourchier. Five of the series are portraits, three reproducing, no doubt faithfully enough, an early photograph, but they are hardly reminiscent of the kindly and vivacious personality which was the charm to all

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who knew him. The two depicting "J.D.B." in the costume of a Bulgarian peasant have had to sacrifice likeness for the general effect. The other four stamps show Rilo Monastery, "Bourchier's Resting Place." The issue constitutes a unique tribute on the part of a country to a foreigner.

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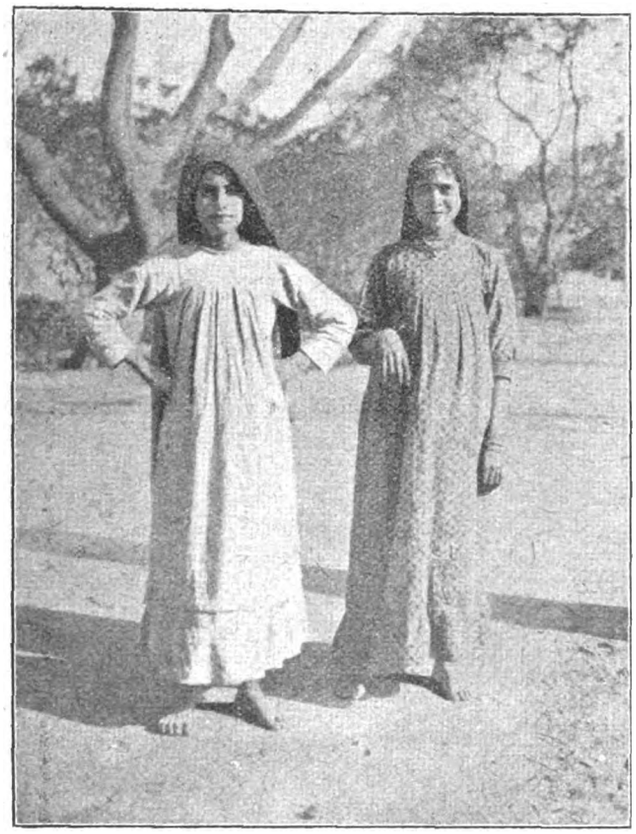
## THE COMING EGYPTIAN SEASON.

Information from a variety of sources points to a record "Season" for Egypt during the late Autumn, Winter and early Spring, with a considerable overflow to Palestine, Syria and Greece. Bookings have already commenced in Scandinavia, Holland, the United Kingdom and the United States, and two or three Nile Dahabeeyas have already their first complements. This means that hundreds of millions of piastres will be spent in Egypt for other things than cotton, and that Master Backsheesh will renew his broad and winning pre-war smile; the more fashionable donkeys will answer to modern names;

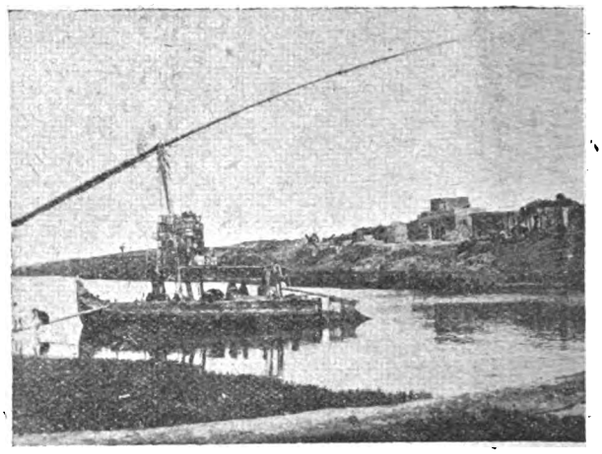


(Photo by Martin Briggs F.R.I.B.A
**Two youthful Egyptian Belles.**

Mrs Langtry will give way to Charlie Chaplin; Mark Twain will become President Wilson; and Monsieur Clemenceau will be progged behind while he ambles tiger-like beside that universal lambkin Mr. Lloyd George. All this will happen after the present visit of

**An Egyptian Potter and family.**

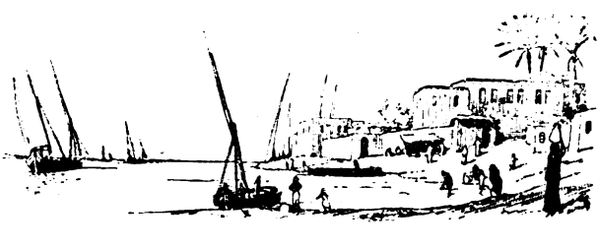
the British Labour Members of Parliament, who are now being enlightened and entertained by his Excellency Zaghloul Pasha, provided always that his Excellency's efforts for the welfare of Egypt do not comprise a veto on the visit of the non-political tourist and his wife and daughters. Messrs, Thos. Cook and Son have completed arrangements for a winter Nile service (including Palestine and Syria) on the fullest pre-war scale, whereas at this time last year they were in doubt whether they could obtain the British Government permit for the stocks of coal absolutely necessary for their Nile steamers. No such trouble faces Egypt's pioneer tourist agents for the coming season—which



**On a Branch of the Nile.**

fact, we trust, may be regarded as a definite sign that the world is moving towards happier times. Besides Messrs Cook, other British agencies and steamship companies are offering special Egyptian and Mediterranean Winter tours; and extensive advertising in the United States promises a considerable American invasion of the Near East. There are also indications that the round-Mediterranean trip, to include Greece and the Dardanelles, will be largely patronised from November onwards, and that a speedy truce or settlement between the Greek and the Kemalist Governments will assuredly result in a notable tourist traffic in Aegean waters:—amid

"The Isles of Greece, the Isles of Greece,
Where burning Sappho loved and sang."



## SOME COPTIC CLERGY I HAVE KNOWN.

(*Being extracts from a paper read by Mr. T. D. Moscona at the Manchester University on February* 10, 1921.)

When I was a boy in Egypt I was as devout as a boy could be. My red letter days were: Christmas, St. Basil's Day, St. Theodore's Festival, the Holy Week, and the "pardon" of St. Mark, the patron saint of Egypt. St. Mark's day was an exceptional day feast for members of the Greek Church in Alexandria, Greeks and Copts, i.e. the Orthodox and the Monophysites alike, keeping the anniversary of the martyrdom of the first Bishop of Alexandria on April 25. The only Coptic Church in Alexandria is named after the Martyr, and is situated, as it is alleged, over the tomb of the Saint. On his festival day this church is crowded with Greek pilgrims, who are cordially welcomed as visitors; and it was on one of these occasions that I was first brought into contact with the Coptic Church.

This Church of St. Mark, which stands close to the Coptic schools, and is a very spacious building, is internally like a Greek Church, inasmuch as the Iconostasis divides the choir from the inner temple; but unlike the Greek Church in Egypt, which does not tolerate the use of seats, the Coptic Church is modern in providing pews. The chapel containing the tomb of St. Mark is small, and very few people can enter it at a time. The walls are profusely decorated with ikons, and on a kind of dais covered with red velvet is a small box containing relics of the First Bishop of Alexandria, which thousands of pilgrims approach on their hands and knees to kiss.

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The Copts follow St. Mark's Liturgy, and those of Basil, Cyril, and Gregory are also used, but all of them are very lengthy. Musical instruments are allowed; and I have observed that the Coptic *Kappelmeisters* are nearly all blind, and know the service by heart.

The Coptic deacons are rather peculiar. The order is composed of youths specially trained for this holy office. They are dressed in white, with blue surplices, and wear red velveteen caps on their heads. They assist the officiating priest, and also form the choir; but I could not help noticing that these young men sometimes did not seem to realise the sanctity of their office, joking among themselves, pointing at one another, and even making faces at the unsuspecting priest, under the tender eyes of their mammas behind the *Kafass* in the women's gallery.

The Coptic Liturgy is very difficult to follow for a member of the Western Church; but such is not the case for a Greek, because he can easily pick up the parts which remind him of Chrysostom's liturgy, and many a Greek hymn and Theotokia. The pronunciation of the Greek is awful; but I understand that the study of Greek will now be compulsory in all Coptic schools and seminaries, and that Coptic students will be sent to Athens every year to render themselves familiar with the language.

The Copts, as an Oriental people, like the melodious hymns, and their monotonous troparia are eagerly followed, time being marked by the head, hand, or foot. At the end of the service the "antedoron," *i.e.* the blessed bread, is given to the congregation. This is a small barley loaf, stamped with St. Mark's Lion and the Trisagion hymn. On St. Mark's Day a great "fantasia" takes place outside the church; the band of the Coptic School plays; and refreshments are distributed freely. On the same day many oblates are numbered among the Deacons, amid the mingled cheers and tears of their parents and friends. Many devout Coptic mothers also choose St. Marks' Day for the christening of their children; and there is such a rush for priests and baptismal fonts that the poor parents have to line up in queues, and the priest has to christen the neophyts two or three at a time. It is not at all unusual for a careful mother to put a distinctive ribbon round the waist of her naked baby before it is christened, in order that it may not be lost!

It was in 1913 that I made the acquaintance of Amba Johannes, Metropolitan of Menufieh and Behera, and Coptic Patriarchal Vicar in Alexandria. He has ever since treated me in a very friendly manner, and I have always tried to return his friendly sentiments. He is a very pleasant old gentleman, and would have made the best successor to Cyril V, if it had not been for the rule that the Coptic Patriarch must always be chosen from the monks of the Great Monasteries of the desert.

I had approached Amba Johannes, to interview him on behalf of a local paper. The editor of a Coptic contemporary was vigorously attacking the Coptic Church on the subject of reforms; and the Coptic Prelate denounced the articles and the editor as "battal keteer" (very bad), and as paid and inspired by ther "Brautestante" (Protestants). From this and other sallies, I gathered that he belonged to a very conservative school.

On Easter Day 1914, I went to pay my respects to Amba Johannes at the Patriarchate, near St. Mark's Church, and there was then a scene which showed me how greatly opposed are the Coptic clergy of the old school to foreign missions in Egypt, and how much they dread their influence. Five young Coptic schoolgirls, after a performance in French, began to sing the well-known Easter hymn, "Christ is Risen," which had probably been taught to them by their English mistress. An old priest seated near me asked me why the girls were repeating so many times "Alleluia," and wondered whether the hymn was Greek. I replied that it was an old hymn of the Church of England.

"St. Mark have mercy!" growled the old man. 'The impudent minxes! *They* dare to sing the hymns of the 'Brautestante' before His Grace!"

His Grace himself took no notice whatever of the episode, as he was sipping his coffee at the time. But I remember that after the reception in talking with two young priests the subject cropped up, and one of the priests, gesticulating wrathfully said: "Only fancy that English mistress had the impertinence to teach our girls those foreign hymns. She knows that our dear Metropolitan—may he never see his house wrecked!—is not familiar with English, and she did it on purpose—on purpose! We want no heterodox interference. Thank God, we are "Massehen Morgooseen' (Christians of Mark), and we were Christians a long time before any Frankish nation!"

*(To be continued.)*

## TO OUR LADY READERS ABROAD.

"*THE NEAR EAST*" invites its *Lady Readers overseas* to enter a competition in which the Prizes will be as follows:—

**1st Prize £10.**
**2nd Prize £5.**
**3rd Prize £3.**

and five Consolation Prizes, taking the form of a year's subscription to *The Near East*, for the *best letters or articles* submitted in accordance with the following conditions:—

Competitors must forward to the Editor a letter or article dealing

(1) with the country or region in which the writer is resident or travelling (or has been resident or travelling) its people, its scenery, customs, folk-lore, or some kindred topic; or

(2) with some personal experience of the writer in the region or country.

Length 1,000-1,800 words.

The letter or article may be either serious or humorous in character; literary style is less to be aimed at than freshness of outlook. In other words, a competitor who writes as she would to an intimate friend and gives an interesting account or description of what she sees or experiences, will have as good a chance of winning a prize as one who sends in a more "correct" article on some well-worn subject.

Each letter or article must be legibly written (or typed) **on one side of the paper only**; it must be accompanied by a coupon (to be found on the last page) duly filled in; and must be addressed:

The Editor,
"*THE NEAR EAST*,"
1, Devonshire Square,
London, E.C. 2. England.

Competitors may adopt a pseudonym, if preferred, for purposes of publication; but correct name and address must be given for the Editor's information.

The Editor's decision will be final.

Unsuccessful articles or letters will be returned, if accompanied by an addressed envelope.

The Editor reserves the right to publish, at the usual rate of payment, any articles submitted which do not win a prize.

The coupon (on last page of cover) will be repeated in the next two issues. Competitors are restricted to three letters or articles; but each must be accompanied by a coupon—not necessarily of the same date.

See coupon on page xii of cover.

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## PRINCE MAHMOUD HAMDY.

A Correspondent writes:—The death of Prince Mahmoud Hamdy on September 16, at the age of 61, will be regretted by numerous friends. The fifth son of the Khedive Ismail, he was sent to England at the age of nine, and placed by the Khedive's Agent, Mr. J. Larking, in charge of an English clergyman in Kent, Mr. Law. When after barely two years, he was brought back for what was intended to be merely a visit, it was found that he had almost completely forgotten Turkish, and what little Arabic he knew; and, as the Viceroy knew no English, he could only converse with his father through an interpreter. The story goes that when the Khedive spoke to him in Turkish he said to a brother "Tell him that I don't understand French." He might at this time well have passed as an English boy. He had a frank and open countenance and very fair complexion.

In consequence of representations made to him, the Khedive, who had no particular prejudices of his own, decided that he should be withdrawn from Mr. Law's care, and remain in Egypt to regain a knowledge of Turkish. He was for some time under the charge of Turabi Bey (whose wife was by the way, English), but continued to study English and other languages. Various plans were made for him. At one time he was destined for the British Navy. At another he was to be entered at a Swiss School. Finally he was marched off to the Military College at Abbassieh, near Cairo; where, however, his career was a short one. He was for some time educated at a house at Abdin where his younger brother Fuad, the present Sultan, was studying. He was married in due course, and settled in a "palace" in the Ismailieh quarter of Cairo. He alone retained his love of the English language and many English habits, and made many friends among both residents and visitors to Egypt. He was a well known figure at Shepheard's hotel. During the war he was a kind and generous friend to many British officers and others. To the end his genial manner endeared him to many who will deplore his loss.

## A LESSON FOR THE KURDS.

The Colonial Office announces that the trouble in the Rowanduz area, which was due to Turkish intrigue among the Kurdish tribes of Mesopotamia and to an invasion of Mesopotamian territory by a small Turkish force, has been dealt with successfully. A combined force of 200 local levies and police under British officers left Arbil on September 10th, and with the assistance of aeroplanes occupied Batas and two neighbouring villages on the 12th. A quantity of property, including cattle and grain, came into the hands of the Government forces.

The attack was a complete surprise. The force was subjected to sniping, and at one point came under heavy fire. but both police and levies showed great gallantry. The aeroplanes rendered invaluable assistance throughout the operations, and contributed largely to their success. The enemy casualties are estimated at fifteen to twenty. One of our machines was compelled to land and was wrecked. The pilot and observer, who were injured, were brought in by aeroplane after the pilot had succeeded in burning his machine.

Ubaidullah, the leader of the Kurdish malcontents, has come into Arbil to make submission.

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Over 200 casualties were caused by recent fighting between Red Azerbaijanis and Russian Bolshevist troops at Baku.

Shaukat Ali, Dr. Kitchlew, Chulam Majadid, and Shankara Chariya last week at Karachi, where all seven of the Indian extremist leaders will be tried.

Syrian and Palestinian delegates meeting at Geneva under the presidency of the Emir Michael Lutfallah have appealed to the League of Nations to quash the mandates in Syria and Palestine, withdraw French and British troops and annul the Balfour Declaration.

Abd-el-Muneim, a robber chief in Samaria, has been wounded and captured by disguised Arab policemen.

Five aeroplanes at Bucharest were destroyed last week by a falling bomb; 10 men were killed and four injured.

It is officially announced in Jerusalem that the censorship of news in Palestine came to an end on September 1.

Four casualties and serious damage to buildings were caused by the new earthquake shock at Massewah, in Eritrea.

*Al Lewa al Masri*, the organ of the Egyptian Nationalists, has been suspended for publishing an article calculated to provoke disturbances.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

### At the Promenades.

The "Promenade" concerts at the Queen's Hall are now more than half-way through their course, and the full musical season, with opera, ballet, and hundreds of recitals, is upon us again. It may be of interest to record that this year a multitude of "stars" is to descend upon this country, though the fact has in the musical sense no significance.

Though at the Promenades there is in the works to be performed but one by a Near Eastern composer—Enesco's first "Roumanian Rhapsody"—Sir Henry Wood has already conducted two or three compositions which should be of peculiar attractiveness to readers of the "The Near East." For instance, there was Santoliquido's "Crepuscolo sul Mare." Now Santoliquido is an extraordinarily interesting composer, who, having learned the art of composition in Italy, retired to a solitary life in Tunisia, drawn thither, I believe, by the appeal of the Arab music. In this work, an early one, there was no Oriental rhythm or melody; and it was in fact a disappointing piece of Italian theatricalism. But his later compositions, in which Eastern and Western modes are fused, are much more important. One of his works in which the Arab influence is apparent is "Il profumo delle oasi sahariane," which is to be performed at at the Queen's Hall on October 6, and I advise all readers who appreciate the potential importance of the fusion of Eastern and Western thought and idiom to hear it.

In Ticciati's "Poema Gregoriano" for pianoforte and orchestra the notable experiment was made of using the Gregorian tones for secular purposes. These ecclesiastical modes of course have their origin in the old Greek scales, and there is no reason, theoretically speaking, why they should not as exactly express thought as, say, the ordinary major and minor scale. Yet one has to say that the effect of Ticciati's attempt was not wholly pleasant. He had some fine themes, some Catholic and some original, and his orchestral writing was brilliant if not novel, but it was where he was simplest (in the second movement) that the beauty of the Gregorian tones was most manifest, that is to say where they were employed in the most natural way. To hear them in lively or jerky rhythm seemed almost a sacrilege, though probably that was only the effect of aural convention. In any case the experiment was worth making, even though the resultant work was not great.

Another work of Near Eastern origin was a symphonic tableau by Joseph Jongen called "Lalla Rookh." Jongen is hailed by some as the foremost living Belgian composer, but nothing that I have heard gives him claim to any such position. I confess that I am sufficiently of my generation not to have read Thomas Moore's poem, and certainly the advantage of doing so was not forced home on me by Jongen's illlstrative music to it. If there is one thing more detestable than another in modern music it is the facile habit of writing pseudo-oriental stuff, and the beginning of Jongen's programme-music was sufficient to put me against it. There is no grip in "Lalla Rookh," and full though it is of pleasant amiabilities it palls badly.

Enesco's Rhapsody in A is to be played on October 14.

## BAGHDAD-LONDON RECORD.

An officer of the Royal Air Force proceeding home from Mesopotamia in the ordinary course of duty, has travelled from Baghdad to London in less than seven days.

Starting at Baghdad at 6 a.m. on September 15, the flight across the Syrian Desert to Amman, a distance of 515 miles, was made in 8¾ hours on the first day. The second day's journey began early and by 9 o'clock Heliopolis was reached after a flight of 325 miles. From Heliopolis the journey was continued to Aboukir, the total distance covered on this day being 440 miles.

This flight was arranged to connect with the sailing of the s.s. Vienna from Alexandria Dock. Within 40 minutes of arrival at Aboukir, the officer embarked for the remainder of his journey to England by sea and rail. He arrived in London at 8.5 p.m. on September 21, six days and 14 hours after leaving Baghdad, having saved from 10 to 14 days in passage.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## KUT AND AFTER.

**THE SECRETS OF A KUTTITE.—By Captain E. O. Mousley, R.F.A. (London :—The Bodley Head. 8/6 net).**

It may be said of all the books that have been written by British prisoners of war in Turkey that they are intensely interesting; in fact it is difficult to choose between them. Probably for sheer excitement "The Road to En-Dor" remains unsurpassable, but certainly if general interest be the standard, "The Secrets of a Kuttite" comes high in the list. Mr. John Lane must indeed be a proud man when he points to the books on Turkey that he has published since the war.

Captain Mousley has produced a remarkable book. His record, which is formed from diaries that were recovered in Turkey after the war, is a very individual one, by which we do not mean that he is constantly obtruding his own personality, but that he views matters from a very personal point of view. This method has its dangers; one's attention may be drawn from the things said to their sayer; but it must be freely admitted that the author's cleverness never allows our interest to flag, and his pages are amazingly attractive.

Upon the siege of Kut he has much to say that is more or less new, and he gives a vivid picture of that heroic endeavour. Naturally his account is enlivened with humorous episodes, but the awful privations which all ranks had to endure are not obscured. It is wise of him to print General Townshend's encouraging *communiques* to the brave garrison—*communiques*, which, as he points out, to the Sepoy were promises, but to the British private soldier were "'opeful buck"; for it is really round them that his diary notes are chiefly built. No one can read this story of the siege without a thrill of pride in the patience and courage of our Army, without also a fresh storm of indignation against those responsible for pushing on the Sixth Division alone. Incidentally, it is these pages on the siege, we imagine, that will of all this book prove most useful to historians of the Mesopotamian campaign.

Of that fearful, ineffable trek from Kut too much can never be written. Were all else forgotten or forgiven the Turk, what he then made our men endure would be accounted eternally against him. Let this author describe the beginning of the march in words that harrow the mind; he himself, sick and suffering from shell-shock, was on the Tigris at the time :—

> We tingled with anger and shame at seeing on the other bank a sad little column of British troops who had marched up from Kut being driven by a wild crowd of Kurdish horsemen who brandished sticks and what looked like whips. The eyes of our men stared from faces drawn long with the suffering of a too tardy death, and they held out their hands towards our boat. As they dragged one foot after another some fell, and those with the rearguard came in for blows from cudgels and sticks. I saw one Kurd strike a British soldier who was limping along. He reeled under the blows. We shouted out, and if ever men felt like murdering their guards we did.

That the Turks could treat their own men almost as badly is scarcely comforting to those who would have England's future in the East depend upon an alliance with such a nation. And it is wise, when trying to determine British policy in the East, to remember what our own fighting men have written of the Turk. Of these there is not one we have read who believes that any good can be done by the Turkish nation so long as it retains its official class. All these writers, including Captain Mousley, point out that the Turkish peasant, though he easily relapses into the barbarian, is often a good fellow, but there are so many others, parasitical, ignorant, intriguing and cruel, who must first be got rid of before any good can come from Turkey, though it must not be inferred from this that the author is a Turcophobe because he is well-disposed either to the Greeks or to the Armenians.

After Kut Captain Mousley went to the camp at Kastamuni, of the events at which he gives an account that usefully supplements what we had learned from other authors. His own plans of escape did not mature there, but he left this camp before most of the other officers, being sent to Stamboul via Angora for the treatment of his eyes. During this journey and on his arrival a Psamatia he underwent vile experiences of Turkish cruelty and inefficiency, and his mind more than ever hinged on the one idea of escape. Finally he did make a most gallant attempt, but was wrecked in the Sea of Marmora, and perforce returned whence he had started. From here to the end of the book page after page is crowded with astonishingly interesting matter; there is, for example, his account of the British Generals' camp at Broussa, and there is some extremely instructive matter on the political intrigue which preceded the surrender of Turkey; there is the story of his friendship with Lieutenant Jones, the author of "The Road to En-Dor," and there are his opinions of such men as General Townshend and Rahmi Bey. For the sake of these last hundred pages, indeed, the book is well worth reading. The author of this book is a very clever and intelligent man, whose exceptional experiences in both the high and the low stations of a prisoner's life made him unusually well qualified to express his opinions—a privilege of which he has fully availed himself. His book, alike for its historical, human, and political value, ought certainly to be read, and the sooner the better.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Kashmir in Sunlight and Shade. A description of the Beauties of the Country, the Life, Habits and Humour of its Inhabitants, and an Account of the Gradual but Steady Rebuilding of a once Down-trodden People." Illustrated. By C. E. Tynedale-Biscoe, M.A. With an Introduction by Major Gen. L. C. Dunsterville, C.B., C.S.I. (London: Messrs. Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Rajah's Daughter." By F. E. Penny. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The East African Force 1915-1919: An Unofficial Record of its Creation and Fighting Career, together with some Account of the Civil and Military Administrative Conditions in East Africa before that Period." By Brigadier-Gen. C. P. Fendall, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. Illustrated. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby. 16s. net.)

"The Raiders of the Sarhad: Being the Account of a Campaign of Arms and Bluff against the Brigands of the Baluchi-Persian Border during the Great War." With numerous Photographs and two Maps. By Brigadier-General R. E. H. Dyer, C.B. (London: E. F. and G. Witherby, 15s. net.)

"Santal." By Ronald Firbank. (London: Grant Richards Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"A Song of Araby." By John Guisborough. (London: Mills and Boon, Ltd., 8s. 6d. net.)

"Georgia": A Social-Democratic Peasant Republic." Impressions and Observations by Karl Kautsky. Translated by H. J. Stenning. (London: International Bookshops, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"Italian Technical Words and Phrases: An English-Italian and Italian-English Dictionary." By E. F. Paventa. (London; E. Marlborough and Co. 6s. net.)

"The Sudan Directory July 1921." Compiled by Ernest Delia Strologo. (Khartoum: The Sudan Advertising and Publishing Co.)

"A Political Escapade: The Story of Fiume and D'Annunzio." By J. N. Macdonald, O.S.B. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

*Readers of "THE NEAR EAST," Clubs, Messes, Schools, &c. are invited to order books through our Book Department. Apart from books noticed on this page and under "The Week at Home," any book can be supplied, and advice can be given in regard to the selection of works on any subject.*

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**
September 29 ( New style ).
September 16 ( Old style ).
Moharram 27, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Elul 26, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Crown Prince of Sweden left Alexandria for Marseilles on Sunday.

The Bulgarian Minister returned to London last week from Brussels.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania arrived in London on September 20 from Bucharest, and has returned to Eton.

Prince Andrew of Greece arrived in Paris last Thursday (September 22).

M. Venizelos and his two sons arrived in Paris on September 21, says a Reuter message.

It is stated that Mr. Sheldon Amos will come to London next month, having been called to the Foreign Office in connection with certain judicial questions in Egypt.

Mrs. Barrington-Ward has returned to 8, Green Street, where Mr. F. T. Barrington-Ward, K.C., will join her on his return from Baghdad at the end of the week.

Lientenant-Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has arrived in Bucharest from London.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes :—The marriage was recently celebrated at Sofia between Mr. A. A. Elder, Attaché to the British Legation, and Miss Olga Tsankoff.

Sir Charles Harington, G.O.C., the Allied Forces at Constantinople, is returning home on leave. The Italian General Monbelli will be G.O.C. during his absence.

Lady Wake has left London to join Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hereward Wake, who is at present stationed at Quetta, India.

Commander Luke, Acting Governor of Jerusalem, will leave for a two months' holiday in England after the return of Mr. Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports that Seyyid Zia ed-Din, former Prime Minister of Persia, arrived at Port Said recently, on his way to France.

At Mussoorie, on August 17, a daughter was born to Captain T. W. R. Haycraft (Survey of India, Dehra Dun), and Mrs. Haycraft.

Sir Thomas Holland, who recently resigned his post as Member of Commerce in the Governor-General of India's Council in connection with the Calcutta munitions case, left Simla on Friday for England.

A marriage will take place next month in Burma between Mr. John Clague, I.C.S., and Miss Winifred F. A. Dawkins, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis H. Dawkins.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Irene, widow of Captain Tarrant, Highland Light Infantry, and Lieutenant-Colonel H.G. Gregorie, The Royal Irish.

The engagement is announced between Ernest D. Adams, son of the late W. Day-Adams, af Caynton, Torington, and Lilias Gordon ( Queenie ), younger daughter of Mr. Alfred W. Fraser, of Khartoum and 21 Lexham Gardens, Kensington, W.

The Vali Ahd, Heir Presumptive to the Crown of Persia, accompanied by his uncle, Prince Amin-ed-Dowleh, arrived in Paris on September 22. He was met by Samad Khan, Persian Minister in Paris, and representatives of the French Government.

It is reported that the King of Roumania has bought Weinburg Castle, near Rheineck (St. Gallen, Switzerland), which formerly belonged to the Prince of Hohenzollern, and that the Roumanian Royal Family intend to spend next summer there.

On October 5, at King's College, Strand, at 5.30 p.m., Mr. A. W. Gomme will lecture on "The Scenery of Greece." The lecture, which will be illustrated by lantern slides, is given under the auspices of the Anglo-Hellenic League.

The Bishop of London will preside at the annual meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission, to be held at the Church House, Westminster, on Tuesday afternoon, October 4. The speakers will be the Bishop of London, and the Bishop of Jerusalem.

A Belgrade correspondent writes :—There is a new rumour about the forthcoming engagement of King Alexander. This time it is believed that his bride will be a Princess of the House of Guise, probably Isabella daughter of the Duc de Guise, first cousin of the Duc d'Orleans.

The marriage of Norcliffe Fourness Thompson, of Calcutta, only son of the late Frederick C. Thompson, of 40 Porchester Square, W.2., and Helen Vavasour, only daughter of the late Frederick Walker, of 18, Durham Villas, Kensington, will take place at St. Mary Abbot's Church on October 27.

At the Parish Church, Rode, on September 21, the marriage took place of Brigadier-General R. B. D. Blakeney, C.M.G., D.S.O., General Manager, Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs, to Clara Isabel Henderson of Merfield House, Rode. The Rev. Alan Armitage officiated.

The marriage arranged between Commander B. C. Marsh, D.S.O., R.I.M. ( Ret.), 12, Radnor Park West, Folkestone, only son of Major-General F. H. B. Marsh, I.A., ( Ret.), and Evelyn Rosevere, third daughter of the late Edward Starbuck Williams, and of Mrs. Starbuck Williams, 9, Grimstone Gardens, Folkestone, will take place in October.

On September 12, at St. Thomas' Cathedral, Bombay, Major John Gaylard Lawrence, R.A.P.D., only son of the late Colonel W. W. Lawrence, the Royal Irish Regt., and of Mrs. Lawrence, Coleraine, Co., Londonderry, was married to Myrrha, elder daughter of the late George E. Attwater, and of Mrs. Earwaker, Butts Croft, Uckfield, Sussex.

On September 17, at St. Matthew's Church, Bayswater, John Scott, M.B., Ch.B., Dept. of Public Health Egyptian Civil Service, was married to Flores, youngest daughter of the late Howard Chatfield Clarke, F.R.I.B.A. P.P.S.I., and Mrs. H. Chatfield Clarke, South Kensington Hotel, Queen's Gate Terrace, S.W. The Vicar, the Rev. F. Murphy officiated.

On September 20, at All Saints' Church, Shelsley-Beauchamp, Worcester, Major W. F. R. Webb, 22 Punjabis, eldest son of the late Captain W. W. Webb, M.D., F.R.C.S., Indian Medical Service, was married to Tara Isabella, second daughter of the late C. W. Wallace and Mrs. Wallace, The Manor House, Shelsley-Beauchamp, Worcester.

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The engagement is announced of Mr. Euan W. Lucie-Smith, M.C. of the Palestine Police (late Captain R.F.A. and G.S.I.), second son of Sir Alfred Lucie-Smith, Chief Justice of Trinidad, B.W.I., to Joyce, only daughter of Captain P.d'E. Wheeler, M.D., F.R.C.S. (late R.A.M.C.), late Medical Superintendent, English Hospital, Jerusalem and of Mrs. d'E. Wheeler, of Roscrea, Worthing, England, and granddaughter of the late Bishop Popham Blyth, Bishop in Jerusalem.

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place at St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth, on Tuesday, October 25, between Philip Gordon Murray, late P.W.D., India, third son of the late Major-General Robert Murray, C.S.I., B.S.C., late Director-General of Telegraphs in India, and Dorothy, only daughter of the late Major Edwin William Sandys, late R.A., Fulford House, York, and Mrs. Sandys, of Fair Mount, Priory Road, Bournemouth.

Near Eastern subjects will be well represented in the curriculum of King's College, London, for the forthcoming session. There will be a course of seven lectures beginning on October 12 dealing with Mesopotamia from the historical, geographical, geological, anthropoligical, historical, political and other points of view. Three lectures will be delivered on Serbian subjects; the first giving an account of the parts played by Karageorge and his great and, at the time, successful rival Milosh Obrenovitch in the achievement of Serbian independence, will be given by His Excellency the Yugoslav Minister, Dr. M. Gavrilovitch. In the course of ten lectures Dr. Arnold Toynbee will discuss the Greco-Turkish question, while Doctor Lysimachos Oeconomos will devote five to a study of Greece on the eve and in the first months of its revolution of 1821. Of a quite different kind from any of these will be two lectures on Roumanian Folk-poems and Roumanian superstitions.

## APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy has been elected Deputy-President of the Indian Legislative Assembly.

Dr. Dusan Resetar, Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation, has been appointed to the Foreign Office, Belgrade.

Mr. Nigel Davidson, Advocate General, Sudan Government, has proceeded to Baghdad to succeed Sir Edgar Bonham Carter, K.C.M.G., C.I.E., as Judicial Adviser in the Mesopotamia Administration.

The Rev. Richard Bell, B.D., Manse of Wamphray, Beattock, has been appointed Lecturer in Arabic in the University of Edinburgh, in succession to Dr. Edward Robertson, who has been appointed to a professorial chair in the University College of North Wales. Mr. Bell is an authority on Semitic languages and a keen student of Islamic subjects.

## OBITUARY

Colonel Herbert St. Clare Carruthers, Indian Medical Service (retired), died very suddenly, of heart failure, on September 19.

The death has occurred of Professor Henry Jackson, Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge University. He had held this post since 1906. Though he did not publish much of his work, his writings, of which possibly the most popular is the volume of Texts of Greek Philosophy from Thales to Aristotle, are well and widely known.

The death has occurred of Sir John Harold Heffernan, formerly Chief Inspector of Machinery, R.N. He was a shipmate and lifelong friend of the late Lord Fisher, with whom he served on the Warrior, the first British ironclad. He was Chief Engineer of the Inflexible at the bombardment of Alexandria, July 11, 1882, and served during the Egyptian War.

The death is announced of General Harry Cortland Anderson, C.B. He entered the Army in 1842, and four years later took part in the Sutlej Campaign and was present at the battle of Ferozeshah. Later, as Brigade Major, with the Rohilkund Field Force, he was engaged in the suppression of the Mutiny in India, taking part in the actions of Narnoul and Nagal, the occupation of Nujeebabad, the action of Nugeenah, occupation of Moradabad, the actions of Bareilly and at Ford of Burnai, the capture of Fort Mahomdee, and affairs with Jhansi mutineers. He was Honorary Colonel of the 4th Rajputs and was nominated C.B. in 1907.

The death has taken place at Fiddington, Somerset, of Mr. Thomas Cuffe, who was for thirty-three years managing partner in the banking firm of King, King, and Company, of Bombay. He was a leading member of the Bombay Municipality, and served in the office of Sheriff. For some years he commanded the Bombay Light Horse and was Hon. A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India.

We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. Samuel Webster, principal of the firm of S. Webster, Ltd., of Moorgate Station Chambers, E.C. Mr. Webster was on an extended business trip to South-Eastern Europe, and when in Cologne he died suddenly after a short illness. Mr. Webster was one of the best known men in the typewriter trade, being for 25 years prior to the establishment of S. Webster, Ltd., the Continental Manager to the Yost Typewriter Co., Ld.

### SIR ERNEST CASSEL.

Sir Ernest Cassel the famous financier, died suddenly on September 21, from heart disease, at his Park Lane residence. Born in Cologne in 1852, the son of a Jewish banker, he came to England as a young man and very soon acquired the reputation of a sound man of business; and the position he made for himself both in the City and society affords the best proof possible of his force of character.

During his early years in this country Sir Ernest was interested chiefly in South American finance, but later he turned to other quarters of the globe, and his name is associated with several highly important undertakings in the Near East. As a young man he had been engaged in setting the accounts of the Khedivial loans and transactions in order, and this probably accounted in some measure for his taking such an important part in financing of the Nile irrigation works and other works of development in Egypt. With Sir John Aird he was chiefly responsible for the two great dams, at Assouan and at Assiut, which added so largely to the cultivatable area of Egypt; and he was the founder of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt. He was also largely interested, later, in the National Bank of Turkey.

Of his vast interests in other parts of the world nothing need be said here. Nor is this the place to record his very considerable charitable gifts in this country. But it may be noted that he contributed some £40,000 for hospital work in Egypt. He was interested in the turf and in hunting, and owned many race-horses. He married a daughter of Mr. R. T. Maxwell, but had been a widower since 1881; and his only child, a daughter, who married Colonel Wilfred Ashley, M.P., died in 1911. He was a G.C.M.G., a G.C.V.O., and a G.C.B., and among the numerous foreign orders which he held was that of the Osmanieh (1st class).

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1921.


## SOVIETS, WHITEHALL AND PERSONALITY.

The amazing indictment embodied in a Note dispatched by the Foreign Office to the Soviet Government on September 17, will be read by the public in this country with mixed feelings. Time was when even one of the dozen charges brought against Bolshevist Russia would have been regarded as sufficient cause for breaking off relations with the offending country; to-day it is merely suggested that, if the conditions described in the Note are to continue, it will be impossible that the better relations between the Governments and peoples of the two countries anticipated from the Trade Agreement should be established. The document is a model of diplomatic restraint worthy of a more honourable addressee. Only in the final paragraphs is anything in the nature of severe comment indulged in, when the telling narrative of plot and intrigue is concluded. On the principle that it is of little use to threaten what you cannot perform, the mildness of the note is possibly justified. At least it is calculated to shake the self-complacency of the Soviet Government, if it imagined that its intrigues were escaping notice. The chapter and verse that the Marquess Curzon is able to give may even enhance Bolshevist respect for the British Secret Service. But the main reflexion that the reading of the Note will occasion is that it is impossible to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and the reader is left in wonderment why the British Government ever undertook the task. In the most backward native community in Africa it is usual to find the ruler endowed with some measure of dignity and self-respect. Russia alone in modern times has supplied an example of an administration individually and collectively lost to all sense of honour and morality. A policy of desperation will always fall short of the ideal, but neither the British public nor our Allies are satisfied that even that policy canbe urged as an excuse for the Trade Agreement between Great Britain and the Soviets. The attempt to graft upon the resumption of trade relations decent behaviour on the part of the Moscow Government renders the British Government's action still more inexplicable. Only by a far more circuitous route can Russia qualify to re-enter the comity of nations.

Through its jackal, the Third International, the Soviet Government has openly declared its policy in regard to the East. "The general guiding purpose of the Eastern Secretariat, in all its work," says the President of that section in a report to the Central Committee, "lies in exerting pressure upon the political authority of the capitalist Powers of Western Europe through their colonies, discrediting them in the eyes of the native population, and simultaneously preparing the latter to emancipate themselves from an alien yoke. The problems connected with the class struggle in the West will be incomparably easier of solution if the external power of France and England can be undermined." Starting off with these amiable intentions, the Soviet Government has every reason to be satisfied with the progress so far made. Discussions as to the best means of provoking a revolution in India have been held in Moscow with Indian revolutionaries, who have been liberally supplied with funds. A well-known Indian anarchist, who has been studying the manufacture of bombs in Vienna, has been given financial assistance to enable him to start a factory for smokeless powder in Kabul. In Persia the Soviet representative, with a staff of nearly a hundred persons, is actively engaged in anti-British propaganda, for which he is supplied with large sums of money from Moscow. At Tashkend the Soviets maintain a propaganda school as a base for their activities in India; here the future emissaries of revolution are trained and are provided with money from a special allocation of two million gold roubles. In Asia Minor the Moscow Government is exerting itself to prevent the Turkish Nationalists from arriving at a peaceful solution of their differences with the Entente Powers, and, in order to exert still stronger pressure, has assembled considerable forces on the border of Anatolia, offering their active support to Mustapha Kemal. The coping stone to all these activities is supplied in Afghanistan, the country whose territory is an important channel by which the "Communist International maintains direct contact with India." An annual subsidy is paid to the Afghan Government; in the treaty recently concluded between Moscow and Kabul provision is made for the establishment of five Soviet "Consulates" in Afghanistan, which, as they can have no commercial justification, are clearly intended to be propaganda centres; and finally Jemal Pasha has been subsidised and is being kept in Afghanistan with the object of raising disaffection among the frontier tribes against the British, and furnishing them with arms and ammunition.

Clearly this is a state of affairs that cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely without some effort on the part of the British Government to check it. Choosing the line of least resistance, the latter hoped to persuade the Soviets to confine their activities to other directions by offering them trade facilities with Great Britain. This policy has failed utterly. War against Russia is out of the question, and there remains only one method of meeting the Soviet menace. The Moscow Government seeks to reach its objective in India through the medium of the Governments and peoples in between. To counteract this scheme Great Britain must see to it that the media are made non-conducting and so interpose an effective barrier to Bolshevist influence. The chief countries concerned are Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan. To the ordinary observer it would seem as if the principal reason for the failure of British policy throughout the Middle East has been the fact that it has been fashioned in London instead of being inspired and directed "on the spot." During the war it was the custom to regard the Near and the Middle East as side-shows, and when it came to the question of peace terms, Mr. Lloyd George, quite naturally perhaps, decided that, as he was capable of settling the German part of the business, he was certainly qualified to look after what he regarded as the relatively unimportant remainder. To this unfortunate decision may be traced the steady loss of ground by Great Britain in the East, until Great Britain's prestige stands to-day at a lower level possibly than at any other period since she first had dealings with the East. We are confident that every member of the Cabinet recognizes the malady, but we are not so sure that all are agreed upon the remedy. It is obvious, however, that the combined intelligence of Whitehall has been outclassed by the Moscow representative at Angora and a M. Rothstein in Teheran, not on account of any inherent superiority in the latter two, but merely because each has been on the spot. If the intrigues and plots of Jemal Pasha in Afghanistan are foiled, it will be because the British Government has found an able emissary in Sir Henry Dobbs, who has been for some time past in Kabul. We built up our prestige in the East on personality, and it will be by personality that we shall regain it. In the case of Turkey things have gone too far for personality unaided to work a miracle, and the ground must be prepared by a just settlement. When that has been imposed, let the British Government resolve that it will pay special attention to the question of its representations in all the countries of the Near and Middle East. The men to be chosen should be of outstanding ability, with knowledge of the country and in

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sympathy with their surroundings, Whitehall is near enough to the capitals of the Western Powers to cover deficiencies of its representatives in them. It has no influence in the East. If it would have it, let it take care that those who are to represent it there embody in their own persons the qualifications that have made for British prestige in the past, and when it is sure of having made a right choice, let it leave a free hand to the man on the spot. India will then have no need to fear the Soviet menace.

## ALBANIA.

### THE BIRTH OF A NATION.

(*By "Pertrella."*)

It really looks as if the Albanian question were about to be solved once and for all. This is largely due to the firmness and commonsense with which Lord Curzon has handled the question during the last few months. Albania has of course first herself to thank for the triumph of her case on account of the stout patriotism of her people and the moderation of her statesmen. She may indeed also be thankful for the lack of moderation shown by the statesmen of her neighbours. Time too has worked on her side, as time generally does on the side of righteousness. But it is due to Lord Curzon that in the last resort the labyrinth of conflicting claims has been negotiated, by his insisting on the commonsense expedient of disregarding as much as possible the various guilty and mutually inconsistent arrangements about Albania arrived at since the outbreak of the world war, and on tackling the problem once more on its own merits.

The British Foreign Office since the days of the Peace Conference has generally tried to view the question with impartial eyes, but at one time the desire to support France, who strongly backed the Greek and Yugoslav claims, and the hypnotic influence exercised by Greece's great statesman, M. Venizelos, obscured our vision to a certain extent. Since then the scales have fallen from our eyes. The British have never been in favour of the obviously unjust claims of the Yugoslavs in the North, while the eclipse of M. Venizelos and the consequent reversal of the French attitude have since brought about a reconsideration of our views on the Southern frontier, in the light of the apparent general content of the Southern population with the rule of the Albanian Government at Tirana.

When the Albanians a few months ago appealed to the Council of the League of Nations to bring about a definite solution of the problems affecting their country. the matter was—out of deference to the wishes of Italy—referred back for consideration by the Council of Ambassadors. Italy feared the impartial verdict of the League. She still hoped to obtain a privileged economic and political position in Albania, and when the matter came up for discussion before the Ambassadors, she was painfully surprised at Lord Curzon's insistence in refusing to allow the problem to be considered as part of a general settlement of various outstanding problems connected with the Near East. Italy has, of course, always backed up the Albanian claim to the 1913 frontiers, because this claim naturally coincided with Italian interests, and Italy has made a good deal of capital out of this, but the fact remains that in many respects her attitude appears not to have been sincere. It has been Lord Curzon's task to disentangle the sincere and legitimate aims of Italy, from those which, in spite of her posing as Albania's best friend, implied an ardent desire to limit Albanian independence.

When the Council of Ambassadors met, the British Representative claimed the attribution of Southern Albania to Greece, as he was logically bound to do, inasmuch as no international re-examination of the question had taken place in the interval since the British experts at the Peace Conference had reported in favour of this solution. The Italian and French Representative protested, with the result that a re-discussion of the problem took place, and in the light of the new evidence the British Representative gave way. The general principle of the 1913 frontiers was accepted and it was left to the experts to introduce minor modifications in the North-East in order to render the frontier more logical. The recommendations of the experts, however, have not proved very felicitous. On a balance, nearly 400 square kilometres of territory exclusively inhabited by Albanians have been allotted to Yugoslavia in order to satisfy what the latter regards as the minimum concession required to safeguard her hold on the Albanian townships of Dibra and Prisrend. On the other hand scant regard has been paid to Albania's much stronger claims, both on ethnographical and on strategical grounds, in the North, where it would have been possible to set off the loss of Albanian territory in the East in a way conducive to local peace, at present disturbed by the fact that the frontier divides the Albanian tribal group known as the Maltsori into two parts. The Council were legitimately empowered to do this, and it is impossible to withold sympathy from the Albanian statesmen who may now be asked to sign a document to hand over without compensation elsewhere districts inhabited exclusively by their countrymen, districts which have never been legally acquired by Yugoslavia, and where excesses have undoubtedly been committed by Yugoslav troops. It is, therefore to be hoped that it will be possible to introduce at least the above small modifications, required by both commonsense and justice.

The Council of Ambassadors furthermore recognised the general principle of Albania's sovereign independence. Italy, however, attempted to insist on certain reservations, and the question was not resolved in any definite form when the Council broke up. Since then Italy has tried to get the matter referred to the Supreme Council, where she again hoped the question might be solved in relation to other questions of general policy. To

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this end she has endeavoured to delay action by the League; but meanwhile our Foreign Office has again been at work to good purpose. The debt which Albania owes to Britain's disinterested action in her favour cannot be exaggerated. Lord Curzon has laboured to find a formula satisfying Italy's legitimate aspirations which may be summed up thus: That the Bay of Valona will never be used as a base for hostile action against Italy by any Power or combination of Powers with or without Albania's consent. It appears that some much formula has been found. It should be added that Italy has also satisfied herself that the initiative of certain British firms in Albania has no political significance. If Italians have hitherto failed to obtain any important concessions in Albania they have only to thank their own Government, who instead of leaving matters to private initiative, have striven to obtain a privileged position for Italian enterprise by political pressure, and have thus alienated Albanian sympathies which would naturally have flowed towards the Italians, for whom the Albanians have always held the warmest personal regard. If, as is now likely, a happy solution, satisfactory to both the Great Powers and to Albania herself is to be the outcome of the present negotiations, Italian enterprise will no doubt quickly regain the ground lost to date, and need have little fear of the competition of others in the future. The task of building up Albania's economic prosperity cannot be undertaken by any one Power alone without retarding the process; and this would clearly be contrary to Italy's best interests, in that a rapid increase of Albania's purchasing power will redound to the benefit of Italy's manufacturers, who on account of Italy's geographical position, will always have an important advantage over all competitors.

### PHOTOGRAPHS FROM TIBET.

The Royal Asiatic Society exhibited last week enlargements of photographs of the peoples, scenery, and temples of the Western Himalayan countries between Simla and Kashmir, taken by Mr. H. Lee Shuttleworth, of the Indian Civil Service, in the course of his travels. Included in the collection are several views of the arid valleys and snowy mountain ranges of parts of Tibet, and the habits, customs, and pastoral pursuits of the inhabitants.


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## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

### The Near East.

Writing in the *Morning Post* of September 20, the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., discusses the futility of British Policy in the Near East, and describes how it has resulted in complete chaos. He traces the steps by which we have lost the confidence both of the Greeks and of the Turks.

The fact remains that owing to the actions of the British Government Great Britain is regarded as an enemy by the Turks and as a false friend by the Greeks. The consequences of this policy have been to waste a fertile land that is crying aloud for development and to antagonise a people who desire our help in the development of its territory, to kill British commerce in the Near East, and paralyse the ports of Smyrna, Salonica, and Constantinople. Those who know this country and the possibilities that it holds cannot contemplate the present state of things without wondering if our worst enemy could have done us and our interests more harm. Chaos and war reign everywhere. Constantinople itself is nothing less than a European scandal. With the best will in the world it is impossible for the High Commissioner or the Allies adequately to cope with circumstances for which they are not responsible. In the old days there was a mixed company in the Grand Rue de Pera. It was mixed and quaint, velvet and rags, camels and motor-cars, but the Turks insisted on the decencies of civilisation. To-day there is an endless exhibition of immorality without a parallel. Half Constantinople and a great part of Scutari have been burnt. The European and Asiatic city is packed with thousands of miserable refugees, and to complete the picture winter and starvation are approaching. This is a black picture to paint, and there are other colours that might be used if we were fortunate enough to have another foreign policy or the prospect of it. But the truth of it is is we have no foreign policy beyond the spasmodic zig-zags of Mr. Lloyd George. It is possible to forgive the passion and ignorance which at the Conference of Paris did so much to destroy our own interests. It is more difficult to pardon the fatuousness of a policy which continues to lay British commerce and British prestige in ruin. We hold the East with a minimum quantity of troops, and we impose conditions upon the East only possible of application with a maximum of force behind them. There is logic, if there is not morality, in Prussianism when it is backed by cannon; it is folly when its only weapons are pins. And the obvious consequences follow. Those whom we antagonise turn from us to see what can be obtained from our Allies or from our active enemies, the Bolsheviks.

And he concludes with a note on the chance of intervention:—

Meanwhile the war goes on. Organisation, locomotion equipment, are on the side of the Greeks. Geography and history fight for the Turks. In this war there is no Waterloo in sight. The Greeks, it is clear, will not now get to Angora, nor, if they did, would that bring the war to a successful conclusion. Greek victories, indeed, help no one except Greek newspapers, since the price of the drachma actually falls after a Greek success. The Greeks are paying a high price in men and in money for their temporary laurels. Their money, however, appears to be abundant, and there is little doubt that they can get through the winter by living on the local supplies of corn and cattle in and around Eski-Shehir. At the next pause of hostilities there will come yet another chance of an honourable intervention, and terms which both parties could agree to, and which both would be likely to prefer to the chance of winning a barren victory at the end of a further struggle. But for this a change of heart and a change of mind in the British Cabinet is necessary. Constantinople has not as yet figured actively in the British Press. The positive moral and financial losses which we are suffering in Turkey and the negative disadvantages which we are incurring while the resources of this country are debarred to us have not yet figured in an anti-waste campaign, and consequently until pressure is brought upon the Government we are likely to continue upon our bankrupt course. In Constantinople there are Englishmen who favour the Turks and Englishmen who favour the Greeks, but there is not a single Englishman that I have met who supports the Near Eastern policy of the Government, which is indifferent to the fate of our prisoners, to the prestige of our name, and our secular interests in Turkey.

### The Middle East.

In the *Sunday Times* of September 18, Mrs. Rosita Forbes writes down some of the impressions she gained during a recent tour in the Middle East. She shows how changed the point of view of the Eastern has become:—

To a certain extent the war has altered the point of view of the Eastern, for it has undermined his fatalistic idea of Kismet. Ten years ago he endured his wrong with very little expectation of redress. We have taught him to appreciate the spirit of change, and he has lost his age-old patience. Moreover, he is beginning to understand that his own particular country does

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not stand alone in a universe, hostile or friendly, as the case may be, but is likely to be affected by the political situation in the remotest parts of that universe. Thus, in a Jerusalem café you may hear Armenians or Levantine Jews discussing de Valera's projects, or in a Delta village a couple of sheikhs following with considerable accuracy the movements of Mustapha Kemal.

Three quite definite impressions remain, she says—"ignorance, impatience, and a dawning sense of unity in purpose and outlook":—

It is surprising the ignorance displayed among the lower-class Arabians and Egyptians, not only as to England's aims, but even as to her actions. For instance, the fellaheen of the Nile Valley, in many cases, are afraid to leave their villages, for no specific reason that they can state, but because of a vague terror of what the British will do in their absence It appeared to me that there was little aversion from the English, merely a wide-spread fear, fostered, of course, by Nationalist agitators from Cairo. By three different races I was told (a) that the English were making war on the Arabs in Palestine (b) that they were fighting the Egyptians in the Delta, (c) that the Hejaz railway could not be reopened because of English raids south of Ma'am. These three ludicrous statements show the necessity of some sort of British propaganda to counteract the effect of the flood of Kemalist, Bolshevik, and Egyptian Nationalist literature that is scattered broadcast through the Middle East.

She then states that Mustafa Kemal has now taken the supreme place as the champion of Islam in the minds of the Arabs of Syria and Palestine; and she proceeds to discuss the Zionist versus Arab question:—

When two elements are as profoundly distrustful of each other as the Zionist and the Arab, even the tact and statesmanship of Sir Herbert Samuel are of little avail. Every action of the Government is regarded with distrust. As an instance, take the recent Land Act, which was framed chiefly to protect Arab interests by insisting that only a bona fide resident in Palestine could buy land therein, thus preventing its purchase by wealthy aliens. The Arabs now complain that they are forced to sell to the local Jew, who is generally the richest man in the place, because their Syrian and Arabian friends have been put out of the market.

It is useless now to quote the promises made by Lord Curzon and Sir Henry McMahon concerning the Arab National kingdom, which was to include the four towns of Hama, Homs, Damascus, and Aleppo, but if British statesmen have forgotten their guarantees, it is idle to hope that the Arabs have equally short memories. Irak is but a sop to Cerberus, and, as my Trans-Jordanian friend writes:" The Arab is still waiting."

And she concludes with a few words upon the new type of British official in the East:—

It is possible that the new type of British official who has of necessity, not of choice, gone East during the last few years is responsible to some extent for the distrust with which England is regarded. Just as the Western Jew who is to make his home in Arab Palestine has no respect for the Mufti or the Qadi, so the new Englishman has no knowledge of native customs and manners. The inspector of old used to be father, mother, and god of his district, and he could tell the old men their own jokes in their own language.

Just before the end of my Arabian August I had some small difficulty over my return permit so I went to a young British official who strongly objected to being asked to exert himself in a shade temperature of 102 degs. to help an unprepossessing native woman. After emitting disjointed sounds which presumably he imagined were some form of Arabic, he disgustedly sent for an interpreter. "Tell that woman she can't speak her own language," he ordered; but what the interpreter said in melliflu ous Egyptian, while his employer nodded smiling, was, "Oh, lady, they think they understand our language, just as they think they understand our feelings; but Allah knows they do neither the one nor the other!" Perhaps that is the last word that can be said about the Middle East.

**Britain and Turkey.**

The Constantinople corespondent of the *Morning Post* had recently an interview with H.I.H. Prince Abdul Mejid, Heir-Apparent to the throne of Turkey, who is reported to be "exceedingly Anglo-phile" and a very democratic prince. The interview was published in the *Morning Post* on September 16, and made extremely interesting reading. After deploring the War in Asia Minor, which, the Prince rightly declares, can be profitable to neither of the belligerents, and endeavouring to show that Turkey has for centuries had to defend herself against diplomatic intrigue and military aggression on the part of Europe, the Prince turned to the subject of Great Britain's policy towards his country.

"In the years preceding the war Great Britain, in order to assure the loyalty of Russia in the Great War with which she was menaced, felt herself obliged to sacrifice her Oriental policy to the whims of her great rival in the East. Most especially Turkey, who in 1908 asked for nothing better than deliverance from the German yoke, was repeatedly rebuffed in her endeavours to gain British help in her work of reform and regeneration. Finally, at the beginning of the war, Great Britain felt herself obliged to promise the very capital of Turkey to Russia as the price of her Silesian offensive. It is not for me to judge whether this policy was necessary or not, but, in any event, it had the inevitable effect of throwing Turkey into the enemy camp. If England had expended in Turkey a small part of the efforts she concentrated on Russia she could have had Turkey as an unflinching Ally during and after the Great War.

This, says his Imperial Highness, concerns the past; but what of the Turkish appeals for English help and support at the time of and since the Armistice? Then—

There was no Russia in the field whose jealousy might be excited by a friendly policy towards Turkey. Turkey was ready to abandon all her colonies and to start again her work of reform and regeneration strictly within her ethnological frontiers. A new Sultan was on the throne; the oligarchy of adventurers, who had brought Turkey into the war, was expelled; and the entire people was filled only with thoughts of peace, and basing all its hopes on repentant and sincere reconciliation with its recent enemies and old friends. What use was made by England of this eminently favourable state of affairs? The Turkish question was cast aside and ignored for eighteen months by the Supreme Council, except during the fatal month of April, 1919, when, without even calling upon their representatives in Turkey to express an opinion, the Supreme Council accepted the views advanced by Greek propagandists and authorised the occupation of Smyrna with its horrible scenes of massacre and atrocity, the reality of which has been abundantly certified by the official International Commissions. The terms of the Armistice were ignored, and hundreds of Turks were arrested and deported on the mere denunciations of their political enemies. The official correspondence that passed between the Allied High Commissioners and the Turkish Government during this period prove abundantly how sincere were the Turkish efforts at reconciliation, and how persistent was the Allied rejection of their advances.

Later, after quoting from speeches by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, in 1895, and Lord Grey, in 1909, the Prince went on to say:—

"Is the policy of this majestic British Empire placed to-day under the tutelage of intriguing demagogues invited to London at every crisis? I am, and remain, profoundly convinced that the future is not distant when the great British nation will finally see clearly through the narrow and harmful policy conducted in its name, and will suppress it by a decision of its sovereign will and return to the great policy of Beaconsfield based on the great reciprocal interest of the British and the Moslem worlds.

"The important decisions taken recently in London and Paris are of a kind to prepare the ground for a speedy solution of the difficulties which prevent the re-establishment of peace. I feel convinced that from their present attitude of strict neutrality towards the belligerent Powers the Allies may well enter upon a phase of negotiation with Greece and Turkey, and in the event that the former again rejects the decisions of the Supreme Council as she rejected them in March of this year, it should be possible to extend the British declaration of the termination of the state of hostilities to Turkey, also after the latter has undertaken to accept terms of peace based on justice and benevolence.

And he concluded the interview by declaring:—"I say with all conviction that Turkey is only awaiting the opportunity afforded by peace of starting her work of regeneration and reform. This peace will bring calmness and satisfaction to the whole Moslem world, and do much to solve questions geographically, but not sentimentally far separated from that of Turkey."

*For the details regarding*

**A COMPETITION**

***For Lady Readers Overseas.***

*see page 377.*

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*Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day.*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*

—OMAR KHAYYAM—

During the last war a story was told about a sailor boy who wrote home to his mother somewhat on these lines :—" Dear Mother ; This war is a terrible thing. Yesterday we were attacked by one of the enemy's ships, and had hardly got away safely from her when we were chased by a submarine. Things looked pretty bad, and I thought it was all up with us, when I remembered your telling me always to look above for help. Well, I looked up, and there was an enemy aeroplane just ready to drop bombs on us." I was reminded of this by the terms of a proclamation issued lately by the French Military Authorities to those Syrians who failed to appreciate French rule. This proclamation informed the restless inhabitants of Jebel el Druse: " Airmen are flying over your country and important French forces are marching on Suweida. Whether you lift up your eyes to heaven or look down on earth you see displayed before you the might and prestige of a great Power," etc., etc. Well, well ! I wonder whether this notable production induced the rebel Druses to appreciate the ' might and prestige ' of the great Power? It seems not unworthy to rank with the production of the German pastor, who, in the course of the war, wrote a hymn which began with a verse about the Almighty reigning over Cherubim, Seraphim, and even Zeppelin.

The change in the weather has brought about a mitigation of the plague of mosquitoes in this country ; but there are still many of the pests about, and I fully expect that they have come to stay. A very cold winter may kill them all off, or greatly reduce their numbers, of course ; but the chances are, I think, that we shall have them with us next summer, even if their numbers are seriously reduced. And in any case I dare say that some readers will be interested in a hint sent me by a kind correspondent, who read my remarks about the wretched insects the other day. His remedy is as follows :—

> Place a pot containing a cultivated castor oil plant in the room. It appears that it has the property of attracting mosquitos and other insects, and eventually killing them. It is an easy and inexpensive remedy, simple to try.

My correespondent has lived many years in the East, but he omits to say whether he has tried his remedy himself. Perhaps some folk will wonder whether it is worth " attracting mosquitoes and other insects," for, even though the plant may kill them eventually, they may have time to get a few blows—or stings—in first. And when it comes to defeating their wiles outdoors, what can we do ? Carry castor oil plants about with us ? To deal effectively with the pests we should have to fill our parks and gardens with the plant, and to grow it all over our commons and open spaces ; and though I, personally, rather admire its foliage, I fancy we should get tired of it if it met us everywhere. A young friend of mine, who is at present on the sick list, tells me with strong emphasis, that he is perfectly sure that the plant *would* kill the mosquitoes, or any other insects, *if* only they could be persuaded to sample it. But he declines to believe that it could possibly " attract " them.

" The Near East," as I have remarked on more than one occasion, is a highly respectable journal, and its pages may be read by the Young Person without any risk of its bringing a blush to his, or her, cheek. But that it remains so is due entirely to an effort on my part. Thus—The other day, calling upon the Editor, I was privileged to read a letter which he had just received, for publication, from his Zagreb Correspondent ; and in it I came across the following paragraph :—

> The young ladies of Zagreb, and a very good-looking lot they are, have invented a new game, which is said to have come from Dalmatia ; they bask in the sun when bathing in the Save. The game is to see who can get the most tanned, with the result that ones sees young women walking bout, often enough with fair hair and eyes, showing very decolleté neck and shoulders, bare arms, and sometimes even bare legs with only sandals on, with complexion like Malays. It is often deeper than café au lait, and commonly enough ones sees an actual deep chocolate tint. As they presumably wear bathing-dresses when basking, one inevitably wonders whether they are piebald.

There, I am glad to say, the ' evil communication " ceased from its attempt to ' corrupt good manners.' But only think what might have happened if it had found its way into " The Near and Middle East," And the Zagreb Correspondent was indiscreet enough to add a footnote to the effect that the game was an " attractive " one !

CORSAIR.

### THE PRINCE OF WALES' TOUR.

It is understood that recent events in India have not in any way affected the programme arranged for the Prince of Wales' forthcoming tour, says *The Times*. As already announced, his Royal Highness will leave Portsmouth in the Renown on October 26. After a day at Gibraltar on the 29th, the Prince will proceed to Malta, and during his visit there, lasting from November 1 to November 3, he will open the new Maltese Parliament. He will reach Bombay on November 17, and after a stay in India of precisely four months, will leave Karachi on March 17.

On leaving India the Prince will pay short visits to Ceylon, the Federated Malay States, the Straits Settlements, and Hongkong, whence he will proceed to Japan, landing there about April 13, and departing three weeks later. On the return journey, the Renown will follow the same route as the outward voyage, through the Suez Canal. His Royal Highness will arrive in London some time in June of next year.

The Prince and his staff and Captain Meade, Commander of the Renown, are to mess together in the Royal suite, which has a separate galley, as well as secretaries' offices and a special printing office. The Rev. Thomas Crick, who was chaplain on board the Malaya during the Duke of Connaught's tour, has been appointed chaplain to the Renown. Among the 65 officers is Prince Charles, second son of King Albert, now in his 18th year, who was a cadet with Prince George on the Thunderer during her Mediterranean tour, and has just been appointed to the Renown as a midshipman.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square.
E.C. 2,

**The Rupee Problem.**

The question of Indian Exchange is dealt with on another page in an article by "Gold Mohur," whose knowledge of his subject renders his view of the outlook of particular interest. An unqualified forecast is out of the question, but it is not difficult to see, reading between the lines, that he is for the moment optimistic. An ultimate advance of the rupee to 2s., however, would seem to be dependent on the extent to which American exchange finds it way back to parity. In the meantime there are enough factors within sight to render fluctuations almost inevitable.

**Indian Trade.**

The published trade returns for last July lend significance to the more recent movements to which "Gold Mohur" calls attention, June and July, we may hope, touched bottom. In July there was a further decline in imports into India, the value of the goods imported being less than eighteen crores of rupees, the lowest figure since December 1919. Exports showed a slight improvement of seven per cent. on the figures of the previous month, when the lowest total was reached, but are twelve per cent. down on the returns for July 1920, as compared with the drop of 37 per cent. in imports. Thanks to a net export of treasure amounting during the month to Rs.1.23 lakhs there was for the first time after a lapse of fourteen months a balance of trade in favour of India. Raw materials and manufactured articles declined, but larger shipments of rice helped to bring the improvement in the exports of Indian produce, food, drink, and tobacco to nearly two lakhs.

**Customs Duties in Turkey.**

The Constantinople Government has issued a Decree fixing until the re-establishment of peace an *ad valorem* tax of eleven per cent. on all foods imported into any of the Customs Zones of the Ottoman Empire. A mixed commission composed of officials and business men is to determine the value of goods for duty purposes, and until the new duties are fixed the taxes will be collected according to the system in force before the existing differential duties were introduced by the law of March 1916. In other words, it must be inferred, the eleven per cent. *ad valorem* duties to which the Powers gave their assent in 1907 will be reimposed at once, except in the case of (*a*) goods in the hands of the Customs before the publication of the present decree and during one month from the date of its publication: and (*b*) goods ordered before the publication of the Decree and consigned within thirty days of its publication, on the condition that they be submitted to customs formalities during the month following their arrival in a Customs Zone of the Ottoman Empire.

**A Question of Grace.**

The Treaty of Sèvres, it will be remembered, provided for the re-establishment of the 1907 convention regarding imports duties. It was also left to the Financial Commission appointed under the Treaty to make any modifications in existing duties or to impose new duties, subject to a period of six months' notice being given to all the Allied Powers. Whether merchants were also to have the benefit of that long notice was not stated, but they would not be likely to remain in ignorance of any proposed change. In the present case the period of grace given in regard to the new duties is restricted to one month, a concession which in view of the fact that most goods must take nearly that length of time to reach Constantinople, at least from Great Britain, practically limits the benefit to goods already on order. This, however, is more than the authorities want to allow in Smyrna. According to our Correspondent there, the new duty is to be enforced at once, but I can only suppose that this is due to an oversight on the part of the Greek Administration, and that, when their attention has been called to the procedure in Constantinople, they will also allow a similar period of grace.

**The Smyrna-Aidin Railway.**

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. While Smyrna itself is complaining of stagnation—the picture drawn by one correspondent, "business at a complete standstill, crops rotting, mines closing down, all other products held up for want of labour, transport and capital" is, I hope, overdrawn—the Smyrna-Aidin Railway has a very different story to tell. By June 30 last it had completed the first twelve months during which the line has been worked by the Company since the outbreak of war. In that period, owing partly to the use of the railway for military purposes by the Greeks and partly to accumulations of freight waiting to be carried, both passenger and goods traffic exceeded all previous records. When to this exceptional activity is added an increase in rates, it is not surprising that the company can show a satisfactory balance sheet. Gross receipts amounted to £1,255,900, of which less than £190,000 is accounted for by military traffic. There was a net profit of £216,900 which enables the debit balance accumulated in the years of the war to be reduced by that amount to £701,000. The comparatively small proportion, fifteen per cent., of the revenue derived from military traffic suggests that the railway has almost as much to hope for as the port of Smyrna from the cessation of the Greco-Turkish war and a satisfactory settlement of the Asia Minor question.

**Commentator**

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, September 9.*

**Reaction of Prices.**

Decades behind Western countries in general commercial procedure, Egypt is yet in some ways well in the van in economic reaction. We are experiencing an instance at the present moment. For the past fortnight there has been a steady rise in the price of cotton. The rise had been awaited with more than ordinary eagerness, because the vast majority of the people of Egypt, though they would have been totally unable to give any coherent explanation of what the rise portended, were thoroughly aware that its main effect would be to ease the tightness of money in the country. Consequently, now that the price has advanced to over 40 dollars, there has been an immediate advance in retail prices of food-stuffs produced and supplied locally. For instance, within the last week, the price of wheat in Upper Egypt has risen from 200 piastres to 288, dura from 96 piastres to 132, and beans from 140 to 192 piastres the ardeb. In many cases the vendors of these foodstuffs are also cotton-growers, and they are unable to comprehend why a rise in the price of cotton is not incontrovertible proof that other agrarian products should not rise also. The native press already is calling loudly to the Government to produce a remedy; but it is more than likely that, in view of the approaching winter season, the general tendency of prices will be upward.

**Passing it on.**

It will be unfortunate if this is so, for more than one reason. Primarily, the bad effect of the continued slump in business in Egypt has been too severe to enable the purchasing power to recuperate with the same rapidity as cotton has risen. In the second place, there is ample evidence at the moment that the winter season is likely to be a nearer approximation to pre-war seasons than any since 1913, and it would be tragic if those who do come are stalked by the bogey of an inordinately high cost of living. Reference has been made to this subject recently in these letters, and it is gratifying to be able to report that the hint given on that occasion has been considered by hotel proprietors and other caterers for the tourists. But apart from these hotel companies there are thousands of smaller businesses in Egypt which supply the various needs of passing visitors and the prices of these merchants must always be subject to current economic conditions. On the other hand, visitors must not expect that the inordinately low prices of pre-war days are likely to return. The war, amongst other things, educated the Egyptian merchant to a standard of higher prices and from it he is not likely to depart.

**The Coming Season.**

As already pointed out bookings for the coming season have been encouragingly heavy. Apart from four big tours that have been arranged, a large number of intending visitors have written direct to the various hotel managements, asking for rooms to be reserved far ahead. Further the announcement of the resumption of the Cunard sailings from New York to Naples has, according to information from America, attracted numerous applications for berths and many of the applicants have signified their desire to go on from Southern Europe to Egypt. I understand that the Cunard direction is deciding to accede to these requests and that a Cunarder will be run on to Alexandria towards the close of the season to pick up the tourists who come on to Egypt. Arrangements are also being made in Egypt to afford visitors varied and full entertainment. All the Nile Steamship Companies are re-starting their normal services, with the addition of a number of new and luxuriously-equipped boats.

## ROUMANIA.

**General News.** *Bucharest, September 13.*

The economic convention with Greece having lapsed on September 3, the general tariff has been put into force for all kind of goods of Greek origin. The Greek commercial agent at Galatz has dispatched a memorial to his Government urging the necessity of the immediate renewal or prolongation of the convention as otherwise Greek produce will practically be debarred from entering Roumania. He calls attention to the great loss that is being caused to Greek importers in consequence of the expiration of the convention.

The commission sent by the Régie to Macedonia to purchase tobacco has returned after having acquired a large portion of various superior qualities, which will be utilized for mixing with Roumanian tobacco for cigarettes.

During the last fortnight about 50,000 head of cattle have been exported from Transylvania. A large number of pigs have also been sent from Bessarabia to Poland.

The nickle money which was ordered last May from a Swiss firm is ready for delivery; it represents an aggregate sum of 20 million lei in coins of 25 and 50 centimes. The cost amounts to 6,900,000 lei. The whole bulk will be dispatched in six truck-loads, which will be successively forwarded from September 10, up to the end of October.

With reference to the pending removal of restrictions on imports it is stated that there will be complete abolition of all restrictions, and that importation will no longer be hampered by any kind of formalities.

Delegates of the Polish Railways have arrived in Bucharest to discuss details for the transit of wagons between Roumania and Poland.

Negotiations are in progress between the Government and local banks with a view to the latter financing, on commission, the exportation of a large quantity of grain on behalf and for the account of the State. The banks have, in principle, accepted the Cabinet's proposal, and it only remains to settle points of detail with regard to the carrying out of the scheme.

Export taxes for cereals have been reduced as follows, per 10,000 kilos:—Malting barley, 2,000 lei; malt, 1,500 lei; decorticated barley, 1,500 lei; maize, 2,000 lei; oats, 2,000 lei; millet, 400 lei; dried peas, 4,500 lei; peas, 2,500 lei; maize meal, 1,200 lei; haricot beans, 2,000 lei; yellow mustard seeds, 3,000 lei.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, September 17.*

**The Free Export of Grain.**

The abolition of the Consortium's monopoly of the export of grain has led to the raising of the bogey of "famine" in Bulgaria. The cry is, undoubtedly, a potent one, more so than ever to-day in view of the situation in Russia, and the Agrarians show a tendency to make as much use of the word as possible in order to gain support for the contention that free trade in cereals will expose the country to the risk of hunger.

The facts of the case are as follows: the Government authorities estimate that twenty per cent. of the population of Bulgaria, *i.e.* roughly, a million people, are non-producers of cereals. Each person consumes annually on an average 200 kilograms of wheat, the equivalent of 160 kilograms of flour. In all 20,000 wagons of wheat are required each year to feed the non-cereal producing element of the population. It should not be difficult to obtain this amount with four million people engaged in producing cereals. Capable administration and a sound system alone are needed to divert the necessary supplies to the towns, where the great majority of the

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million who have to be fed live.

The point, however, is raised whether a Government composed entirely of Agrarians can be relied upon to take effective steps for the rationing of the townsfolk, and even if their intentions were good, it is doubtful, so argue a section of the population, whether their officials are capable of carrying out their orders. The Consortium, it has to be remembered, was one of the main planks in the Agrarian Party's programme. Its abolition, or rather the modification of its monopoly privileges, has been forced upon the country in the Party's despite, and the policy to which the Government is now perforce committed is in conflict with the Party's declarations and the speeches of its leaders. Everyone is agreed that it would be a grave mistake to let the grain merchants have things all their own way and to export unlimited supplies of grain ; but the Government can always retain a portion of the contents of each wagonload destined for export, and use this portion for the rationing of the non-producing fifth of the population. No fears need be entertained that the peasants will run short of supplies, as they are far too shrewd for that to happen.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Belgrade, September 19.*

**The Fall in Exchange.**

The collapse of the dinar is the most absorbing topic, both of conversation, and in the press. The causes are manifold and complex. The long drought, which has had so bad an effect on the harvest is certainly a large contributing factor. It is confidently believed that at Zurich there is a committee of Polish Jews who are interested in beating down the exchange in the east of Europe generally, and in Yugoslavia in particular. Italy is interested, from political as well as from economic reasons, in seeing the dinar low. But the short-sighted policy of the Government, expecially its xenophobism since the Armistice and its export duties, is largely to blame for the want of confidence abroad. The Cabinet is considering a whole series of measures with a view to propping the dinar up, for the depreciation is hitting the country very hard, in particular commercial circles, who have to face heavy losses on goods bought abroad a month or two ago when the dinar had been standing firm for a considerable period. Merchants have now to meet their obligations in foreign currency with the dinar at the record limit. There has been certainly a great deal of speculation, and wild dealing, but a slight improvement was noticeable last week. It is reported that the Government proposed to take off a number of export duties, and to reduce others, and again to control dealing in foreign currency.

**The Internal Loan.**

The authorities are busy booming the internal 500,000,000 dinar loan. Although it is stated that the banks have underwritten the issue, it is very desirable for several reasons, and, not the least, a political reason, that the country as a whole take it up. The papers frequently report the subscription of a million dinars by sundry millionaires, and it is noteworthy, and characteristic, that a very large number of organised bodies, associations, and clubs, are subscribing to the utmost of their power, and even placing all their reserves in the loan. The commercial classes, however, are too hard hit by the fall in the dinar to be able to do their proper share.

## ABYSSINIA.

*Khartoum, September 5.*

**Slow Progress.**

Reports from Adis Abeba state that during July there has been very little apparent revival in trade, although a better state of affairs is manifested in the hide market.

The average rate of exchange of Maria Theresa dollars is igven as 11.55 to the pound sterling.

## INDIAN EXCHANGE.

### THE OUTLOOK.

*(By "Gold Mohur.")*

**The Monsoon and Other Factors.**

Now that the Monsoon in India has practically ceased it may be of interest to try to forecast the probable results and its effects upon Indian trade during the next six months.

On the whole the Monsoon has been good. In some districts, no doubt, there has been a shortage of rain, but it may as well be borne in mind that over such a vast area there is almost always certain to be a scarcity in several districts. Crop reports, both public and private, are very satisfactory and the prospects are most encouraging.

Other factors have appeared which should go far towards enriching the country, and one which should prove welcome to the cotton cultivator is the recent sensational rise in the price, which gave such a stimulus to the Bombay market that local quotations for Broach cotton advanced fifty rupees per bale in the first week of September. Such a market appreciation is not all due to speculation, as private reports to hand indicate that a large business has been booked by exporters to Japan and Europe.

This activity has no doubt had an influence on exchange, which during the past two months has registered a decided advance only broken by one or two temporary relapses, and the rupee may now be called within sight of 1s. 6d. When one considers that quotations only a few months ago were marked down to 1s. 3d., the improvement has been substantial. Although the favourable Monsoon gives every promise of prosperity, there are untoward influences to be reckoned with which may obscure the outlook. Labour troubles in India lately have been a frequent cause of anxiety, and profiteering in grain and foodstuffs, particularly in Northern India, has compelled the Government to investigate the matter.

A fair amount of Welsh coal has been booked for shipment to India, and it may come as a surprise to many that heavy shipments of wheat are being made from Australia. Several cargoes were shipped in June and July, but well over a dozen more have been settled for September-October loading of which the value must run to over a million pounds. These imports will act as a set-off to a small extent, but it need not be assumed that they will exert more than a trifling influence on exchange.

Should a further pronounced rise in the rupee take place, it would, of course, tend to check exports, but a higher rate will prove a godsend to the country, and to the Manchester merchants especially, who are interested in very large stocks of piece goods, the delivery of which was refused on account of low exchange.

**Will the Rupee Rise ?**

The question which many would like an answer to now is : Will the Rupee rise further and, if so, will it reach 2s. ? The only answer is that it depends entirely upon exports. Some authorities say that there will be very little to export. The jute mills in Calcutta are running only four days a week, and this restriction will continue until the end of the year. On the other hand it cannot be denied that a certain amount of business is moving in exports and although speculation had its share in pushing rates up recently, nothing more than a temporary reaction has taken place.

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# INDIA'S TRADE IN 1920.

## GREAT BRITAIN'S RECOVERY OF POSITION.

**A Valuable Report.**

The Chapter in the Government of India's progress report for 1920 dealing with the economic life of the country during the period is so interesting and informing that one cannot but regret that it should be entombed in a Blue Book, a class of publication against which the public is so hopelessly prejudiced that the mere name has come to be regarded as a danger signal to keep off all who would avoid boredom. Well written, admirably put together, and instinct in every line with a sense of proportion this "Annual Statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and conditions of India" would, we believe, achieve a large circulation, and find a place in the lists of all the circulating libraries if the India Office had issued it in an illustrated cover conspicuously marked with the compiler's name and concealing all trace of its official origin. Failing this, however, it would, we think, be greatly to the public benefit, if the economic section could be issued separately as a cheaply priced pamphlet in order that it might be brought within reach of the great public interested in Indian trade, who are not prepared to pay half a crown for a Blue Book three-fourths of which is devoted to political matters. This economic section dealing with the events of 1920, needless to say, tells anything but a cheerful tale, but it is all to the credit of the author that when one has indulged one's pessimistic bias to the utmost and dwelt as long as possible on the dark side of the picture it presents, one is still left with the feeling that India may well congratulate herself on having escaped some of the more trying experiences of other countries harder hit by the sudden collapse of the post-war trade boom.

The effect of the revolution in Indian internal finance brought about by the establishment of the new system of Government had yet to be learnt when this report was compiled. Whether an arrangement which makes the Central Administration to a large extent dependent on the Provincial Governments for the bulk of its revenues is calculated to make for harmonious working remains to be seen, but it is obvious that it makes for the simplification of public accounts and has at least the merit of testing the efficiency of the Provincial Governments in what is after all the most important department of administration—the raising of the maximum amount of revenue with the minimum amount of friction. "Seldom in India has there been a contrast so extraordinary between the conditions obtaining at the beginning and the end of a period so short" states the writer of the report, and if he had substituted "never" for "seldom" as the opening word of the sentence few would have been disposed to charge him with exaggeration. In the matter of exchange alone representation that the conditions experienced were unique could hardly be disputed, and with this melancholy subject, needless to say, the report deals fully. It is, however, somewhat startling to find in an official report a criticism on the policy of the Government as unsparing as the following:—"It would seem from this brief sketch of the exchange history of the year 1920, that the expectations of the Government of India have been falsified, and that the attempt to make them good has weakened India's sterling resources, besides undoubtedly to some extent contributing to the excess of imports by encouraging over-buying on the part of the importer." That things will probably settle themselves in time is the best that the report can offer India in the way of consolation. "The absorption of available stocks of India's produce in America and elsewhere cannot be long delayed and some at least of her customers must shortly resume their purchases." It is also pointed out that the fact that there has been a large return of rupees into circulation is full of hopeful augury and it is certainly satisfactory to note that the percentage borne by the metallic portion of the currency reserve to the total note circulation at the time the report was compiled was no less than 53 as against 46 in 1919.

In the paragraph dealing with the 1921-22 Budget we get some measure of the extent to which India has been affected by the political and financial confusion prevailing all over the world. Faced with a deficit of 18,1-3 millions it has been the misfortune of the new Government to begin its operations with the imposition of heavy additional taxation on a country little disposed to accept the necessity for shouldering its share of the financial burden of the great war. When, however, one realizes that the end of that war sees India carrying a public debt of no more than £378,000,000, and that a very large proportion of this is covered by substantial assets in the shape of reproductive public works, the relative financial strength of India under present world conditions is apparent.

**Trade Statistics.**

Turning to trade statistics, we find that, while the volume of imports decreased by 45 per cent., and that of exports by 19 per cent., the average prices of imports increased by 105 per cent., and of exports by 56 per cent. In dealing with imports it is pointed out that the quantity of imported cotton twist and yarn was the lowest recorded since 1866-67, showing a heavy drop in the figures for the preceding year, being only 15 million lb., as against 38 million lb. In cotton piece goods a decrease in the quantity of grey and coloured goods imported of 70 million yards was partly set off by an increase of 30 million yards of white goods. Nevertheless the proportion contributed by the United Kingdom to India's imports of piece goods showed a marked increase over her competitors, Japan and the United States, affording welcome evidence of the revival of British manufacturing enterprise after the war. The demand for iron and steel goods of all descriptions led to a great increase in the quantities imported—0.43 million tons as against 0.18 million tons in the preceding year; an increase in quantity of 135 per cent., but owing to the lower level of prices the value of the imports showed an increase of only 31 per cent. As regards exports it is pointed out that the figures for these were the highest on record amounting to £309 millions an increase of 29 per cent. over the preceding year's and of 27 per cent. over those of the pre-war year." The principal articles of export in 1919-20 in order of importance were: First, cotton raw and manufactured; second, jute, raw and manufactured; third, hides and skins; fourth, seeds; fifth, tea; sixth, grain pulse and flour; and seventh, lac, Food stuffs which during the past 30 years have held the lead on no fewer than six occasions, sank to the sixth place in the year under review." Nothing in this report is more striking than the evidence it affords of the success of British trade in recovering the place in the Indian market she temporarily lost during the war years, and the failure of the competitors who then displaced her in holding their own against her. "One of the outstanding features of the year was the comparative collapse of the Japanese import trade and her consequent descent to third place among India's commercial customers. She has shown herself unable to withstand the pressure of unhampered British competition in cotton manufactures and has lost almost all the ground she had gained during the war."

It is impossible to deal within the compass of a short article with more than a tithe of the matter included in this voluminous report, and considerations of space preclude more than a passing reference to its very important railway section. The best one can say of it is that it records a gallant struggle on the part of the sorely tried railway administrations of India to restore efficiency to systems starved and disorganized by the imperative necessities of the State in war time. Nevertheless the gross earnings of the Indian railways reached the record figure of £59 43 millions from which the Government reaped a handsome revenue.

**Some Satisfactory Features.**

That India has been hard hit by the set back international trade has experienced in the past twelve months no Government report is needed to bring home to us, but some of the commercial Jeremiahs who are inclined to see in her present troubles merely a mild foretaste of those in store for her may be reminded that not one of the misfortunes she has experienced but has its counterpart in those of other countries at the present time; and one is even inclined to think that, when her future prospects are dispassionately examined, they will be found to be much more hopeful than appears at first sight. In the first place a country which has escaped any great increase in her State debt as a result of the war starts the era of reconstruction at a great advantage over nations on whom it has imposed crushing burdens, from which they cannot hope to be relieved for centuries. In the second she is in the happy position of still having at her command many sources of potential wealth in the shape of untapped resources, commercial, industrial and agricultural, only waiting to be exploited when her rulers have the enterprise to develop her internal communications up to the European and American standard. At present India's restoration to commercial health is hampered by the destructive activities of misguided agitators who hope that by the creation of widespread misery, they may

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rouse in the people the discontent necessary for the furtherance of their political ends. But these political obstacles to commercial and industrial rehabilitation far from being peculiar to India exist to-day in practically every country in the world, and her future turns mainly on the capacity of her new rulers to bring home to her people the folly of allowing their energies to be deverted into useless political channels when every ounce is needed for the development of her material resources. Under the old bureaucratic regime a disposition was often shown in high places to regard the enterprising capitalist as a selfish individual bent on exploiting the country solely in his own interests, and as such a person to be discouraged as much as possible. Under the new regime the commercial element being far more in evidence in the councils o the State it is not too much to hope that its influence will be fexerted in the interests of those who in their efforts to create wealth for themselves are compelled by the operation of inexorable economic laws to distribute it among the people without whose assistance they can accomplish nothing. It was for many years the stock grievance of the nationalist politician in India that the exploitation of her wealth by foreign capitalists had reduced the mass of her population to the lowest depths of poverty. This theory, honestly believed by most of the men who advanced it, never rested on a substantial basis of facts, but with the disappearance for a season of the foreign capitalist ready to invest his wealth in Indian enterprises the subject is reduced to one of purely academic interest and to-day is hardly worth discussing. For many years to come it looks as if India would have to finance herself, if she is to make any progress in the world, and the most serious task demanding the attention of her new rulers is the economic education of the country with a view to utilizing its hoarded wealth for its commercial and industrial development. As for India's present commercial difficulties due to the temporary inability of the nations of Europe to pay for the raw material she produces in such abundance and of which they stand so badly in need, balanced by her own temporary inability to pay for the costly manufactured goods they offer her in exchange, these will disappear with the breaking of the vicious circle in which the trade of the world is for this time being involved. In India, as in all the countries of the world, the slump in trading has already spent its force, and in the revival, signs of which are beginning to manifest themselves, she is likely to secure a greater share than some less happily placed nations.

## CLAIMS ON BULGARIA.

According to a Board of Trade announcement the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal between the British Empire and Bulgaria has been constituted and is about to commence work in London. The President is Mr. B. C. J. Loder, Judge of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands; the British Member is Mr. Heber Hart, K.C., and the Bulgarian Member is M. Alexandre Ludskanoff, Member of the National Assembly, and formerly Secretary of State in Bulgaria. As the system of clearing offices has not been adopted between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria claims in respect of disputed debts due by Bulgarians to British subjects will be dealt with directly by this Tribunal. It has also jurisdiction under Section IV. ("Property, Rights, and Interests"), Section V. ("Contracts, Prescriptions, Judgments"), Section VI. ("Mixed Arbitral Tribunal"), and Section VII. "Industrial Property") of Part X. of the Treaty.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)*

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts and must be made by the dates mentioned,*

**Yugoslavia.**

Indiarubber Covers.—The Artillery Section of the Ministry of War and Marine, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of the following articles:—

270 indiarubber covers for one ton automobiles marked "Berliet," dimensions 940 x 130. 400 indiarubber covers for three tons automobiles marked "Berliet," dimensions 1,000 x 130. 100 indiarubber covers for automobiles marked "Paccard" dimensions 34 x 3½ or 715 x 100. 120 indiarubber covers for two ton automobiles marked "Paccard" dimensions 34 x 3½ or 715 x 100. 40 indiarubber covers for two ton automobiles marked "Garford," dimensions 36 x 4. 120 indiarubber covers for two ton automobiles marked "Garford," dimensions 36 x 7. 12 indiarubber covers for two ton automobiles marked "Tracteur Latil," dimensions 1,000 x 140. Four indiarubber covers 37 x 6 for moving workshops.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Banque Franco-Serbe, 30, Coleman Street, E.C.2. Tenders close October 22.

**Roumania.**

Sacks.—The Roumanian Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of 250,000 sacks. The fibre to be of hemp or Calcutta jute. The number of threads by square centimetres to be:—6—7 in warp, 5—6 in woof. Resistance:—In warp 90 Kgrs; In woof 60 Kgrs. Elasticity:—In warp 11—14 mm. In woof 10—11 mm. Size of sack:—Length, 1m. 10cm. Width, 0m. 70cm. Weight of sack—1 kilo 100 gr.—1 kilo 200 gr. The sacks to be made of a single piece, the sides of which should be sewed with very strong hemp or jute thread and the top hemmed. All tenders, which should be addressed to "Inspectoratul Technical Intendentei, Cala Grivitei, 28, Bucharest," must be accompanied by samples and a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the total value of the tenders to be returned to firms whose tenders are not accepted. October 15.

Pipe Line Construction.—In connection with the laying of a pipe line, 26 kilometres in length, for the supply of natural gas to the town of Targul-Mures in Transylvania. H.M. Consul at Cluj has received from the Engineer in charge of the scheme a statement of the material which will be required. This includes: 8,000 metres Mannesmann steel pipe; 21,600 metres steel pipes of various diameters; 17,700 metres drilling tubes of various diametres; 15,000 kilogrammes steel for hand tools; 40,000 metres galvanised iron or copper wire. Various valves and fittings; spades, shovels, mattocks; also tools for two iron workshops and two mechanical workshops; 500 metres camel hair belting pulleys, etc. Quotations for the supply of this material are desired from United Kingdom firms who would be prepared to grant a long credit of three or more years. (D.O.T.).

**Bulgaria.**

Tin Ingots and Tin Rods.—The Directorate of State Railways, Bulgaria, invites tenders for the supply of tin ingots and rods as follows:—Tin ingots (10,000 kgs.); estimated price 140 leva kg, 1,400,000 leva; tin rods (5,000 kgs.); estimated price 140 leva. 700,000 leva. Tenders, preferably in French or German, and should be addressed to Director-General des Chemins de fer, Sofia, Bulgaria. Delivery in three and a half months c.i.f. Bulgarian Black Sea or Danube port. October 8 (D.O.T.).

Hardware.—The Bulgarian Ministry of Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of brackets, belts, and other hardware furniture of telegraph and telephone lines. October 12.

**Egypt.**

Wood:—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of wood. October 5.

Cable Address: "Lobo, Dundee." **LOW & BONAR, Ltd., Dundee, Scotland.** Codes used: A.B.C., 4th, 5th & 6th edns., A.1, Lieber, Lieber 5 Letter, Bentley's, Marconi International

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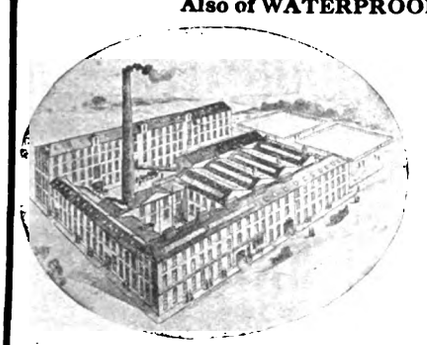
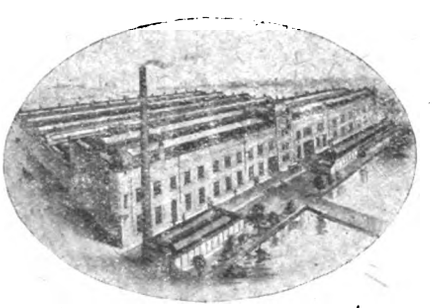
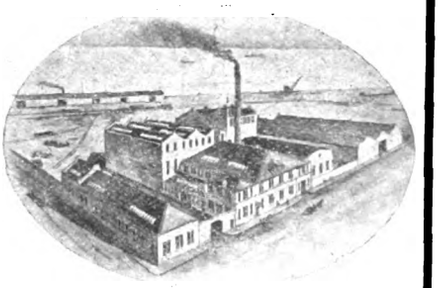

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

### The Engineering Profession.

Even before the war there were those who held that the engineering profession was overcrowded, and who urged parents and guardians to give up all idea of allowing their sons or wards to enter the ranks of the profession. "Far better make the boy a grocer or an undertaker," they would say, implying that he would then make a living at any rate, and a living which would be denied him as an engineer.

It is curious to note that this altogether erroneous impression still survives. Dr. Hillard, High Master of St. Paul's School, has recently said that engineering is a much overcrowded profession to which too many boys are looking for their future careers. Admitting the statement that the profession is overcrowded, the equally true statement must be made that it is overcrowded with unsuitable, semi-trained men, the mere fact that these have been admitted to the ranks showing in itself the urgent need that exists in the profession for men who have some engineering knowledge and aptitude, however slight. This strong insistent need is shown by the efforts being made by employers to educate and train their shop boys, to persuade youths to become apprentices, to induce employees to attend technical schools and to the giving up of time and money in instituting works' training schools in which training is given in the firm's time, at the firm's expense, and full wages are paid during the hours of instruction. Were the profession overcrowded with the right sort of men we should find the natural law of supply and demand at work, and efforts being made by employers and mens' unions alike to dissuade any boy or youth from wasting time in obtaining engineering knowledge.

As a matter of fact there has never been a time in the history of the engineering profession when there was so insistent a demand for trained men as at present. In partial excuse for Dr. Hillard's statement it may be urged that it is the work of the mechanical engineer which parents generally have in mind when they speak of engineering, and it is just that branch of the profession which is best supplied with good men. The works' schools of the Midlands and North have seen to that; the expense has been great, the efforts gigantic, but they have borne some fruit, and the men to an extent exist. But even in the ranks of the mechanical engineers there is a growing demand for men with brains and with engineering aptitude and knowledge. Of those already in the profession only a very few are capable of administrative and supervisory work; there are few of original ideas, few who have sufficient imagination to make advancements and to assist in development. Here then is ample room for the well educated youth who has a mechanical bent of mind and who is not afraid of intensive study and hard work.

But the mechanical engineering profession is not the only branch, although it perhaps ranks highest in importance. Electrical engineering, although fairly well supplied with men by reason of the efforts the leading firms have made to bring this about, has innumerable openings; openings which are increasing in greater ratio than could be believed by anyone not closely in touch with the situation.

The chemical engineering branch of the profession can absorb any number of well trained men who combine a knowledge of chemistry with that of engineering. If ever a profession was "in its infancy" in this country, it is that of the chemical engineer, whilst the prospects, the rewards it offers for aptitude, knowledge and hard work are perhaps higher than in any other profession, new or old, under the sun. Hydraulic engineers are few in number and always eager to add to their ranks. A huge amount of hydraulic work is to be done and everything carried out in this line seems to bring further and greater tasks in its trail. Mining engineers are not by any means over crowded; there is any amount of room for the trained metallurgical engineer and whilst it is true that internal combustion engineering generally has at the present time quite as many in its ranks as it can do with, aeronautical engineering, on the other hand, is practically only just enrolling its members; has vacancies for everyone who possesses the necessary knowledge and skill, and will probably, in a few years, be one of the most prominent and lucrative branches of the profession.

### Screw Gauges.

I have already referred to the large production of limit and other gauges by Wolseley Motors, Ltd., and I gather that their patented method of thread grinding, by which the threads are ground on each unit after the hardening operation has been completed, has proved successful in every way. This method enables gauges to be produced at a cost which closely approximates to that of the inferior and often inaccurate gauges made and sold before the war. A pamphlet sent me gives a complete list of the National Physical Laboratory Workshop inspection and reference limits to which these screw plug and ring gauges can be made, and it points out incidentally the very great advantages derived, in manufacturing work, from the use of absolutely accurate gauges. For example, if a designer can place complete reliance on the accuracy of the screws, bolts, or nuts he considers should be used, he can frequently specify a bolt or similar part of smaller diameter. Assembling work will cost less when the parts dealt with are made strictly to size, the percentage of scrapped parts will be lower, and the finished products will wear, or do their work better, as the case may be. All readers interested in production should make a point of obtaining a copy of the pamphlet which contains a considerable amount of very useful information.

### Magnetos and Motor-Cycles.

The Norton motor-cycle—always renowned as a prolific record maker—and breaker—suffered somewhat of a set back on August 24th at Brooklands when two records, the flying five miles and standing ten miles which had been held by Nortons since 1914 were captured by a rival make. On September 5th, however, Norton riders recaptured both records at a speed of 81.52 and 78.23 m.p.h. respectively, both of which runs constitute British and worlds class records, demonstrating once again the remarkable speed and acceleration of these machines. As in other notable events, the Nortons pinned their faith to the All-British C.A.V. Magneto, which thus adds further to its long list of successes.

### Brass Failures.

The subject of brass failure was dealt with at the annual conference of the Institute of Metals, more particularly with regard to those failures which take place more frequently than manufacturers like, when hollow drawn articles are being made from brass rod. It appears that these failures have generally been found to be due to the presence of non-metallic inclusions which originated in the cast ingot. In articles drawn from cupped discs, punched from rolled strip, the inclusions in the walls are circumferential in direction and of less effect on the wall strength. Naturally there are many methods of casting brass ingots, every foundry having ideas of its own. Generally, chief consideration is given to the saving of rolling, and ingots are made in a correspondingly suitable form, those used for the making of rod commonly being very long and narrow. Such forms are not particularly undesirable when the finished product is solid, but where a hollow article, subject to expanding stresses in use, is to be made, the avoidance of inclusions of foreign matter is vital, and the form of

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ingot requires considerable modification.

During the course of a number of experiments which were carried out with a view to minimising the occurrence of non-metallic inclusions, a form of ingot was adopted the length of which was not great in proportion to the cross sectional area. The ingots made were 3-in. square and 30-in. in length, as compared with the ingots 6 to 7-ft. in length, and 1½-in. square section in common use. Steel-making practice was followed in introducing a hot sinking head or "dozzle." The molten brass is poured through the dozzle, which is filled to the top. No pipe is formed in the ingot proper, and additions of metal may be made at any time to the metal in the dozzle without risk of introducing defects into the ingot, any dross rising to the top of the still fluid head. The moulds were tapered, the top being enlarged by increasing amounts in successive experiments, and ingots were cast at the usual foundry speed. It was found that with a mould 3½-in. square at the top, tapering to 3-in. at the bottom, no shrinkage cavities were formed, and the ingot appeared to be practically perfect as regards soundness. By these methods, failures which previously reached large percentages were reduced to practically nil.

**Hill Records Broken.**

The annual hill-climbing competition of the Midland Automobile Club affords each year evidence of the engineering skill of our fast car designers. The tests to which the cars are subjected in this are exceptionally severe, and as the hill on which they are held is on private ground no limits are placed on the speeds attained. Consequently every competitor does his level best to break records in the four events, Open, Closed, Light Car and Team, into which the programme is divided. There were prizes for the fastest time and for the best handicap performance on formula, and it is of interest to note that the chief prize of the meeting, the President's Cup, given for the best handicap performance was won on an Austin "Twenty." The fastest time of the day was made on a 6-cylinder Sunbeam by the same driver who won this distinction last year. This year, however, he was able to beat the previous record made in 1913 by the Earl of Shrewsbury's Talbot, by 5 seconds. A racing Vauxhall made the second best time, the G.N., which did the climb in just over 54 seconds being third as regards actual time of climbing. In the light car event this car actually made the fastest time of the class, beating the old record for the hill by over two seconds. The Bugatti made the second best light car climb, and the racing Calthorpe came third.

**Road Signs.**

Some unauthorised action seems to be taking, or to have taken, place in regard to certain speed limit signs and an official of the Automobile Association recently noticed that certain of these had been erected covering a greater area than that prescribed by the Ministry of Transport. The Association immediately notified the authority concerned who took the necessary steps at once to have the signs removed to the correct position. If any motorist notices any sign in a position for which there appears little or no justification, he should 'phone up the Association, or drop a card to Fanum House, Whitcomb Street, W.C.2., and give full particulars.

**Tyre Repairing.**

One of the most time-honoured names in connection with the motor industry is that of the Harvey Frost Co., which has been so closely identified with tyre repairing work, in the direction of vulcanising, for so many years that the name comes at once to the mind of the motorist directly the word 'vulcanising' is mentioned. The company I understand is about to enter on a wider field. By this I do not mean that they are going to make outer covers and tubes, but I believe they are going to do everything short of that. I hazard the opinion that repairing and retreading will form a part of their work, but whether this be so or not I am certain that they will have the good wishes of every road user in connection with this new venture.

## NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Constantinople's coal imports are now reviving and American coal is being sold at a price below that for British coal.

The death is announced of M. Nicola Toccos, the Alexandria tobacco merchant.

It is reported that Poland will shortly establish a Legation at Sofia.

In a message dated September 21, Reuter's Cairo correspondent states that the Government has decided to continue the present restriction of cotton-growing areas for a further two years.

It is reported that there are some schemes under discussion for obtaining electric power from streams in the Lebanon. One such scheme is under way at the Nahr Ibrahim, north of Beyrout, but up to the present it has made little progress.

Numbers have been announced of 277 bonds, amounting to £84,000 of the Ottoman Four per Cent. Loan of 1891 (secured by the Egyptian Tribute), which have been drawn for redemption on October 10.

According to the *Journal Officiel* chemicals and drugs, except chemical manures, may be exported from Egypt to any destination with which trade is allowed until further notice, without a specific licence from the Department of Supplies.

The Bulgarian grain Consortium has deposited 160,000,000 leva in the Agricultural Bank at Sofia as a preliminary to the scheme for the erection of grain elevators in various parts of the country.

Large allotments of coal permitted a greater output of steel in Czecho-Slovakia during last year, the production amounting to 972,976 tons, or an increase of 186,954 tons, or 23.8 per cent. over the output of 1919.

Japanese trade prospects with Egypt are said to be good and cotton fabrics appear to be the most important articles exported from Japan to Egypt, while raw cotton is the chief import from Egypt.

It is announced that the Greek moratorium has been extended until January 13, 1922, with the exception of one or two clauses, which have been further prolonged till February 13, 1922. The moratorium should have ceased to operate this month.

The s.s. Prahova, a 6,235-ton cargo steamer, built by Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co. (Limited) to the order of La Premiere Societe Nationale de Navigation Maritime, Roumania, was launched from the Walker Shipyard, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on September 23.

It is announced that the exportation of gold from the mines of Transylvania and Roumania has been authorised by the Roumanian Government for a period of one month, provided the parties interested make a deposit in lei for an equivalent sum at the Roumanian customs or at one of the Roumanian Legations abroad.

The forecast of India's cotton crop shows that an area of 11,976,000 acres has been sown during this year as against 13,293,000 acres for the same period last year. Weather conditions at sowing time were favourable except in Northern India, where the rains arrived late. The present condition of the crop is generally good.

The total quantity of photographic paper imported into Greece during 1920 was 42,439 kilograms as follows:—France, 16,110 kgs.; United Kingdom, 12,203 kgs.; Italy, 7,577 kgs.; Germany, 2,734 kgs.; United States, 1,928 kgs.; Egypt, 1,761 kgs.; Holland, 423 kgs.; Spain, 380 kgs.; Switzerland, 132 kgs. Belgium, 92 kgs.; Austria, 53 kgs.; Russia, 26 kgs.; Japan, 5 kgs.; Turkey, 4 kgs.; and other countries 2 kgs.

164,999 kilos of aniline dyes were imported into Greece during 1920 from the following countries:—Holland, 61,290; Belgium, 22,005; Switzerland, 19,899; Italy, 16,820; France, 13,626; Germany, 11,513; United States, 9,470; United Kingdom, 7,893; Turkey, 1,100; Bulgaria, 695; Yugoslavia, 428; Czecho-Slovakia 100; Spain, 54; Denmark, 29; Austria, 29; Roumania, 9 Egypt, 5; Norway, 3; and other countries, 31 kilos.

It is announced that subscriptions in India and London to the Indian Government's Six per Cent. Rupee Loan (free of Indian income-tax) amounted to Rs.45,90 lakhs up to September 10. This figure does not include the final results of the conversion of 1921 and 1922 Indian War Bonds. Conversions of 1922 War Bonds ceased on September 15, but holders of 1921 War Bonds may convert into the new loan up to October 29, either in India or in London.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Coffee.—The market has been steady. Costa Rica is unchanged at 122s. and Indian is the same at 110s. Nairobi at 104s. has gained 2s., while Jamaica at 130s. is unaltered. Futures are :—September, 51s. ; December, 49s. 0d. ; March, 50s. 6d., ; and May, 51s.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate demand at official rates. White Mauritius is 1s. down at 48s., and Czecho-Slovakian at 23s. 6d. has shed 2s. 6d. Other transactions include West Indian crystallized at 40s. to 46s., White Java at 24s., and beet sugar at 20s.

Oilseeds.—Prices are lower in all cases. Indian linseed has shed 3s. to 21s. 9d., and La Plata at 17s. 9d. has lost 1s. 6d. Rapeseed is lower with Toria at 22s., bold Ferozepore, 21s. 3d., and brown Cawnpore at 20s. 3d. ; decreases of 6d., 3d., and 3d. respectively. Indian cottonseed at 11s. 6d. is 6d. down, and Egyptian black has shed 3d. at 15s.

Seed Oils.—Unsteadiness has prevailed during the week. Linseed oil is 2s. 9d. down at 35s. 3d. Crude rape oil at 55s. is unchanged, but refined has dropped 2s. to 58s. Cotton oil is higher with common edible at 55s., Egyptian crude at 47s. 3d. ; and deodorized at 62s ; increases of 1s., 2s., and 1s., respectively.

Oilcakes.—Business has been quiet. Linseed cake is the same at 330s. ; finest Arachis cake has lost 2s. at 290s. ; while London-made cottonseed cake is unaltered at 220s.

## GREEK CURRANTS.

With the advent of autumn the question of supplies of currants for Christmas begins to assume some importance. It would appear that the prospects this year are much better than they were twelve months ago.

In an interview with a representative of "The Near East," Mr. G. A. Burlumi, of Messrs. Burlumi and Co., outlined the position. Dealing with the past year he pointed out that the 1920 crop which was estimated at 90,000, tons actually worked out at about 88,000 tons. "At the time of the arrival of the new fruit in this country" he went on there was, however, a large Government stock of old fruit, about 20,000 tons in all. Prices opened very high, the rate being round about 108s., and the demand was in consequence very small, and as the Government could not make progress in disposing of the old stock the Food Ministry had to reduce the price of currants to 45s. That decrease created a panic in the fruit market, and little business was done during the winter, dealers, adopting a hand to mouth policy. In February last a syndicate was formed which brought the whole Government stock at a very low figure. About one-third of the stock has been exported to Holland, Germany, and America at very low prices."

"So much for the past season. The new crop is estimated at 120,000 tons, and the Retention is 18 per cent. in kind, and 17 per cent. in cash. Therefore the available quantity for export is computed to be about 95,000 tons, which will be quite sufficient for the requirements of all consuming markets."

"The prices of the new crop" added Mr. Burlumi "are about half what they were at this time last year, and with a small stock remaining now in this country—estimated at about 10,000 tons—the prospects are that trade will be good and prices steady.'

In conclusion Mr. Burlumi touched on the position with regard to sultanas. "The Smyrna crop" he said "is about double what it was at 35,000 tons as against 12,000 tons. Prices have opened at a very high level at 88s. c.i.f. to 110s. c.i.f., according to quality, but it is improbable that these high rates will be maintained for long. Stocks here are absolutely nil as all the old stock has gone into consumption.

## SUDAN CROPS.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Khartoum, September 1.*

Considerable damage to crops is reported from the Fung and Kassala Provinces, due to birds and rats. It is understood that measures are being taken to deal with these pests.

The Gash flood reached Kassala on July 6, and has flowed since without intermission. The floods are however, very low, and irrigation is proceeding slowly. The total cotton crop marketed up to the end of June from the Gash Delta was 38,710 Kantars, the anticipated total for the season being 40,000 Kantars, of which some 5,000 Kantars will have to stand over until after the rains for ginning.

The cultivation of banana trees has been seriously undertaken at Mongalla, where some 1,000 trees have been planted, with a view to supplying Khartoum with fruit.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 156s. cwt ; bacon (Canadian), 130s. cwt. ; bacon (American), 107s. 6d. cwt. ; butter (Danish), 228s. cwt. ; butter (Australian), 196s. cwt. ; butter (New Zealand), 220s. cwt. ; cheese (Canadian), 108s. 6d. cwt. ; cheese (New Zealand), 115s. cwt. ; lard 80s. cwt. ; eggs (Danish), 23s. 9d. per 120 ; eggs (Styrian), 17s. per 120 ; chillies, 155s. cwt. ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3d. lb. ; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 87s. cwt. ; coffee (Costa Rica), 142s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (East India), 140s. cwt. ; coffee (Central American), 120s. cwt ; coffee (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt ; coffee (Mocha Long-berry), 113s. 6d. cwt ; coffee (Santos, superior), 65s. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 47s. 6d. cwt. ; nutmegs (110s to 80s) 11d. lb. ; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb. ; pepper (Muntok white), 9d. lb. ; pimento 2½ lb. ; raisins (Valencias), 105s. cwt. ; sultanas (Smyrna), 80s. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 71s. 6d. cwt. ; currants (Calamata), 46s. 6d. cwt. ; sugar (Tate's cubes), 59s. 3d. cwt. ; sugar (Lyle's granulated), 54s. 1½d. cwt. ; sugar (Mauritius crystals), 49s. 3d. cwt. ; sugar (West India crystallized), 45s. 6d. cwt. ; sugar (centrifugal), 19s. 3d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 21s. 9d. cwt. ; rice (bran Rangoon), £8 12s. 6d. ton. ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb. ; tea (Indian, common to good common), 8½d. lb. ; tea (medium to good), 1s. 3½d. lb. ; tea (fine to finest). 2s. 4d. lb. ; tea (Ceylon, common to good to good common), 10d, lb. ; tea (medium to good), 1s. 4d. lb. ; tea (fine to finest) lb. ; tea (Java, common to good common, 6½d. lb. ; wheat, (English white), 61s. 0d. qr. ; wheat (La Plata), 82s. qr. ; wheat (Australian), 74s. 1½d. qr. ; barley (malting), 68s. qr. ; barley (feeding), 38s. 3d. qr. ; oats (English), 34s. 6d. qr. ; oats (La Plata), 30s. 3d. qr. ; maize (La Plata), 37s. 3d. qr. ; flour 52s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton ; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton ; bismuth 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £67 16s. 3d. ton. ; copper (electro), £73 5s. ton ; gold bars, 110s. 4d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 134s. 0d. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton ; galvanized sheets (24 G), £20 5s. ton ; lead (soft foreign), £22 18s. 9d. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s 1½d unit ; molybdenite, 41s. 3d. unit ; nickel, £190 ton ; platinum 365s. oz. ; plumbago, £20 ton ; quicksilver, £10 2s. 6d. bottle ; silver bars 30d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 2s. 6d. ton ; tin (standard), £154 7s. 6d. ton : wolfram, 13s. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton ; tin plates (20 by 14), 21s. 6d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 66s. cwt. ; oxalic, 7¾d. lb. ; citric 2s. 4½d. lb. ; tartaric. 1s. 5½d. lb. ; ammonia (sulphate), £13 11s. 6d. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £31 5s. ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35%), £16 10s ton ; borax crystals, 30s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 127s. 6d. cwt ; Potassium : bichromate, 8¾d. lb. ; chlorate, 5d. lb. ; caustic £3 10s. ton ; nitrate £48 10s. ton ; permanganate, 11½d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb. ; sulphate (90%), £17 ton ; Sodium : crystals, 141s. 3d. ton ; bi-carbonate, £12 5s. ton ; bi-chromate, 7d. lb. alkali (58%), £8 5s. ton ; chlorate, 4d. lb. ; caustic (70%), £24 10s. ; ton ; hyposulphate, £17 ton ; prussiate, 7d. lb ; nitrate, £18 7s 6d. ton ; glycerine, (crude 80%), £80 ton ; glycerine (industrial 1200%) £110 ton ; lemon oil, 4s. 1d. lb. ; quinine, 4s. 0½d. oz. ; red lead, £39 15s. ton ; white ground lead, £53 ton ; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton ; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron 117s. 6d. ton ;

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 10½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs. 10½d. lb ; 70 to 79 lbs., 10½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 10d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 8d. lb. ; (second) 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 9¼d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs, 9d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 8d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under. 6½d. lb. ; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 8d. lb. ; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under 6d. lb. ; Bulls (first), 5½d. lb. ; (second), 5½d. lb. ; Kips (first), 6½d. lb. ; (second), 5½d. lb. ; (third), 3½d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic hides (cows) : Agras, 10 to 13 ; Durbhangas, 7 to 8.8 ; Patnas, 5 to 7. Salted cows : 3.8 to 6.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo) : 3 to 5. Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. ; goat 250 to 285 per 100 pieces ; sheep good quality, not quoted.

*Miscellaneous.*— Cotton (American), 13.76d. lb. ; Cotton (Egyptian Sakel), 20.50d. lb. ; Oilseeds : Linseed (La Plata), £8 15s. ton ; rape (Toria), £22 6s. 3d. ton ; soya beans, £15 9s. ton ; palm kernals, £22 13s. 9d. ton ; sesame seed (China), £32 3s. ton ; Oils: Linseed, £38 3s. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton ; palm £43 12s. 6d. ton ; rape (crude), £54 10s. ton. ; soya, £43 ton ; coconut (Ceylon) £53 10s. ton ; cotton (crude), £48 10s. ton ; ground nut, £52 3s. ton ; petroleum 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; fuel oil (ex tank), £3 15s. ton ; Shellac (T.N. second orange), 315s. cwt. ; (A.C. garnet), 282s. 6d. cwt ; rosin (American), 21s. cwt. ; turpentine (American), 66s. 7½d. cwt ; Rubber : Plantation No. 1 crepe, 8¼d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 8¼d. lb ; fine hard Para, 1s. 0½d. lb.

*The Asia Minor Fruit Report appears on page 400.*

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## BRITISH CLAIMS AGAINST TURKEY.

The Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Smyrna, in a leading article discussing the general outlook, says :—A very great push to British trade would be given by even a partial settlement of some of the claims made by members of the Smyrna Colony against the Ottoman Government and at the same time conditions here would be very much relieved. Large sums of money are being and have been expended in relief to Belgians, Serbs and Russians, and it has been pointed out that the already heavily overloaded taxpayer at home cannot be asked to overload himself with further burdens.

It is the duty of every nation to help to the best of their ability with the work of post-War reconstruction, and the British Colony of Smyrna has at least as good a claim as anyone else for the settlement of their claims, more especially as by far the greater proportion of the money would be spent in the United Kingdom in placing orders for goods which are urgently needed here and which are now being supplied to an increasing extent, by non-British manufacturers.

To be able to recover to anything like its pre-War high level of prosperity, British trade will need all the assistance that can be obtained for it, and it is to be hoped that some steps will be taken to assist it here in the way that will also assist it at home, that is, by the payment of the many legitimate claims against the Ottoman Government, which can be effected without making further demands upon the Treasury.

## THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PALESTINE.

The following is an extract from a report by Mr. R. A. Harari, Director of the Department of Commerce and Industry :—

Palestine, as at present constituted, has an era of roughly 9,000 square miles, and supports some 700,000 inhabitants, of whom about one third is located in 22 small towns and large villages. Although economic conditions are still primitive, modern methods are making headway and hold out hopes of development and progress. The country is under-populated and under-cultivated, and lacks capital and foreign trade, but the wants of the rural districts, other than those they can satisfy by their own production, are few, and there is little poverty.

**Finance.**

(a) Public Debt.—A share of the revenues of Palestine, in common with those of other provinces of the late Ottoman Empire, was allotted to the Ottoman Public Debt. The Treaty of Sèvres has replaced these charges by a fixed annuity, provisionally estimated at not more than £E200,000. Further the Administration proposes, as soon as the Mandate is ratified, to float a loan, the proceeds of which will be devoted to urgent capital expenditure.

(b) Revenue.—The financial year runs from April 1 to March 31, but in the course of the period under review, Palestine on July 1, 1920, passed from a Military to a Civil Administration, and the figures for expenditure during 1920-21 would be misleading as regards conditions. A truer picture is presented by the Estimates for 1921 - 22. They show a revenue of £E2,214,047, and an expenditure of £E2,286,133, or an estimated deficit of £E72,086. It is hoped that the year 1920-21 will result in a surplus of £E75,000 which if realised will cover the deficit.


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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## A BLACK SEA DISASTER.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Bucharest, September* 13.

News of the foundering of the Italian steamer *Santa Teresa* in the Black Sea has recently been received. The vessel, bound from Varna with passengers and cargo, struck a mine on the night of September 4. The passengers were saved by the steamer *Sardinia*, but some of the crew perished.

## BLACK SEA FISHING.

The Black Sea and Azoff Sea fisheries despite the most backward and wasteful fishing methods imaginable, were producing yearly before the war about 2¾ million pouds (one poud equals 36 lb.) of highly valuable food, says the *Manchester Guardian Commerical* in a recent issue. Expressed in terms of money it means more than double the value of the entire annual output of the Italian sea fisheries. With other albuminous foodstuffs, such as meat, fowl, and eggs rapidly disappearing from the regions surrounding the famine-striken area, fish food attains unusual importance. It could rightly be expected, therefore, that if international or national credits were granted for the purpose of provisioning Russia, funds would be made available for tapping the rich resources of food, to which Russia, under the circumstances, is quite unable to help herself without foreign assistance. The Black Sea fisheries, have up to now, not been among the most important fisheries of Russia. They could not bear comparison, for instance, with the Caspian fisheries which have long been on an industrial basis, yielding about 35 million pouds of first annually. But, next to their geographical propinquity to Western Europe, it is just by their dire need of industrial organisation that the Black Sea fisheries commend themselves to foreign enterprise as a particularly tempting objective, at least for the start.

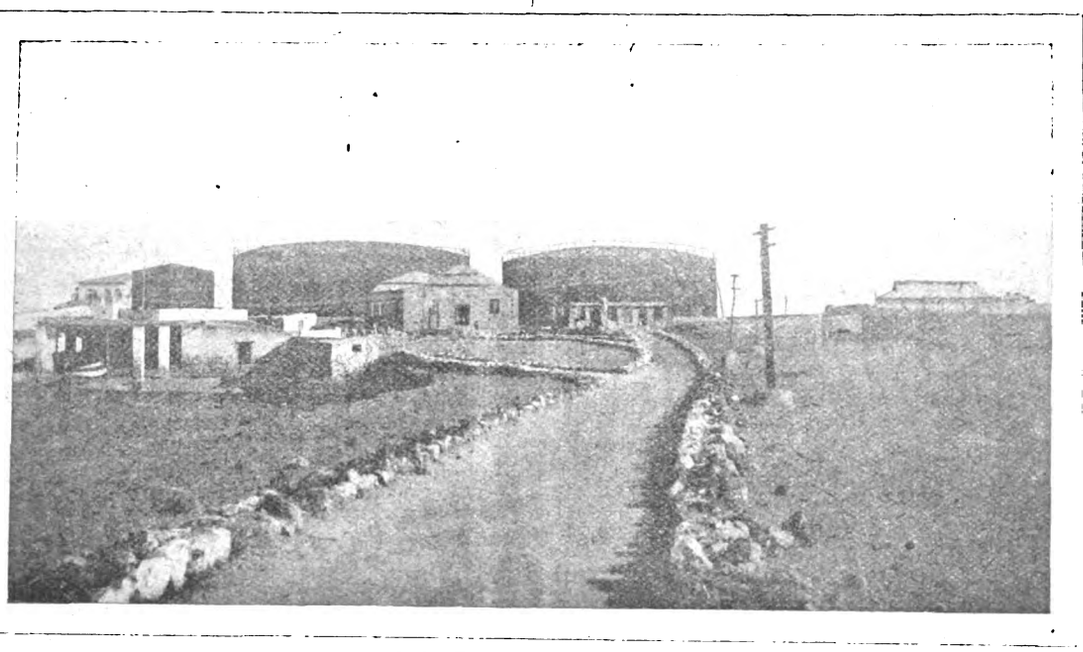
Evidence, and on rather good authority, is now coming forward which suggests that owing to the hopeless state of the local fishing industry any foreign enterprise of good standing, particularly if backed by the Relief Organisations for Russia, would meet with no difficulties whatever in securing reasonable terms and perfect safety for their activities.

## PERIM ISLAND.

The average traveller to and from the East is well content with a fleeting look at Perim Island, in one and the same breath congratulating himself that he does not live there and commiserating with those who do. Perim itself, however, resents this patronising air; it may not be bejewelled, but it has no doubt as to the stoutness of the link that it contributes to the British Empire. A low bare island, without vegetation or water, it can yet boast a deep harbour commanding the narrowest part of the outlet from the Red Sea where the channel is only about twelve miles wide. Thus it is situated directly in the main track of the Eastern trade route, and keeps its eye on much more of the coming and going than its supplanter Aden, a hundred miles to the east, which has arrogated to itself the title of Key to the Red Sea.

Perim, occupied by Great Britain, some sixty years ago, was intended by nature for service rather than ornament, and as a British coaling and cable station well fulfils its destiny. Here Lloyd's maintain a signal station on the highest point of the island, 214 feet above sea level, and the Eastern Telegraph Company also have a station. It has been left, however, to the Perim Coal Company, whose London agents are Messrs. Lambert Brothers Limited, and from whose illustrated pamphlet our illustration is taken, to supply the main business activities of the island. A feature of the Company's property is the huge storage sheds for coals, while nearly a thousand tons are continually afloat on lighters to enable ships to coal without delay. Fresh water is manufactured by two plants, each capable of making sixty tons of water in twenty-four hours; an ice plant turns out six tons of ice per day, and insulated storage for twenty-five tons is provided. In conjunction with the Asiatic Petroleum Company a fuel oil installation has just been completed, consisting of two 8,000-ton tanks, fitted with pipe-line equipment, which is carried out from the shore on a trestle pier and floating pontoons to a specially prepared berth where the ships are supplied.

Thus Perim we may hope, experiences the divine content that comes from minding its own business, and it will probably be glad to know that with fuller knowledge of the part that it is playing in the scheme of the world some of those who pitied it before will come to envy it.



**Perim Fuel Oil Installation.**

The Gemsah production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., for the week to September 9 amounted to 75 tons (previous week 71 tons).

According to a recent report from Palestine this year's olive crop is poor, but an average yield is anticipated of almonds, figs and cucurbitaceous fruits, although in some places insect pests have caused considerable damage.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from August 26 to 31 amounted to 2,510,000 francs, against 2,590,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

The Egyptian cotton crop is unofficially estimated at 3,500,000 kantars, says Reuter. On the Bourse there had been excited buying.

517,134 tons of coal were imported into Alexandria during January 1 and July 31. For the corresponding period of last year 262,755 tons were imported.

The Yugoslav Minister of Finance has granted permission, as from September 1, to export the bonds of the new interior loan for 3,000,000 dinars at 7 per cent.

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## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.* — S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 11).

*Anchor Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 1) ; s.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, October 8) ; s.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 12) ; s.s. Malia for Calcutta (Manchester, November 5).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—A steamer will sail from Liverpool on October 15 and October 28, for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Kennedy for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 6) ; s.s. Clan Macvicar for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, about October 7).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Phrygia for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, etc. ( Swansea, October 4) ; s.s. Brescia for Ceuta, Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk and Batoum (Glasgow, November 3).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Malatian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, October 1) ; s.s. Asturian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, October 8).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Manila for Calcutta, (Birkenhead, October 3) ; s.s City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 15).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay, Karachi, the Punjab, and Malabar Coast ports (Liverpool, October 1) ; s.s. City of Palermo for Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, October 15).

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 6) ; s.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 20).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Inventor for Calcutta (Liverpool, October 1) ; s.s. Professor for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, etc. (Birkenhead, October 6) ; s.s. Diplomat for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 6).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Henzada for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 5) ; s.s. Bhamo for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 19).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Inchmore for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 1) ; s.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 22).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Lugue for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Manchester, October 4).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 7) ; s.s. Devanha for Bombay (London, October 7).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 7) ; s.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 14) ; s.s. Neuralia for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 21) ; s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 28).


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## RADIUM IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

Special interest attaches to the announcement that an agreement has been concluded between the Czecho-Slovak Government and the Imperial and Foreign Corporation Ltd. for the lease of the Joachimstal radium mines for a period of fifteen years. The lessee company is to be known as the Czecho-Slovak Company for the Exportation of Radium ; it will have a capital of ten million kronen contributed in equal shares by the Government and the Corporation.

It is claimed for the radium of the Joachimstal mines that, being the pure Ra, unmixed with mesothorium as is the case with American radium, it retains its activity for an indefinite period—1,600 years is the estimate. Not only are these mines the sole source known at present of pure radium, but they are also said not to be threatened with exhaustion, whereas in the United States it is reported that there is already a considerable decrease in the quantity of available ores.

The intention of the Czecho-Slovak Government is to retain ownership of the radium produced, merely lending it for use for certain periods. To this end the Government undertakes to lend the new Company radium, the minimum amount from the supplies available on the day of the signature of the agreement being two grammes. It also undertakes later on to supply the company with all the radium it may require, in so far as it is not needed by the State for public puposes. Any radium beyond this may be disposed of by the State as it thinks fit. The Czecho-Slovak Government also undertakes to let the Company have the radio-active fragments and minerals obtained during the production of the ores and the manufacture of radium, in so far as it does not need them for further mining operations and does not incur any outlay in connection with them.

In 1919 radium element was produced in the Czecho-Slovak mines to the amount of 1.1 grammes, and uranium dyes to the amount of 448 kilogrammes, the expenses incurred in production being 3,292,520 Czecho-Slovak kronen. In 1920 the amount of radium element produced was 1.88 grammes, with 9,098 kilogrammes of uranium dyes, the expenses being 8,259,159 kronen. By the end of this year the Government will have at its disposal a total amount of five grammes of radium element, the above quantities included, and of this supply, in accordance with a resolution of the Ministerial Council passed in June, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education are to receive each a loan of eight grammes. The quantity left after the fulfilment of these obligations is entirely at the disposal of the new Company.

For the use of the radium the agreement ensures the Czecho-Slovak Government an annual percentage based upon the value of all the radium lent within the period concerned, according to a definite scale of percentages, irrespective of whether there has been any profit. This scale ranges between 8 and 15 per cent., and the value of the radium will be reckoned according to its price on the American market, which will be increased by 15 per cent.

The Government reserves the right of buying the English Company's share in the joint company after ten years have elapsed. Should the project be unsuccessful, the English company has the right of withdrawing from the agreement within two years, provided that it has settled its obligations with the Government. Without prejudice to this right, the Czecho-Slovak Government may also withdraw from the agreement at any time, if it has not received the sums to which it is entitled.

Radium preparations are now supplied for medical purposes in special platinum needles or in tubes, each containing 25 millicures of emanation. The Radium Institute in London charges £6 6s. for using this amount for 24 hours. The strength of 25 millicures decreased by 50 per cent. within four days, and after use the preparation is returned to the Radium Institute, where it is brought up to its former strength.

The emanations given off by one gramme of radium for 24 hours represent 150 millicuries, or 54,000 millicuries per annum, thus allowing of 4,320 applications, each of 12½ millicuries. Mr. S. Reilly, the representative of the English Company, has computed that one gramme of radium, used in this way, would yield an annual profit of £12,000 or 3,000,000 kronen. As the annual expenses decline in proportion to the increasing quantity of radium, the net profit will also rise. According to the same estimate, the profit for two grammes would be about £28,000, for three grammes about £40,000.

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## ON 'CHANGE.

### EGYPTIAN SHARES FIRM.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*London, Monday.*

Conditions during the week have again been adverse, and the fact that the bank rate remained unchanged despite the lowering of the Federal Bank of New York rate from 5½ per cent. to 5 per cent. has had a damping effect on business generally, while naturally the protracted uncertainty with regard to Irish affairs has not been without its effect.

The gilt edged group has been distinctly dull in tone. Consols are 1-8 up to 4½, while War Loan Fives are down to 88,7-16 a drop of 3-8, and Fundings have shed ½ a point to 72¾. In Near Eastern securities which rank as British Government stocks, Egyptian guaranteed 3 per cent. are 68; Greek guaranteed 2½ per cent., 1898 are 66 at which prices there were buyers, while Turkish guaranteed 4 per cent., 1855 are 69. The Sudan 5½ per cent. Loan is now 94½, while the India 7 per cent. Loan is ¼ down at 102¾.

The industrial market has been irregular. Iron and steel shares have shown a downward tendency. Textiles weak at first have shown a decided upward move during the last few days. Shipping securities are steady on the whole. P. and O. deferred have still further advanced 7½ points to 372½ in spite of the fact that freights are falling on some routes. This has provided the outstanding feature of a dull week. Furness Withys are unchanged at 24s. 3d.

Oils are unsteady. Anglo-Egyptians have shed 5-16 at 1,1-16, while Roumanian Consolidated at 9s. 9d. are unchanged. Steaua Romana have gained 3d. at 11s. 6d., while Phoenix at 9s. is unaltered. Burmahs now at 5,3-16 have dropped 7-16.

Bank shares have been firm on the whole. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are 1 up at 54, while the Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 55¾. Imperial Ottoman Banks are the same at 7,7-8 while National Bank of Egypts are 1-8 down at 19,7-8. Bank of Athens and Ionians are unaltered at 2,3-8 and 3¼ respectively.

Greek shares are down all along the line, in consequence of the set back at Angora. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 3 down at 30, while the 5 per cent. 1884 issue is 1 down at 38. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan has lost ½ at 34. The 5 per cent. Funding Loan at 38 has shed 1 point, and the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is ½ lower at 41.

**Egyptians Steady.**

A firm tendency has again prevailed. Beheras are 11 while Behera Prefs are 3¼. Egyptian Delta Lands have shed 3d. at 9s. 3d., while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are the same at 1s. 3d. New Egyptian are 25s. 6d., and Sudan Plantations are 3,1-8. Union Foncieres are unchanged at 2,7-8.


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## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 19:—Season. September — Monsoon active in Gangetic Plain and Assam. September 14—Strengthened in Peninsula. September 17 and 18—Heavy and widespread rain in Northern half of Peninsula. Crops.—September 15—Punjab—Rain much relieved situation. Crops generally good. Large acreage expected to be sown with wheat and grain. Central Provinces and Assam—unchanged. Markets.—Cotton—Bombay cotton market, September 14—firm. Oomras Rs. 496 September; Rs. 448 December-January. Cotton arrivals September 1 to 7, 23,000 bales as compared with 9,000 bales in corresponding period last year. Piece-goods.—Bombay piece-goods market quiet. Local goods moving steadily. Jute and Gunnies.—Calcutta jute market on September 16, firm but quiet. September 17—Hessians very strong with rates tending upwards. Heavy goods very firm. Tea.—At the tea sale on September 13, quality very good. Medium orange Pekoes with Tip three pies lower and cut leaf broken Pekoes with thin liquors weak. Keen competition for low medium broken Pekoe; Souchongs and Dusts steady. August crop figures 11¾ million pounds less than same month last year. 182,335 packages sold to date at an average price of nine annas one pie per lb. Rice.—Rangoon special rice, September 16—Rs. 645. No change in bank rates.

A further cable dated September 20 states:—Reports of Committees appointed at Bombay and Calcutta to advise Government regarding rehabilitation of Government securities published Both Committees oppose any concession such as raising rate of interest which would benefit holders of securities at the expense of taxpayer. Calcutta Committee recommends that long period 5 per cent. tax free loan, issued at a discount if necessary, should be basis for all future borrowings, and that 3, 3½ and 4 per cent. Bondholders should be given the option of conversion on payment of cash subscription. Bombay Committee suggests that Government should announce that they will pay off 3 and 3½ per cent. loans between 45 and 50 years from now and should undertake purchases by public tender of 2 per cent. of outstanding securities each year.

The final Jute forecast for 1921 is acreage, 1,513,358 acres, and yield 40,52,609 bales. The similar forecast for 1920 was: acreage 2,502,273 acres, and yield 59,62,192 bales.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on September 9 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 21-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7,3-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £7-8; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 57¾; Behera Ord., £E 10,9-16; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £21-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 55; Ciments d'-Egypte Div., Fr., 30; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt., 6; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 839 ex: Credit Foncier Act, Fr 655 Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 331; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110 ex.; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 80; Eaux du Caire Jouissance. Fr. 105, Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 6d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4,5-32 ex.; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £11¾; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5, 9-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2 9-16; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £5,1-16; Kom Ombo Ste., Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £38; Lots Turc., Fr., 36¾; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270; Nungovich Hotels, £6,13-16; Ramleh Railways, £3,1-32; Salt and Soda, Pt., 35s. 3d.; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr., 49; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 55; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £3,3-32; Egypt Hotels, £1 7-8; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

## TAILORING AT CASABLANCA.

At Casablanca, in the French Zone of Morocco, there exists an excellent opportunity for the establishment of a first class tailoring business, says the *Board of Trade Journal*. Casablanca is the commercial centre of the French Zone, and has a population of some 100,000, chiefly European, and is the constant centre of attraction for the whole population of the Zone. Once a concern is established in Casablanca, it will probably be found desirable to open branches in Rabat, and subsequently in Meknez, the present military centre, and the future commercial centre of North Morocco.


**Travellers to the Near East**

Can obtain all information as to the journey from **Continental Traffic Department, Victoria Station (S. E. & C. R.), S.W.1:**


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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 22 :—

A much improved business has taken place during the past week, the early part of which was quiet, as the market showed a declining tendency, but, subsequently, the tone became steadier, and prices continued their upward trend. Opinions are still very divergent as to whether the rise is justified or not, but there is no gainsaying the fact that a considerable amount of the buying has been for the trade, more in fact than we have witnessed for a long time. Spinners are showing distinct signs of nervousness, and whilst many of them still persist in the "nothing doing" theory, other sources no less reliable admit that an improvement has taken place. Apparently, the Near East is showing an increasing interest in the Manchester market, and an improved enquiry for yarns has been noted, even the finer counts coming in for a share of attention. The enquiry for the raw material has covered practically all classes of cotton and, generally speaking, sellers are doing all they can to meet the demand.

The feature of the week has been the amount of Sudan and Tokar cotton which has changed hands ; on one day alone a line of about 1,000 bales was purchased for the Continent, and since then further sales have taken place. As we have pointed out on several occasions, this Tokar cotton is relatively cheap when compared either with American staple cotton or Upper Egyptian. We would advise any holders of this class of cotton to seize the opportunity and meet the demand as far as possible, before the arrival of new crop cotton. There is a large stock of Sudan and Tokar in this market, and it is only at the end of the season, when spinners find a shortage of their normal supplies, and the price is put up against them that they can be induced to take an interest in it. Rather more c.i.f. business has been noted, and the special Manchester report, issued daily, have shown an increasing tendency towards optimism, particularly to-day, Total sales, 4,800 bales, which includes 1,400 bales Sudan. Quotations are all advanced 400 points, with the exception of good Sakel, which is raised 450 points, and extra fine Sakel, which is 300 points higher. Fully good fair Sakel 26.00d. per lb.

## COLOURED COTTON.

A correspondent writing to the *Egyptian Gazette* states :— "It is true, that khaki coloured cotton has been produced and other experiments are taking place here, but elsewhere still more remarkable ones are being made and the question is, will the much-talked of extension of the dye industry become unnecessary after all ? It would almost seem possible if certain experiments carried out in America and India continue to prove as successful as they have been so far. In South Carolina four samples of cotton in natural colours have been produced, which are light and dark green and light and dark brown. The cotton is of a beautiful soft texture. An expert is consulting with native Indian growers, who are said to have produced cotton in India of blue, grey, and pink shades ; and in Peru, also, cotton has been grown of various shades. Experts believe that it will be possible to have a great variety of colours in natural grown cotton.

"The expert alluded to expects to be able to raise even black cotton in two years by crossing red and blue varieties. Not cotton growers and textile makers only, but the big dye manufacturers of various countries, are watching these amazing experiments with keen interest."

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester, Friday.*

The market this week has been under the influences of higher rates in raw cotton, and in all quarters the tone has been firmer. Traders are beginning to show increased confidence in the higher prices, and demand has been stimulated. Private cables relating to the Egyptian crop have been unfavourable. It is said that the plants have been damaged to a greater extent than usual by the pink boll worm. There is a tendency to reduce estimates of the crop, and according to some advices the yield will not be more than 3,500,000 kantars. Lancashire spinners have bought more freely. The rise in Egyptian yarns has forced out some orders but many users do not seem able to follow the advance. Spinners however with stocks are benefiting by the appreciation in values. In American yarns rates have hardened, and the sales have been more encouraging. In cloth for the Near Eastern outlets demand has been active. Undoubtedly during the last two or three weeks extensive buying has taken place, especially in bleaching and printing styles for Egypt and the Levant and the requirements of our customers are not yet satisfied. Mixed reports have come to hand from India. Although the Gandhi agitation causes some nervousness some telegrams have been received from Calcutta and Bombay asking for Lancashire manufacturers to wire out the lowest quotations for standard makes, and a few more sorting up lots have been sold. Grey staples have moved off more freely for China. Rather more inquiry is now being met with for South America. Distribution in home trade circles continue to improve.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, reports as follows for the week ended September 10 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 54,540 bags compared with 27,960 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 46,540 bags, as against 25,960 for the same period last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 8,000 bags for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to-date are 28,800 loads as compared with 38,000 loads for the corresponding period of last year. The estimated sales are 28,800 loads as against 38,000 loads last year.

Shipments.—The estimated shipments are as follows:— 30,662 boxes of sultanas ; 590 cases of figs, 647 boxes of figs and 4,332 bags of figs which are being loaded on the s.s. Malatian for Liverpool ; s.s. Antigone for London ; s.s. Brescia for Liverpool ; s.s. Destro for London and Hull ; s.s. Canadian Rancher for Montreal and s.s. Haddon for New York.

Markets.—The s.s. Ganymede has sailed for Amsterdam with about 3,000 tons sultanas and figs. Details of quantities loaded will be given in our next report. Sultana sales for the week amounted to about 20,000 bags or 2,500 tons, being in excess of the week's arrivals. The market is firm with advancing tendency and owing to the heavy engagements still on hand may improve still further. Higher foreign exchanges however, offset any marked change in foreign parities. Prices have grounded for the month and any modification is likely to be in favour of advance. Business is increasing in activity on all markets and large American and Colonial orders are also being placed.

Figs are a steady market with sufficient supplies for current wants.

## OTTOMAN RAILWAY.

The earnings of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year to June 30, amounted to £265,218, of which military traffic produced £91,000. Expenditure was £160,847, showing a net profit of £104,370. Mileage worked during the half-year was 193 miles, about one-half of the company's entire system, same as at the period of last report, remainder of railway still being in the possession of the Turkish Nationalists. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., September 30, at noon.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97 15-32 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 77.00-78.00 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 195-205 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £..... | 22.43 | 407-433 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1 5 9-16-1 5 11-16 |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 450-480 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1'5 9-16-1,5 11-16 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 615-635 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.7-2½3.73½ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 51.-40 52.30 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 330-340 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 89,50-90.50 |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 527-575 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £ ..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 4400-4700 |
| Warsaw ... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 20,000-22,000 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**GERMAN MARKS OVER 400 TO THE £**

**Has the Depreciation of the German Mark come to an end.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.—Exclusive information on the present position of GERMAN MARKS and an indication as to the future price movements. (Highest last year, 353—lowest, 147), together with CABLE INFORMATION FROM OUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE NOW IN FRANKFURT A-MAINE can be obtained free of charge by Investors writing to the :—

**Foreign Exchange Department,**
**THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,**
**Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London S.W 1.**

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 543—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Situation in Asia Minor.*

The return of King Constantine to Athens is, we trust, a sign that Greece at any rate is content that diplomacy should now step in where military measures have failed and try once more to effect a settlement in Asia Minor. Whether the Turkish Nationalists hold the same view may be regarded as doubtful; but if the Entente Governments are now resolved to impose a just peace on the belligerents, and can communicate their intentions to Angora, Mustapha Kemal is not likely to find much advantage in continuing a campaign which must press hardly on his sorely-tried followers. It is to be hoped that there will be no delay on the Allies' part to take definite action. Any further withdrawal westwards of the Greek army means more destruction and desolation in Asia Minor, and a larger heritage of bitterness between Turks and Greeks. The winter—usually severe—is approaching in those regions; the ebb and flow of the contending armies will have left the country a wilderness, and some provision ought to be made for the inhabitants. This is an aspect of an unsuccessful campaign which will not have been taken into consideration by those who ordered the Greek advance. It will, however, appeal very strongly to the Greek and other merchants of Smyrna, who will find their trade with the interior dislocated for years to come, unless the people can be repatriated at an early date.

### *King Constantine and His People.*

The welcome accorded to King Constantine on his arrival in his capital is of good augury that the Greek people will take a level-headed view of the whole question. There has been no decisive victory over the Turks; the campaign was successful up to a point, and the army, inspired by the King's presence, has a great achievement to its credit. But the situation in Asia Minor remains *in statu quo*. Greece may hold more territory than she did before the advance; whether she is to be allowed to retain it is another matter. The point that is of the utmost consideration to Greece at this juncture is that she should hold together as a united people. If she does so, it will be due to the King's presence on the Throne. The danger to her in the rejection of her claims in Asia Minor lies in the opportunity it gives to political opponents to disturb Greece, rather than in any deeply cherished aspirations from the sacrifice of which trouble may come. (There was a minimum of interest manifested in the original occupation of Smyrna in 1919). But King Constantine has identified himself with the effort to secure a territorial hold on Asia Minor, and if he realizes the necessity of accepting the Allies' settlement, less political capital is likely to be made out of Greece's discomfiture in the face of his popularity.

### *The Question of Albania.*

The settlement of the Albanian question is not yet complete. Italy, it is understood, takes exception to the proposed modifications on the northern and north-eastern frontiers in favour of Yugoslavia. When the subject came up before the Ambassadors' Conference last week the particular interest of Italy in the fate of Albania was recognised, and she was accorded the right to intervene in Albania in the name of the Allied Powers, if the League of Nations should be unable to safeguard the country's independence and integrity. In the meantime charges and counter-charges are being exchanged between the Serbians and Albanians in Geneva, and as far as can be judged from the reports of correspondents on the spot, the audience is more impressed by the latter than by the former in regard to the inherent probability of the statements made. The time would seem to have come for a long-sighted view on the part of the Yugoslav Government. It is difficult to believe that Yugoslavia stands to gain as much from any minor rectification of the frontier as she does from an immediate settlement, which will deprive the Albanians of any excuse for being other than good neighbours. Reports of General Wrangel's refugees being used for a Serbian offensive against Albania continue to be current; but, as the League of Nations has decided to appoint a fresh Commission to deal with the boundary question, a truce will presumably be imposed on both sides,

### *Travellers in the Balkans.*

While Sir Harry Brittain's party is seeing Roumania through luncheon and dinner glasses, Mr. Noel Buxton and Mr. Leland Buxton are applying a political stethoscope to Yugoslavia. A Zagreb contemporary, the *Agramer Tagblatt*, is exercised over the latter visit on the ground that the visitors first called on M. Stjepan Raditch, the declared enemy of the present union and of the Government, and only after making a tour with him found time for a visit of courtesy to the Government representatives in Zagreb. To support its case the organ of the Yugoslav Democrats attributes to the visitors an international importance that they would

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probably be the first to repudiate, and the incident would not call for notice, if an attempt had not been made to implicate the British Consulate in Zagreb. In acceding as a private individual to a personal request for an introduction, the acting British Consul could not be expected to instruct his visitors in matters of etiquette. The strictures of the *Agramer Tagblatt* suggest an over-eagerness to visit upon a nation, which is not very popular at the moment in Yugoslavia, the shortcomings of one or two individuals. In justice to the latter it must be said that the ordinary British traveller imagines that his movements never come to the knowledge of and have no interest for the officials of a country, while in his blissful ignorance prosecuting his search for local or national curiosities. Messrs. Buxton, fresh, no doubt, from the contemplation at a distance of our own de Valera, Gandhi, Hertzog, Zaghloul, etc., seized the first chance that offered of inspecting the Yugoslav variety at close quarters. *De gustibus non disputandum.*

## *Mr. Churchill on Mesopotamia.*

Speaking at Dundee last week, Mr. Churchill said that he saw every prospect of saving twenty millions as between this year and next on the expenses of Mesopotamia. Our troops, he added, are rapidly leaving the country; the expensive establishments which have been created there are being broken up, and a King and Government chosen freely by the people have come into existence, and will, he hopes, soon take the burden completely off our shoulders. These cheerful assurances have afforded as much satisfaction throughout the country as they did to Mr. Churchill's immediate hearers, and it is to be hoped that nothing will occur to shut out the pleasing prospect. Although we have never supported the policy of scuttle so persistently urged by a section of the press, we have always recognised that there was ample room for effecting economies in Mesopotamia, as elsewhere. Perhaps the disappearance of the Motor Transport and certain other departments which are commonly reported to be not only expensive but undesirable in other ways, will account for some of the twenty millions' reduction that the Secretary for the Colonies has in mind. If so the cut will be welcomed for more reasons than one. Conditions have doubtless improved greatly within the last twelve months, but there appears to be room still for further improvement.

## *King Faisal's Task.*

With regard to the ability of King Faisal and his Government to take the burden completely off our shoulders at an early date, we are not quite so confident as Mr. Churchill. Of the excellence of the newly elected monarch's intentions there can be no doubt, and his ability has been shown to be of a very high order; but the task before him is a truly stupendous one, and it remains to be seen what measure of help his own people will be able to give him, and how far he will still have to rely upon us. We hope it will not be found that, in response to the clamour for 'economy,' our troops are leaving the country too rapidly, and that too much reliance is being placed upon the aeroplane. In the recent operations against the Kurds in the Rowanduz district, the R. A. F. rendered very valuable service, and the moral effect of its bombing operations must have been considerable. But it is not a very cheap service to maintain, especially when 'planes get lost, as was the case in the recent operations; and it would be instructive to know just what the expense of this aerial bombardment amounted to. Moreover, as we have hinted before, the slackening of the strain on the Angora front is very likely to be followed by activity on the Kemalists' part on the 'Kurdish' or 'Mesopotamian' front. And finally it is well to remember that Irak never has been remarkable for its peaceful character, and that it has not yet given any marked indication of having put off the old man and put on the new.

## *Roumania and the Balkans.*

We have been taken to task in a very friendly manner by the Roumanian Royal Geographical Society for a tendency to regard Roumania as part and parcel of the Balkans. It is quite true that geologically, geographically, ethnographically and anthropologically, Roumania does not belong to the Balkans, and before the Balkan wars it may be said to have been wrong to group the country politically with the Balkan States. But we imagine that to-day Roumania would feel hurt if the future development of the Balkan Peninsula were to take place with as little reference to her or consideration for her interests as could be claimed, let us say, by Belgium or Poland. One effect of the war, as we have previously pointed out in these columns, has been that the sharp line of cleavage that formerly separated the Balkans from the rest of Europe has gone. Whether Central Europe has absorbed South-Eastern Europe, or whether the Balkans now overlap Central Europe need not be discussed; the important fact is that the world is likely before long to be confronted with a new grouping of States that will include the countries lying between the Erz Mountains and the Aegean Sea. A nucleus already exists in the Little Entente; but although the tripartite agreement is sufficient while it points, so to speak, inwardly, it will clearly be in a much stronger position in Europe's council-chamber, if instead of being merely directed against Hungary, it becomes the voice of the whole of South-Eastern Europe. In the busy world of journalism the short word "Balkans" may still occasionally slip from the pen, unless the countries concerned cultivate the federal instinct so strongly that "Danubia" can be more appropriately substituted for it.

## *A Sudan Raid.*

From the Sudan comes news of another small fight, in which, we regret to note, two British officers and three civil employees are reported to have been killed. The lately-added province of Darfur was the scene of the trouble, which took the form of a raid upon a post at Nyala, in Southern Darfur; the attacking force being led by a fanatic whose name is given as Abdullahi-es-Soghayer, and apparently consisting of Arabs of the Masalat tribe. The attack is reported to have been repulsed with heavy loss to the tribesmen, and its leader is said to have been killed, by a defending force composed of mounted infantry and police. In all probability the rising is a mere echo of the events of 1916, a manifestation of the restlessness of the Masalat under new conditions; and it is easy to accept the assurances that no political significance need be attached to it. It is the latest, but almost certainly not the last, of a number of such incidents; and while we must deplore the loss of life involved—the latest messages put the insurgents losses at 600 and our own total at over 60—we must recognize it as part of the price which this country has to pay for the privilege of carrying the benefits of civilization into the jungle and the wilderness.

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### *A 'Plot' at Teheran.*

A plot has been discovered—or is said to have been discovered—in Teheran, for the assasination of Kavam es-Sultaneh, the Prime Minister, and the Sardar-Sipah, the Minister for War; and as a first result a number of prominent personages have been arrested, while others equally exalted, have escaped arrest only by taking *bast*. Colonel Riza Khan (if we may refer to the Minister for War by his former title for the moment) has had so much experience of organising plots himself, and has shown himself so skilful at the work, that we shall probably not be far wrong if we conclude that the discovery of this attempt was due to him. On the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief, a successful plotter ought to make a good detector of plots. But it must be an anxious time for a good many prominent Persians when the sleuth hounds get to work, for, as it will be recalled, the new-style Government in Persia has original notions in the matter of raising money among its political opponents. And it is painful to note that the Sardar Sipah and his associates do not boggle over arresting even such a distinguished and doubtless pious person as a former keeper of the famous shrine of Imam Riza at Meshed, to say nothing of mere laymen like the former Secretary of the Russian Bank. The Teheran correspondent of *The Times*, who reports the occurrence, mentions that Mushir el-Mulk, the Minister of the Household, escaped arrest by taking *bast* in the Shah's palace; but if the modern spirit spreads at this rate in Persia the institution of *bast*—and even the Shah's palace itself—may speedily be swept into the limbo of premillenial days.

### *Armenian Refugees.*

The Armenians' cup of misfortune is surely full to overflowing. The prospect of an independent Armenian State is as remote as, if not more remote than, in the days before the war; for with the Bolshevist hordes overrunning the country, the Armenian Republic has about as much freedom of action as a prisoner on the rack; and the majority of the Armenians who looked forward to living in a land of their own are now either dead or scattered up and down the earth. Reports from Armenia state that twenty-four deaths from cholera or starvation occur daily in Alexandropol alone; and half a million people are said to be homeless. Their case, it is to be feared, like that of the Georgians, is almost hopeless. In Irak, too, there are many Armenian refugees who have been supported by the British Government. The funds provided by His Majesty's Government for this purpose are now on the point of exhaustion, and in view of the heavy burden of taxation already borne in this country, it has been found necessary to intimate that no further supplies for this particular purpose will be forthcoming. The announcement has, very naturally, caused much regret in philanthropic circles here, and great efforts are being made to meet the problem presented.

### *An Armenian Proposal.*

With the distress both of the Armenian refugees and of their friends in this country we sincerely sympathise. At the same time, with so many urgent calls nearer home it seems very doubtful whether it will be possible to raise funds sufficient to do much for the refugees in Irak, who are said to number over 14,000. It is to be hoped, therefore, that some project such as that proposed lately by an Armenian in a letter to the *Times of Mesopotamia* may be successfully put into practice. The writer, who points out that all the refugees in question were formerly Turkish subjects, and that Constantinople is the seat of the Patriarch of Armenians in Turkey, suggests that the 150,000 Armenians of Constantinople, "of whom many are fairly wealthy," should form a committee presided over by the Patriarch, which could solve the problem. The refugees, he thinks, might be sent either to Cilicia, subject to French approval, or to Constantinople," where surely the Armenians will have to share the burden of their brethren." The scheme seems quite as practical as others put forward, and in the present impoverished state of Europe it has at least as good a chance of success as any other with which we are acquainted.

### *The Moplah Rebellion.*

The latest news from Malabar is somewhat disappointing. We may assume that the authorities are careful not to understate the difficulties of the situation, because they have to justify the retention of martial law before a legislature which is intensely suspicious of that particular method of restoring order, but all the same the official statement that the resistance of armed gangs totalling ten thousand men is still strengthening shows that the progress made hitherto has been less than was generally expected. The lurid stories of the sufferings of the Hindus under Moplah terrorism are the inevitable result of the delay, for religious fanaticism is at all times the most marked characteristic of the rebels, and outrages will continue until the last gang has been accounted for. The whole thing is a bitter object lesson for Indian politicians, and the ultimate results may be salutary, but the need of the moment is not discussion but such vigorous action as shall bring the outbreak quickly to an end.

### *Questions in the Indian Legislature.*

There will be general approval in well-informed circles of the steps taken by the President to check the flood of questions which has threatened to submerge the Indian Legislative Assembly. The trouble really dates from the days of the old Councils, when members could do little but ask questions; the habit thus grew, and its present extent may be inferred from the samples given by Mr. Whyte, which include an inquiry regarding the prices of food which prevailed a thousand years ago. The measures now announced are, first, the stricter application of the rules under which questions can be disallowed by the President, and secondly, the introduction of the "Star system," under which oral answers will be given only when specially desired by the questioners. Mr. Whyte's record as President affords ample guarantee that the former measure will be applied with judicial fairness. The value of the Star system will depend on the way in which it is utilised by members; the House of Commons has made it a great practical success, and we trust that in this matter, as in others, the Assembly will follow the good example, for otherwise more drastic measures will become inevitable.

### *Legislative Esurience.*

We are not greatly concerned at thesnub administered to the India Office by its favourite offspring, the Legislative Assembly, which has refused to provide funds for the travels of Lord Lytton's Committee on the grievances of Indian students. It is at least arguable whether a visit to India is nece sary for the Committee's objects, though it was contemplated in the terms of reference; and the number of such peripatetic inquiries has become so large that it was time somebody should call a halt. The

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contention of Indian legislators that the Committee should devote its efforts to securing freer access to the universities in this country is a very different matter, and, coming on top of the recent petition for a share in the Rhodes scholarships, indicates that "slave-mentality" is not yet entirely extinct. How much have Indians contributed to the endowments by means of which Oxford and Cambridge offer an education much below cost? Have the Rhodes Trustees legal power to divert funds to purposes which the donor certainly never contemplated? Surely the time for cadging for such doles is past, and if Indian politicians want to secure cheap education in this country, the new national self-respect should teach them that the first step is to provide the necessary funds.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

**Beginning Again.** London, Monday evening

The Irish correspondence has ended, and the conference will begin in a few days. Looking back on the series of letters and telegrams exchanged between the Prime Minister and de Valera, it is evident that the latter has had the worst of the exchanges, and that there is nobody to blame but himself for getting the worst of it. He tried to get an unconditional conference, and it was agreed to. He then tried to get Ireland acknowledged as an independent republic, and that was refused; but he preferred to make the demand and then climb down. To the ordinary intelligence it does not seem particularly good strategy; one cannot wonder that the Cabinet was puzzled by his way of going about the thing, as Mr. Winston Churchill admitted a few days ago that they had been puzzled.

However, all's well that ends well, or rather begins well; for the end of the chapter is by no means the end of the book. The upshot of the whole thing is that there is to be a conference to discuss the relations of Ireland and England, and that the conference is to be free and unfettered save in one respect—the solution of separation is ruled out in advance. Since Mr. de Valera is understood to have expressed his conviction that separation was impossible even before the negotiations had begun, it is not easy to see what particular object was achieved or anticipated, by claiming an independence on paper which could not be obtained in fact, and which was not in the end even attained on paper. But there are proverbially more things in Irish politics than are dreamt of in our philosophy.

That is, however, by the way. The conference will meet, and it is possible that Ireland will be represented by more experienced politicians—and incidentally more practical men—than Mr. de Valera, whose stock appears to have fallen a little in Dublin during the past few weeks. It is suggested that Mr. Austin Chamberlain will preside over some of the meetings as chairman, although Mr. Lloyd George will control the course of the negotiations; probably there will be four delegates on each side. More would lead to protraction and probably to the introduction of unnecessary side-issues; fewer would hardly insure adequate weight or balance. It is recognised on all sides that the task before the October conference will be as momentous as that which faced Pitt with his proposals for nearly a century and a quarter ago.

**Work for Parliament.**

It is said that Parliament is likely to sit for only two or three weeks; to meet on October 18, and to rise by November 10. I rather doubt this hopeful prophecy. The House of Commons is interested not only in Ireland but in unemployment. It wants to hear the Government's proposals, the Labour Party's comments—indeed the Labour members have a rare opportunity ahead of them of which they are hardly likely to take full advantage—but any discussion on unemployment is bound to take a wide sweep, since it must lead to the question of wages, and from that to prices.

We are likely to hear some lively protests at the discrepancies between wholesale and retail prices; obviously there is bad profiteering between the middleman and the retailer. The result is that while wages must be reduced in order to get business going again the working man (and the rest of us) find that the cost of living does not fall in proportion; and hence much of the trouble and discontent. These matters require to be ventilated in public, and if Parliament once gets its teeth into them, it may sit a good deal longer than is at present anticipated.

**Platform Politics.**

There is to be a flood of political oratory this autumn; the Coalition leaders, the Wee Frees, and the Labour Party are all to take part in the deluge of wisdom, or at least of words, which will descend, like the autumn rains on a parched and thirsty people. We shall hear what we shall hear, but only the extravagantly conscientious will read through these declarations in the next day's paper. For the fact must be faced that political leaders hardly lead any longer in the old sense; the new electorate is critical and independent, and it likes to think for itself, or at any rate to think it thinks for itself. In that respect I fancy that votes for women has had a good effect. Women, being new to politics, are less tied to party views than the inferior male; and indirectly this has the consequence of making men less tied to the one particular organization in view.

**A 1922 Election.**

All this outburst of activity is thought to portend an election early in 1922—it would probably have come this autumn had the Irish question been settled one way or the other. But the early spring would be a fairly convenient time to have an election, and although the House of Commons need not expire till the end of 1923, it is admitted by all parties that the public advantage lies in an earlier appeal to the constituencies.

The result of the election is hardly in doubt. The Government would return, probably with a diminished majority, but with perhaps greater authority, and, barring accidents, would survive its full five years. A writer in one of the weekly reviews this week makes the interesting point that the swing of the pendulum takes more time to operate now that electorates are larger. In the old days Liberal and Conservative changed places every five or six years. But in 1895 the period was unconciously lengthened to ten years; th Unionists were in till 1905, then the Liberals till 1910. The remainder of that year and the whole of 1916 were the first Coalition, a transition period; the real Coalition began at the end of 1916. According to this calculation, therefore, the present Coalition Government should last until 1926-7. It is an ingenious theory; and unlike a good many political theories, it seems probable that it may be borne out by the facts.

**The New Liberals.**

It is to be noted, by the way, that the new Manchester Liberals held last week a conference to discuss and define their industrial and social policy. Some quite good speeches were delivered, without any definite conclusions being arrived at. But the most noteworthy feature of the Conference was not in anything said or done, but in

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the fact that it was boycotted by every Wee Free member of Parliament and every paid organiser of that party. The Wee Frees are taking up that same attitude of chilly disdain towards the young Liberals without the House that it does to the Coalition Liberals within. Mr. Asquith's attitude is becoming increasingly like that of the Quaker who told his wife that "All the world is queer, my dear, except me and thee; and thou art a little queer." Orthodox Liberalism will soon be confined to the ex-Prime Minister.

**Panels, Patients and Pill-slingers.**

There is a crisis in the medical world, and the panel doctor is trembling in his surgery. Like almost everybody else, he received his war-bonus in the shape of a higher capitation fee; and Sir Alfred Mond, at the Ministry of Health, now suggests that the cost of living having fallen, this should be cut down in the interests of economy. There have been a good many criticisms of the panel service of late, and it is quite certain that in many cases the standard of attendance has fallen off; panel doctors have been tempted to take too many patients, and have been unable to attend to them properly. Some of the largest incomes of the faculty (at least among the general practitioners) are now made on the panels; but hardly by the medicoes who have the highest qualifications.

A doctor tells me that, taking things by and large, he calculates his panel work brings him in about three shillings a visit, and that, he says, is more than he got in the old days from his poorer patients. In those days, too, there was no security for the money; now the cash comes in automatically every quarter from the Government. In his view, there is a case for a reduction, but he is admittedly in a minority.

There is some idea that the whole working of medical insurance may have to be revised. It is by no means economical. It does not appear to give the best possible service for the money. And it is far from popular in many districts. At any rate, the idea of a state medical service, which was favoured by Dr. Addison and Sir George Newman, has gone by the board, and is not likely to be revived. This may be regretted by certain panel doctors and many bureaucrats, but it is a good thing for the independence of the profession at large.

**A Town for Sale.**

Does anybody want to buy a town? The pleasant and prosperous little borough of Reigate, for many years the property of Lady Henry Somerset, is in the market, shortly to be knocked down to the highest bidder. Although the motor bus runs to Reigate—from Camden Town, of all places in the world—this half-way place on the main Brighton road still preserves a good deal of the old-world atmosphere. In the Church is buried the victor of the Spanish Armada, but the main atmosphere of Reigate is still eighteenth century—although its caves enshrine the memory of a far older age, and on the hills above the town the track of the Pilgrims' Way recalls the mediaeval march to Canterbury. It is an attractive place, and for once the auctioneers have not exaggerated the charms of their bargains.

**The New Law Term.**

The reopening of the Law Courts finds the Bar quite reasonably cheerful. I am told that the lists are long, and that litigants have been displaying a properly litigious attitude. Divorce is a little down—the pace was too hot to last—but not alarmingly so, from the point of view of those who practise in that court; and there are some good commercial cases which should "cut up" well. There has been rather a falling-off in crime, however, both in quality and quantity, of late years; in fact, as a lawyer recently remarked, "it is one of the many lamentable consequences of the war that even the criminal classes seem to have lost their cunning."

**Ocellus.**

A *communique* issued from the India Office on September 29, says:—"The military authorities in Madras take rather a serious view of the strong resistance of the Moplahs, and this may entail a more vigorous prosecution of the campaign against them. Recent actions at Nilambur and Nennini show that the resistance is framed on guerilla lines, plunder, terrorization and avoidance of open battle. Armed gangs are getting stronger, and it is probable that the numbers joining the rebels are on the increase.

## THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

The five-day endurance test of Arab horses, held by the Arab Horse Society, finished at Lewes on September 30. The horses had to travel sixty miles a day over the chief heights of the South Downs. Eight started on Monday, but only two competed on the last two days. Of these the winner was Mr. H. V. H. Clark's Belka, ridden by the owner, whose time for the 300 miles was 37hrs. 38min. 49½sec., and Shahzada, belonging to Mr. L. Edmunds, and ridden by Mr. Morgan Blair, finished second in 38hrs. 43mins. 20sec.

## "THE NEAR EAST" INDEX TO VOLUME XIX.

JANUARY 6—JUNE 30, 1921.

The Index to Volume XIX is now ready, and subscribers wishing to receive copies should apply to THE MANAGER, "THE NEAR EAST," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, September 20.*

**The Government's Action.**

In my last letter I dealt with the growing disrespect for authority in Egypt. I had no knowledge then, nor was there any evidence to infer, that the Government was likely to take any steps to deal with what was becoming an ominous situation; but, during the last few days, events have moved rapidly. The Government has suddenly asserted its authority and there has been a sharp radical change for the better. There is, of course, the usual talk in the Opposition native Press of repression, coercion and veiled British tyranny, but even the most virulent papers have been unable to do anything but abuse the Government for its timely action—and abuse is not argument. Saad Pasha Zaghloul's intended itinerant speech-making tour, which must have resulted in inflaming the ignorant mass against constituted authority, has been checked; the arrest of two notables for respective authorship and publication of a scurrilous article alleging that Lord Curzon had bullied the Egyptian Official Delegation into frightened silence, has led the extremist native Press to adopt a more moderate tone; the announcement of the decision to deport Aly Bey Fahmy Kamel the leader of the ultra-Nationalists—really the out-and-out extremists—has caused the other extremist leaders to reconsider their positions; and, finally, the Government's warning on the eve of the arrival of the visiting Labour Members of Parliament that demonstrations would not be permitted in the streets, reduced the reception of the Members to a weak partisan effort by the official adherents of Zaghloul.

**An Exciting Week.**

Thus it has, on the whole, been an exciting week. With the Government in this sort of temper, Zaghloul Pasha's doctrine that "the will of the people," as expressed by small provincial delegations to himself, must be above the law, is seen in its true perspective: foolish propaganda, like most of the Pasha's recent utterances. It was time that the growing menace of his disturbing interpretations of "the will of the people" was stopped. And the Government stopped it in a clever and statesmanlike way. As already reported, Zaghloul Pasha had attempted to take up the absolutely untenable position that because a delegation had approached him and asked him to visit its district and address the people, he must obey the people's mandate, regardless of the law of the land, which states that unauthorised public meetings are forbidden, and lays down that an authorised meeting of five or more persons in a public place is a meeting within the meaning of the Act. Accordingly, some little time ago one of Zaghloul's lieutenants was passing, in a train, a town not far from Alexandria. The local Chief of Police warned some students that they were not to gather on the platform as such gatherings were forbidden. The students disobeyed, and on Tuesday last they were brought to trial for having contravened the Law of Assemblage—the law referred to above. Counsel for the defence, a prominent Cairo lawyer intimately connected with the Zaghloulists, argued that as the law had been passed as an emergency regulation in 1914, and that as it had never been adopted by the Egyptian Legislative Assembly, it was not valid. The Court reserved judgment.

**Zaghloul Pasha's Plans.**

That case is the answer to Zaghloul's intention to hold an electioneering campaign, complete with meetings and demonstrations. Reservation of judgment is not uncommon in Egypt, and in this case it is of no particular significance. Even if the Court held that the argument of the defence was valid, the Government could still get over the difficulty either by again issuing the law, as it did in 1914, or by getting it legalised under martial law. In any case, without referring to Zaghloul Pasha in any way, it has checked his latest scheme for subtly overthrowing the power of his hated rivals who held office. At the same time, it is difficult to understand exactly what Zaghloul Pasha wants to do. In an interview a few days ago with *The Times* correspondent—which has since been published locally—he stated that he would be prepared to co-operate with the Adly Cabinet, if the Official Delegation succeeded in bringing back an agreement acceptable to Egypt. He went further, indeed, and intimated that he would be prepared to consider an invitation to join in the official negotiations in London. What does the man mean? If he wants to co-operate, he is showing his willingness in a very curious manner, as in the very interview in which he mentioned his willingness to co-operate he spoke of the Adly Cabinet as men, in effect, who should be shunned by all true Egyptians. His opinions and his declarations seem to fluctuate with each passing mood. If he had any public opinion to guide him it might be a different matter; but he has not. He is, in his own sphere, as much an autocrat as the ex-Kaiser, and his imperious whims are subject to passing circumstances. Manifestly, that sort of instability would prove quicksand if it were used as a foundation for any political edifice.

**The Labour Members' Visit.**

Now his cause is to be championed by the "Swan Travelling Company," as the four visiting Labour members of the British House of Commons have been nick-named locally. The deputation arrived yesterday afternoon and proceeded to their hotel through a crowd of comparatively unenthusiastic watchers, who were either active partisans of Zaghloul Pasha or the irresponsible street elements. What was of some significance was that not during the whole journey from the boat to the hotel did one hear a single cry against the Government. There were the usual fashionable shouts, the catch-phrases of the movement, but neither by word nor act did the crowd infer its dissatisfaction with the present Cabinet. The visitors have asked to be excused from interviews for the Press, but they issued a statement this morning which might have been—and probably was—written by the Zaghloulist organisation. It stated that the visitors did not wish to interfere with the internal affairs of Egypt, but that the object of their visit was to obtain first-hand knowledge upon which to base conclusions concerning the best policy to be followed to promote real friendship between the two peoples; and they declare their adherence to the following principles: (1) Complete independence for the Egyptians, *subject to reasonable guarantees of British and other foreign interests in Egypt*, such guarantees not to prejudice the complete independence of the country; (2) the selection of the official negotiators should be made from among the elected representatives of the people; and (3) the abolition of martial law and other repressive

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measures should precede such election. So far, so good. They had yet to learn how the Zaghloulists interpret their first condition. If they manage to complete their visit without causing any hostilities among the opposite sections of Egyptians, they will have done no harm, ill-timed and tactless as their visit at this juncture is.

**Government Announcements.**

There have been four interesting official announcements during the week. One announced that the Government has decided to continue the payment of the war-bonus to officials on the present scale indefinitely, and that two months' notice would be given of any intended change. The announcement was not unexpected, and therefore, has occasioned little comment. Another *communiqué* directed public attention to the fact that mosques are religious institutions and that politics were not a fit subject for inquiry within their walls, and advised that the police have been instructed to remove from a mosque any person who endeavours to foster political feeling therein. The third announcement was rather curious. The Zaghloulist and ultra-Nationalist Press has been publishing allegations of thousands of Egyptians having been forced to serve in the Greek army against the Turks, when the Egyptian had really desired to serve with the Kemalists. The Government, after first ignoring the statements, volunteered the information that it "had no knowledge" of the facts alleged by the Press. *Ergo*, I presume, the allegations are untrue. The fourth statement advising that the Government was preparing a decree restricting the area under cotton cultivation for a further period beyond the term about to expire is dealt with elsewhere.

## SUDAN.

*Khartoum, September* 10.

The July reports from Mongalla Province state that the rainfall has been better than 1920, but is still much less than that of 1919. On the whole the rains have been fair throughout the Province with the result that cultivation is very promising in all districts with the sole exception of Bor Merkaz.

During the latter part of July some severe thunderstorms were experienced in Mongalla, a house was struck by lightening but the inmates were fortunate to escape undamaged. A certain amount of excitement was caused on July 9 by a pair of lions promenading the town that night. After creating a minor panic, they finished up their efforts by breaking into a house in the civil village and slaughtering 13 goats.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, September* 21.

**The View of Great Britain.**

Gratification is felt in Belgrade at the news that the British officer who was guilty of indiscretions in the recent affair in the Baranya has been recalled, and that a commission has been sent to inquire into the allegations and the alleged excesses of the Magyars in their new territory. The apparently hostile attitude of British officials has wounded the sensibilities of the Serbs, with whom we were extremely popular during the war,— more so than any other of their allies. But considerable damage has been done to our prestige and popularity in the country lately. The Zagreb comic paper *Koprive* (*i.e.* "Stinging Nettles"), has recently had two cartoons at our expense. In one, entitled "Our Great Friend," a British 'Tommy,' carrying in his left hand a flag with the inscription in Hungarian "elyen Magyarorszag." ("Long live Hungary"), and bearing on his back a Maygar soldier is seen stepping across the river which divides the Baranya from Yugoslavia; while a Serbian soldier is beating a hurried retreat. The legend reads: "I give thee the Baranya, that you may know us as the recognised experts in the settlement of national problems, as we have so successfully settled the Irish question." In the other, a lean British officer, with a pipe in his mouth, is elbowing out an angry Serbian soldier, to make way for two Budapest Jews, holding money-bags. The legend in this case reads:—"Now, my little friend, you may be off, because we do not want any troops now, and, you know, you do not understand anything about business."

**A New Party.**

Since 1920 there has been appearing in Zagreb a political, literary and economic review called *Nova Europa*, admittedly on the model of *New Europe*. It is always full of interesting matter and its moving spirits are some of the most thoughtful men in Yugoslavia, several of whose names are familiar in London and Paris. It is a non-party production, and its ideals are the spread of education and knowledge—to avoid the much prostituted word "culture" — in Yugoslavia, clean politics and the union of the people. Its influence has hitherto been purely academic; but its movers now propose to enter the political arena, and are preparing to form a party. It will be interesting to see the effect of the activities of this "intelligentsia" in the purely materialistic field of politics, but it is sure to be for the good of the country. For purposes of future reference, it is useful to quote the names of the inspirers of this movement. They are: Dr. Jovan Tsviyitch the distinguished geographer, I. Sekulitch, and M. Grol, from Belgrade; Tih. Ostokitch from Skoplje; I. Kolbe from Bosnia; M. Murko, and L. Pitamitch from Slovenia and J. Deneskitch, B. Livaditch, V. Novak, L. Popavitch M. Kostrenchitch, and Dr. Milan Curchin, the editor, from Zagreb.

**A Story of M. Pashitch.**

In spite of, or perhaps owing to, his undoubted political success, M. Pashitch has very many enemies. One of these recently showed a pleasing touch of humour, which is a scarce ingredient in politics in any country. He began by quoting a contemporary newspaper describing the last hours of the late King. As the aged monarch lay dying, his glance fell upon M. Pashitch, who was sitting near him, and when he saw his old comrade in exile and fellow-worker in the cause of union, a tear rolled down the Sovereign's cheek. This provoked a comment from one of the Prime Minister's opponents, to the effect that the thoughts that passed through the old King's mind at that moment are now a secret for all time; but anyone ought to be able to guess why a tear should be shed at the sight of M. Pashitch.

**An Export of Dollars.**

A few days ago an official of the Wiener Bank Verein was travelling from Zagreb to Vienna; at the frontier at Maribor he handed over to a messenger from Vienna a parcel of 100.000 American dollars, representing at the then rate of Exchange about 21 millions of Yugoslav kruna. Shortly after the train left the station, but before it crossed the frontier, a detective stopped the train arrested the messenger and confiscated the money. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Finance at Belgrade, for the regulations against the export of money have been very strict; but the reply came that by a decree of July 27 last the export of foreign currency, with the exception of bullion, was free, so that the procurist of the Bank was released and his money restored to him. He was within his rights, and the police were a little over-zealous, for they had been expecting every moment to hear that this decree was rescinded in order to support the falling dinar.

**Croats in Hungary.**

In that part of Western Hungary which the Magyars have to hand over to Austria, the population consists of about 250,000 Germans, but the Magyars claim 50,000 of their nationals in it. It is interesting to note that there are also the same number of Croats, who have no hope of being incorporated in Yugoslavia, but would certainly prefer the mild rule of modern Vienna to the chauvinism of the Hungarians.

**The Belgrade Geographical Society.**

Those cynics who maintain that the Yugoslavs in general and Serbs in particular, are fit for nothing but fighting and violent politics, would do well to read the

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recent *Bulletin* of the Geographical Society of Belgrade. The Society was founded before the war by Dr. Yovan Tsviyitch, one of the most distinguished geographers of Europe, and has resumed its good work; and the fifth number of its *Bulletin* has recently been published in Belgrade, at the very reasonable price of 30 dinars. A glance at the contents shows the scope and variety of its matter. The first is an article by Dr. Tsviyitch on the geographical, economic, communicational and ethnical significance of the provinces of Yugoslavia and their boundaries: Professor Goryanovitch has one on the morphological and hydrographical peculiarities of the loess of Srem: P. Vuyevitch on Climatology; and articles by J. Erdelyanvitch on the tribal system of the Dinaric Serbs, and T. R. Georgyevitch on the migrations of the Serbs at the time of Prince Milosh Obrenovitch. There are also papers on the phenomena of the "karst", on spelaeology, a suitable subject, for the karst formation is very rich in caverns, of which the Adelsburg is the most famous, on interglacial marine terraces on the island of Prinkipo, on lacustrine formations in the Shumadia, on phytogeography, with other extremely interesting contributions dealing with Anthropology, on the influence of mental characteristics upon history, and on statistics. There are interesting papers on the populations of the new states of Central Europe, on the history of civilization among the Slovenes, on village education in the Voivodina, on pastoral life among the Mijaks, a group who live in the Podrimlye country, a history of some important families in the provinces of Valyevo and Uzhitse, on some popular geographical expressions in Montenegro, and other matters of a purely local interest.

**Slovenia in the Census.**

According to the latest census, the population of Slovenia is 1,056,464: of these, Slovenish is the mother tongue of 985,155, Serbo-Croat of 10,721 other Slavonic tongues, mainly Russian, of 4,196, German of 39,631, Magyar of 14,897, and Italian of 860. There are to-day no less than 14,063 non-Yugoslav subjects in Slovenia and 16,454 whose nationality has not yet been decided. There are 6,627 Orthodox Christians, 501 Greek Catholic, 27,253 Evangelists, 650 Mohammedans, 946 Jews and the remainder are Roman Catholics. It is believed that the number of Slovenes handed over to Italy in Istria, and the hinterland of Trieste and round Goritza is about half a million.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, September 21.*

**The Opposition's Campaign.**

Coincident with the return of the King from abroad, the different political parties in the Opposition have restarted their campaign for the overthrow of the Government with exceptional vigour. Some are publishing manifestoes in the papers, and others are addressing meetings at different centres in the country condemning the present Government's administration and laws, and especially the new Fiscal Bill, which they consider much too drastic and complicated. Another circumstance in favour of the Opposition is the recent sudden collapse of the Roumanian rate of exchange, and the resultant present financial and economic crisis, for which they hold the Cabinet responsible. The weak point of the Opposition's campaign is, however, that each party is working independently, and does not seem able to come to an understanding to co-operate with the others, although all sections readily admit that they could only come to power by forming a coalition of at least two of the opposing parties. As there is still a month and a half before Parliament reopens, there is plenty of time for some kind of arrangement in this direction to be made. They all, however, suggest, that should the present Cabinet resign, a provisional one would have to be appointed consisting of officials, or magistrates, for the purpose of presiding over the general elections, thereby indicating the true pulse of the country.

The Government, on the other hand, does not seem very alarmed by this campaign, and is still confident that it will be able to win through provided no domestic dissension crops up among the members of the present Cabinet. There are rumours that M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, resents the decision of the last Ministers' Council, which postpones the declarations of capital and income for the new taxes to be levied. There are also other minor frictions, but only after the return of M. Také Jonescu and M. Titulescu will it be known whether these rumours are well founded or not.

At the last by-election at Tulcea for a seat in the Senate the Tzaranist (peasants) Party scored a success over the Government, M. C. Lupu having obtained 4,804 votes against the Government candidate's 2,453 votes.

**General News.**

The King and Queen of Roumania and Princess Ileana returned on Tuesday from France and have gone straight to their summer residence at Sinaia.

Sir Herbert Dering, British Minister at Bucharest, arrived to-day by the Simplon.

On September 15, a Yugoslav delegation arrived at Temesvar (Banat) to meet a Roumanian delegation for the purpose of terminating the work in connection with the definite settlement of the Yugoslav-Roumanian frontier. The new boundary will be based on the Sèvres Treaty, but will also take into consideration the estates of the population affected.

The French steamer "Sofia," carrying 800 tons of coal, bound for Galatz sunk at a distance of 12 miles from Constantza port, having struck a stray mine. The crew, consisting of 20 men and one woman, were saved, thanks to the lucky chance that the mishap had been witnessed from the Constantza pier and a salvage party was sent in time.

Following on the report of General Rascanu, Minister of War, after his recent visit to the Bessarabian frontier, the Ministers' Council decided to postpone the calling up of the 1922 class from November 1, 1921, to February 1, 1922.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, September 25.*

**A Respite for the Army.**

The decision of the Council of Ambassadors allowing Bulgaria to retain temporarily 10,000 Gendarmes, 3,000 Frontier Guards, and a few hundred cavalrymen on a compulsory basis was made known to the Bulgarian War Office by the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control a few days ago. The War Office have, for reasons best known to themselves, decided not to make this news public; but it is already gradually becoming known throughout the country. Although this is only a temporary respite, it is regarded as an excellent omen for the future; and great hopes are entertained that the authorities at Paris will allow Bulgaria to keep the above number of conscripts until she is able to raise 33,000 volunteers.

The present situation is that Bulgaria has an armed force of 17,000 men, composed of 13,500 conscripts and approximately 3,500 volunteers. As 17,000 is considered a sufficient number for the maintenance of internal order, there is no need for the moment to worry about this aspect of the case. An army composed of both conscripts and volunteers cannot, however, work very smoothly, and as it is understood that the Council of Ambassadors is again discussing the question of Bulgaria's future army, it is to be hoped that they will speedily arrive at a final decision.

The chief difficulty that now confronts the Bulgarian authorities is the difference of pay between the conscript and the volunteer, and it will not be surprising if the conscript soon begins to rail against a system which makes him perform the same duties as the volunteer, but which gives him only a fraction of the pay that the latter receives. The question of leave will also come up,

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as the volunteer has been promised four months' leave a year on full pay, a privilege which has never been granted to the conscript. Other difficulties will no doubt soon make themselves felt, but they are all more than counterbalanced by the fact that the Council of Ambassadors has realised that grounds do exist for considering whether the military clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly should be revised.

The action of the Bulgarian War Office in prohibiting the news from being published has, of course, somewhat detracted from the outward enthusiasm which would have been shown over the decision; but there is nevertheless a strong feeling of quiet satisfaction in Government circles, because it is realised that this respite is primarily due to the efforts of the Allied representatives at Sofia.

**The Plight of State Employees.**

It is announced that when the Sobranye meets again at the end of October, one of the first measures which the Government will bring before the Chamber will be a law providing for an increase in the pay of Government employees. During the last three years the position of these employees has been growing steadily worse, and to-day, with the lev worth four Swiss centimes and the cost of living abnormally high, it is very necessary that prompt steps should be taken to augment their salaries.

At present the average monthly payment of an employee is 643 levas (twenty-four shillings in English money). That this is ridiculously inadequate no one will contest, for even the most economical person will spend upwards of 700 levas a month on food alone; and bearing in mind that bread costs five levas, and meat 18 levas a kilo, it is clear that 23 levas a day cannot go very far. Besides this, the employee has to house and clothe himself, not to mention the purchase of such items as fuel and other necessaries. He is thus placed in the position of having to make money in order to cover these extra expenses, and it is only natural that he becomes addicted to "bribery and corruption."

These two evils are greatly on the increase, and they will continue to be so until the Government decide to better the lot of the unfortunate employee. Even the more highly-paid officials, such as Chiefs of Sections at the Foreign Office, receive only 2,000 to 2,500 levas a month, and they are expected to keep up appearances befitting their position.

**Cost of Living.**

There is no "index" of the cost of living in Bulgaria, but living is now at least 30 times more expensive than it was three years ago. The lev has fallen 25 times, so to speak, and the price of commodities has also risen. For the foreigner whose currency has not depreciated Sofia is, however, one of the cheapest capitals in Europe, flats being obtainable at £9 a month, a room at a good hotel costing four shillings to five shillings, while one can lunch or dine very well on 60 to 70 levas, which is only about two shillings and threepence.

In the provinces, things are much cheaper, as Bulgaria is a self-supporting country, and the reason for the great rise of prices in the towns is that the peasants are practically able to name their own prices, there being no Government Control of prices.

**The Radoslavoff Cabinet.**

On October 11 the trials of M. Radoslavoff, who was the Prime Minister during the war, General Jeckoff, the late Commander-in-Chief, and General Boyadjieff will begin. None of the three accused persons is here, Radoslavoff being in Germany, and the others in Switzerland and Austria respectively. They will nevertheless be tried *in contumaciam*. General Jeckoff has expressed his willingness to return, but has asked the Bulgarian Government to furnish him with a safe conduct pass in order that he may travel through Serbia. This, however, has not been sent to him, and he is consequently unable to return. It is expected that the trials will continue for a considerable time, as there is a mass of evidence and a great number of witnesses ready to be produced.

**The Death of Ivan Vazoff.**

Bulgaria is plunged into gloom this week owing to the death of her national poet, Ivan Vazoff. He died suddenly of heart failure at Sofia on Thursday the 22nd, and will be accorded a national funeral next Wednesday, which will be observed as a day of mourning throughout the country.

Vazoff, who came of humble stock, was born in 1850 at the village of Sopot, near Phillippopolis, and at the early age of six began to show a talent for the art in which he afterwards became so famous. He was a most prolific writer of both poetry and prose. Amongst his works of the former class may be cited "Stara Planina" and "L'Epopée des Oubliés." He also composed the Bulgarian National Anthem, whilst his drama "Borislave" enjoys great popularity on the Bulgarian stage.

Vazoff passed several years of his life in exile at Bucharest and Odessa, and it was at the latter place that he began "Under the Yoke of the Turks," which was his best-known work and was translated into English, and many other European as well as Asiatic languages.

For two years, 1897-99, Vazoff acted as Minister of Public Instruction, but afterwards he returned to his literary work, and was busy at this until his death. On October 24 last year he celebrated his double jubilee and on this occasion the Sobranye granted him a sum of 100,000 levas from the State, whilst all his fortune and property were declared free of taxation.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, September 21.*

**Another Failure.**

For the last two months the Greek Government has left no stone unturned to prevent the publication in the European press of any information not in accordance with its own propaganda; but now that the Greek army has withdrawn to the west of the Sakaria River, it will be impossible to disguise the fact that the offensive has failed definitely; for its objectives were the capture of Angora and the destruction of the Kemalist army. Neither of these things has been accomplished; and the Greeks have therefore suffered a defeat, in spite of their previous successes. It is impossible at present to obtain full and accurate details of the campaign which was to have brought about the fall of Angora and of Mustapha Kemal; but it is certain that the Sakaria River battle, which lasted nearly a fortnight, was marked by some most desperate and bloody fighting. The total losses on both sides probably amount to at least 30,000 men; which is an enormous figure in view of the numbers actually engaged, and the relatively restricted area of the fighting.

The Greek infantry once again distinguished itself by its extraordinary endurance and reckless bravery, but it would appear that, as on previous occasions, the Greek army was badly led and handled. This is attributed to the inevitable confusion arising from the existence of two General Staffs, that of General Papoulas and that of the King. How far this really affected the result, it would not be fair to affirm at the present moment; but the fact remains that the Greek plans seem to have been changed more than once at a critical juncture. The Greek artillery also seems to have been inefficiently handled, and the Turkish artillery, although inferior in weight and number, is said to have been far more effective. This was possibly due to the fact that the Greek lines of communication were constantly raided by Turkish cavalry and light infantry, which

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resulted in the frequent interruption of the supply of munitions and rations at the front. In any case, after nearly a fortnight of desperate fighting, the Greeks only succeeded in forcing back the Turkish centre as far as Polatli, and failed to make any serious impression upon the Turkish flanks. In view of the increasing difficulties of maintaining communications, especially with the approach of bad weather, there was nothing else to do but retreat; and this is what the Greek army has been doing for the last week. The Turks are almost powerless to press the retreating army very hard, owing to the imperfection of their own transport; but at the time of writing Kemalist troops are said to have reached a point some 20 kilometres east of Seyyid Ghazi. This is the apparent position on the right flank of the Greek army, but exactly how matters stand with the centre and the left flank is not yet clear. It is probably that the retreat will continue until the Eskishehir—Afion Kara Hissar line is reached, but it is by no means certain that the Greeks will not eventually be compelled to fall back to the impregnable Ushak-Brousa positions.

The net result of the offensive, as might have been foreseen, leaves the position much as it has been for the last twelve months. The judgment of Marshal Foch and of General Gouraud has been fully vindicated, and Fate has given General Gouraud ample satisfaction for the impertinent Greek rejoinder to the effect that there were no Greek troops in Cilicia, when the French general recalled the difficulties which the French had experienced in Cilicia.

**Bad Policy.**

If Greek strategy has been defective, Greek policy has been distinctly bad. It is never wise to attempt to stifle the truth, for facts can never be concealed entirely, and when suppressed truth is released, it bursts with devastating effect. The British press has been systematically hoodwinked with regard to the true state of affairs during the progress of the fighting in Anatolia. After the fall of Eskishehir, it was announced on all sides that the Kemalist army had been completely routed, and no longer existed as a fighting force. Thanks to the advantage of possessing control of one of the cable stations between Turkey and Europe, the Greek Government succeeded in preventing the Turkish version of affairs from reaching the outside world, and in this manner the entire British press was flooded with what an Athens paper stigmatised as "wireless bombast." The few correspondents who attempted to get in a word as to the true state of affairs were assailed as pro-Turksh and liars. Even in Constantinople it has been realised that the official information of the Greek Government is doctored at least to the same extent as the official *communiqués* of the Kemalists, and the latter are now being accepted with much less reserve than is usual with official Turkish *communiqués* of any kind. It is exceedingly unfortunate that the use of wireless telegraphy is restricted to the naval and military authorities; for there is no other means of enabling the British public to obtain an approximately accurate impression of what is taking place, by comparing the Turkish and Greek versions at the same time. Thus, when the Greek army had fought itself to a standstill, and preparations were being made for a withdrawal, the London press was announcing the complete defeat of the Turkish forces, and the speedy resumption of the "advance" upon Angora.

**The Plot.**

The discovery by the British authorities of a conspiracy for the fomenting of a revolution and the assassination of the British Commander-in-Chief, has added a spice of melodrama to the Near Eastern tragi-comedy. Flippant people were reminded of the now defunct celebrations of November 5, and of cloaks, daggers, and false noses. All the same, there is not the slightest doubt that the Kemalists possess the machinery for the execution of such a scheme; for it is a secret to nobody that the Kemalist Government has thousands of devoted agents in the capital, and that the Government itself is at least completely passive in regard to their actions. It was a pity perhaps that the British authorities did not decide to effect the arrests themselves, and to communicate with the Government afterwards; for as there would be no useful purpose served in bringing about a change in the present administration, a weakening of the original attitude of the British authorities was inevitable. Of course, the action was nominally taken in the name of all the Allies, but it is quite certain that no action would have been taken by either the French or the Italians alone, and the French have quietly laughed at the whole affair, affirming that it was only a British manoeuvre to strengthen their hold upon the Turkish capital—which is absurd, but readily accepted by the Turks.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, September 20.*

**The Legislative Council.**

The coming elections to the Council occupy attention, and the names of those likely to stand are being discussed. One of the oldest members, M. Eugenios Zeno will not seek re-election, but efforts are being made to induce him to reconsider his decision. A leading paper strongly urges that all the members should be re-elected, as having done all that was possible by their patriotic efforts. It is, however, likely that they will be opposed by a considerable number of candidates in each of the three electoral districts. The number of elected members is one Moslem and three non-Moslem for each division.

**Forest Prospects.**

The appointment of a new Principal Forest Officer should inaugurate an entirely new policy in respect of the forests. Without disparagement of the zealous officials who have been at the head of the department,

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it must be confessed that except during the first two or three years after the British occupation, the Government has merely played with the forests of Cyprus, and that the 40 years which followed the initial effort have been practically lost. The havoc which was destroying them under Turkish rule was indeed stopped, but the work of recovery, which necessarily depends on judicious expenditure, has been sadly neglected. At the outset the British Government borrowed the services of an able Forest Officer from France, M. Madon, whose admirable reports are among the most interesting and important of all essays on Cyprus affairs. Then came Dr. Dobbs, an Anglo-Indian official; but his work was the delimitation of State forests, and he remained but a short time in the island. Since their departure no official possessing scientific knowledge of forestry has been in charge, and the results may be imagined. Moreover during the war much timber was cut for the needs of our troops in Palestine and Egypt. It is to be hoped that the important work of re-afforestation will be now accelerated, and a sufficient vote sanctioned.

Another promised work is the measurement and enumeration of trees in certain areas. This work will require an increase of the Staff, by at least 12 officers. The Nicosia paper *'Phone tes Xyprou* in a good article on forest needs, touches the subject of the prevention and limitation of forest fires. It counsels more moderation and leniency in dealing with the rights and needs of villages and monasteries which draw timber and pasture flocks inside the forests. It believes that malicious incendiarism would be less frequent if such leniency were observed. On the other hand there can be no doubt forest offences and depredations must be strictly dealt with. As it is, the goat-herd or other man with a grievance, as long as he can gratify his thirst for revenge—against the Government—has no regard for results when he lights a fire or for the fact that there will be so much less forest in which to trespass. The difficulty is to steer a middle course, and much must always depend on the character of the forest guards selected. It is satisfactory that several papers, and some members of the Legislative Council strongly support a strict forest policy.

**Presentation of Medals.**

The High Commissioner on September 12, presented medals to about 700 Cypriot muleteers who served during the war in Macedonia, and who were reported to have done very good work. The presentation took place in the "Moat" at Nicosia. The Governor was attended by the Acting Chief Secretary, the Chief Commandant of Police, and Mr. Kareklas, of the Police, who acted as A.D.C. Mr. Stevenson thanked the men in the name of the King, and congratulated them on the honour bestowed by His Majesty. The medals bear the head of the King, and on the obverse the figure of St. George: the words "Muleteers of Macedonia" being engraved upon them.

**The Cruelty to Animals Law.**

This very necessary act only became law after much difficulty, and many Cypriots no doubt regard it as strange interference with the liberty of the subject. One of the papers now protests against a too severe application of its provisions during the season of collecting carobs, and the reasoning is quite characteristic of the view generally taken. The animal is regarded as a mere chattel, and until recently (for there has been some improvement) the first warning given to a villager by an enemy was only too often the mutilation of his mule or ass. That is why so many of these animals appear without ears or tail. The paper points out that for the transport of carobs the producer is entirely dependent on his animals, often over very bad roads. There must therefore inevitably be cases of overworking, and the police should show leniency in applying the law, and "protect the villager." The unfortunate animal does not count.

**A Letter from Smyrna.**

The Smyrna Correspondent, extracts from whose letters have been published by the *Phone*, writes :—

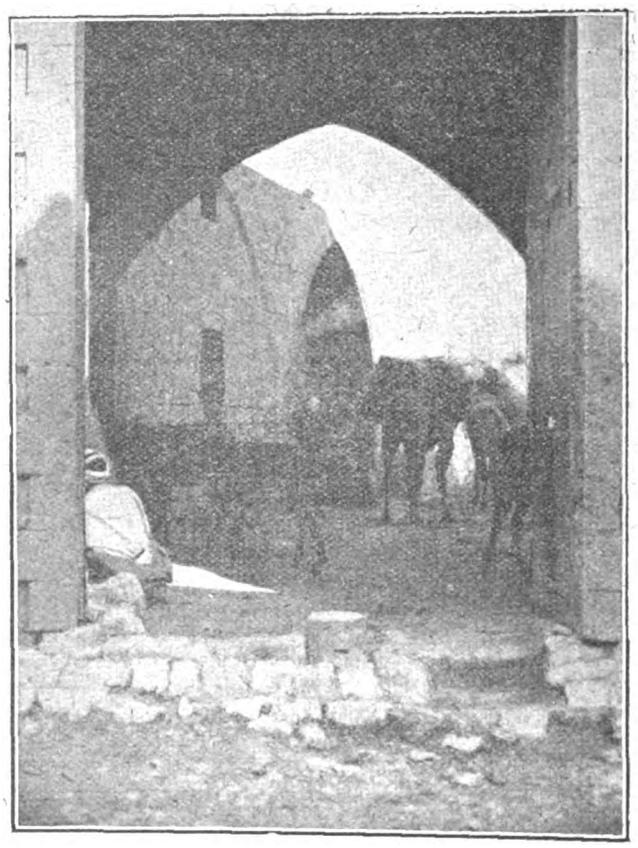
"Our Great King, who has happily recovered, will—as I am informed from an official source—proceed immediately after the conclusion of the war to England. This news is very gratifying, as showing, together with other indications, that before his departure he will be fully recognised, in the first place by England and then by the other Powers. Let us hope that after the triumphant termination of the war, not only will the information about the King's departure for London be verified, but also the report that M. Venizelos will be elected to represent Greece, so that these two great men of Greece who, each in his own sphere of action, has glorified and magnified Greece, may again co-operate to foil the machinations of her enemies, and to avert the evils which threaten her national interests."

**General News.**

The High Commissioner announces that the Proclamation of 1914 which placed Cyprus under martial law is cancelled and annulled.

The heat has abated, and this change coincides with news of a similar relief in Egypt, and even of "cold weather" at Alexandria. Many visitors are leaving for Egypt. The Government offices will be moved from Troodos about the middle of October.

The Hellenic Consul is calling upon all Hellenic subjects of age, and up to 40 years, to be enrolled and to obtain their papers for Athens.



[*Photo by Martin Briggs, F.R.I.B.A.*

**A SCENE IN HAIFA.**

Haifa, which bids fair to become the chief port of Palestine and had a prosperous German colony before the War, still possesses a few picturesque corners where one may see the traditional life of the East.

**SOUVENIRS OF PALESTINE.**

A novel scheme has been devised by way of financially assisting hospitals and charities in Palestine. The High Commissioner for Palestine has requested the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1., to undertake the issue of boxes made in Palestine and containing the following articles :—

Jordan water in glass vial made in Hebron.

Earth from Mount Moriah in silk sack from Damascus hand looms.

Fragment of Roman pottery from the excavations at Ascalon.

Pressed flowers from the hills of Judea.

Shells from the Lake of Galilee.

The price is 5s. for plain wood boxes and 7s. for olive wood boxes, but quantities of not less than 20 will be supplied for the purpose of religious and charitable bazaars at a reduction of 1s. per box. The proceeds will as stated, be devoted to hospitals and charities in Palestine. Boxes can be obtained at the Crown Agents Office, or will be sent post free to any address in the United Kingdon on receipt of remittance. Cheques should be made payable to the Crown Agents or bear, and crossed "& Co." Postal orders should be similarly crossed Postage stamps, it is added, cannot be accepted in payments.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## PRINCE MAHMOUD HAMDY.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—With reference to the notice of the late prince, in "The Near East" of this week, there is a slight error in one word which should, I think, be pointed out. In the sentence 'He alone retained his love of the English language '. . . . , for *alone* should be read *always*. It might be inferred that Prince Mahmoud alone of the Viceregal family appreciated the English language and character. It may be mentioned that the 4th son of Ismail, Ibrahim Hilmi Pasha (who recently contributed letters on Egypt to *The Times*) speaks English perfectly, and has retained many English sympathies. The 3rd son, the late Hassan Pasha, was for some years at Christ Church, Oxford; spoke English fluently, and was in most respects the most English, so to speak of all the family. Hussein, the 2nd son, was educated in France and Switzerland, but as Sultan he showed his ability, and had learned to appreciate the influence of English friends and counsellors. The eldest son (the Khedive) Tewfik, whose early death was a great misfortune, always regretted very much that he had not learned English, as a boy. He alone of Ismail's sons was not sent to Europe for a part of his education.

I am, etc.,

THE WRITER OF THE NOTE.

Sept. 30.

## THE STATE OF SALONIKA.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The editorial comments on my letter of the 14th September, which was headed "The State of Salonika," in no way surprised me; in fact, they only confirmed my opinion that very little is known here of the true situation in the Near East. Either that; or for some reason the policy is to conceal it. One of the comments is that "financial stringency has been the main obstacle in regard to the rebuilding of Salonika." Now, sir, when I wrote that letter I had quite appreciated this factor; but maintain it would have been got over to a very considerable extent had it not been for the cupidity and short-sightedness of the Greek administration, who deemed it an opportunity, not to be missed, for further exploiting the already much overtaxed inhabitants. What happened? To begin with, these authorities at once expropriated the whole of the land of the burned-out area, appointed their own commissioners to value it, and then gave "scraps of paper," which were not negotiable, to the owners in payment thereof. No cash, only bonds which would have, at no fixed date, an uncertain value. To justify this drastic procedure, the reason was given that advantage must be taken of this wholesale destruction to rebuild the town on modern lines; and to show their earnestness in carrying this out, they secured the services of an eminent English architect, who went out to Salonika to study the requirements of the place, and to elaborate a plan for its reconstruction. This gentleman happened to be imbued with noble ideals and he, after mature study, evolved a scheme according to which Salonika was to become the "Pearl of the Aegean Sea," the rival of Paris in beauty, with wide boulevards, parks, gardens, squares, a university, underground tubes, etc., etc. One could imagine he had been inspired by visions of the old Greek divinities watching, from the heights of Mount Olympus across the bay, the rising, from its own ashes, of a glorified Salonika phoenix. Whether he also expected these same deities to shower gold upon the town to carry out these plans was never known; but the ordinary mortal was lost in amazement, wondering where the money would be found to carry out this gorgeous scheme. Naturally all this took time; and then the plans, after acceptance by Ministers, had to be submitted to the Greek Chambers, discussed, adjourned, and so on, in the usual eastern fashion. Meanwhile, the authorities had marked the building sites off into plots, some large, others small, according to the locality, upon which they set varying prices, apparently on the basis of what they estimated would be their value when the reconstruction of the town was finally completed. Of course, while all this was going on the original landowners, holders of these useless bonds, were living in temporary shanties, cellars, huts, tents, in fact anywhere they could. They were crying out for decent places in which to make their homes; but they had to be satisfied with promises of what the town would be at some future time, if only they had patience to wait for it. So things dragged on, and when the greatly modified plan, much pruned down, had been finally decided upon, the bond-holders and other buyers were invited to bid for the arbitrary lots fixed by the authorities. Many of these were too large for single buyers, others not suitable, all far too dear, so there was very little response to the invitation. Instead, as land was cheaper at the further end of the town, many turned their attention to that quarter and began to build there. This course, however, did not suit the views of the authorities, so they quickly put their veto on that, and absolutely prohibited all further building, in that direction, which was tantamunt to saying: if you will not buy our land, in the burned-out area, we will take good care you shall not build elsewhere. This was so flagrantly unjust, and there was such a great ontcry about it, that the Government had to rescind that order and allow building to go on outside; but the authorities only did so under many restrictions, and did all they could to hamper it. In the course of time there was a gleam of hope that the difficulties regarding the destroyed area were being overcome, that final schemes had been approved, and that at last it would be possible to begin the reconstruction of the stricken town. Then came the elections, and M. Venizelos with his Government had to go: his successors would have none of his works, and the upshot was that all the previous Government's legislation regarding the rebuilding of the town was formally annulled, and the whole question referred back for further examination. As far as I know, the new plans have not yet been finally passed by the Chamber, although over four years have elapsed since the fire.

Further, as regards finance, it must be remembered that very shortly after the fire the British Insurance Companies concerned sent our representatives who quickly settled all claims against them; so they were not a factor in the matter of delay.

One result of all this is that, in view of the hopeless outlook, all who can possibly do so are leaving the unfortunate place, for France, Italy, the United States, even Constantinople, in fact anywhere to get away from Greek mal-administration. I do not hesitate to say that if the old residents of Salonika could be polled they would joyfully vote for the return of the old Turkish régime, were it possible to revive it as it was some twenty years ago.

I am etc.,

A WANDERER.

Liverpool, October 1.

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Most of the ships of the Mediterranean Fleet at present in Constantinople will shortly be leaving the Turkish capital for Malta preparatory to receiving the Prince of Wales on his visit on November 1.


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## SOME COPTIC CLERGY I HAVE KNOWN.

*(Being extracts from a paper read by Mr. T. D. Moscona at Manchester University on February 10, 1921.)*

*(Concluded).*

Foreign propaganda has been felt by the Copts. The Latin Church founded a Patriarchate with two archbishoprics for nearly 16,000 Copts who joined Rome. The American Mission has done a tremendous work towards the proselytism of Copts, as also has St. Mary's Church of England Mission in Cairo. And so the Coptic Press keeps writing about the need of reformation. The dogmas, rites and all that concerns the constitution of the National Church are to-day more or less exactly as laid down by the Monophysite reformers. The agitation mainly concerns the clergy and the revenues of the monasteries. It is a fact that the Coptic Clergy from the highest to the lowest are insufficiently educated. Of course thay know their three R's, at least in Arabic, but beyond this they are shamefully ignorant, and strange to say, many pastors of the Coptic Church are incapable of preaching, and employ a teacher of the school of Theology to preach on Sundays and other festivities, for which services thay receive a special bonus from the Patriarchate. The ignorance of the secular clergy is indescribable. In the provinces the Copts are very similar to the Mohammedan Fellaheen, and the priest is no better than his flock. Arabised for over thirteen centuries the Copts have lost all their national habits, but they have stuck to their religion. No one need be surprised at the Copt being uncommunicative by nature and rather sly and suspicious. Persecution has made him so. He and the Greek suffered much under Moslem rule in Egypt. Their churches and their Ethnarchs were burnt down or martyred very often; they were tracked as beasts, they were compelled to bear long wooden crosses suspended from their necks and horned masks on their faces. In 1080 A.D. Badr el Jammal, the Armenian renegade, a vizier of the Sultan of Egypt, swore to leave not a Christian Church in Egypt, and he would have kept his word if the Negus had not cautioned him that if Badr el Jammal executed his menace, he, the Negus, would send unto him broken stones of the Ka'aba in Mecca.

The ignorance to which I have referred reminds me of an amusing episode reported since in the Egyptian Press. A good old ignorant Coptic priest of Upper Egypt who knew not a word of Coptic except the parrot-like liturgical *euchologia*, suddenly discovered a papyrus which, he claimed, contained a prayer in Coptic against the calamities of war. As the Great War was then in full sway, that prayer was regularly recited every Sunday in the little village church, to the great edification of the congregation. Suddenly the inevitable happened. A Coptic scholar who attended the Liturgy was highly incensed and scandalised to hear the priest reading "the will of a Copt who died some four or five centuries ago in which he gave instructions as to his oxen and his cattle, his cows and his goats." The reading was of course discontinued.

When I left Alexandria for Cairo in 1915 I made friends with many Coptic churchmen at the Patriarchate, situated now at Haret el Nassara (the Christian quarter) and amongst others, I knew Abbot Peter Abd Ul Melik, the "Eminence Grise" of the Coptic Patriarch. Abbot Peter posed as a progressivist but I know he is not. Like his apostolic namesake he holds the keys of the Patriarchate and is very much respected and dreaded by every body. I saw only once His Blessedness, the Patriarch, through the kind invitation of my friend the late Prof. Dr. Claudius Bey Lebeeb, after permission was granted by the Eminence Grise. Cyril V. is now a centenarian. He was elected in 1869, succeeding Demetrius II. The venerable Patriarch received me very kindly. He was wearing a large violet turban and was listening to his reader who never leaves him alone for a minute.

In the early days of the Great War John Bishop of Godjam of the Abyssinian Church was expelled from Ethiopia by order of the notorious Aboona Mathew, "the King Maker" of Abyssinia. He sought refuge first among his own people and later on with the Greek Church. Bishop John was as I remember, a guest at the Greek Monastery of St. George, Old Cairo, and he used to denounce most vehemently his Coptic brethren. The Greek Patriarch tried to reconcile the rebel with his Church and John persisted in joining the Greek Church. As he was not accepted by the Greeks he was eagerly accepted by the Latin Church and is now, I think in Turin.

The Copts number nearly 1,000,000 throughout Egypt. They are intelligent and have proved to be good Government officials. During the recent political events in Egypt they sided with their Moslem countrymen "for the fear of the Jews." It is interesting to note that since Great Britain occupied Egypt the Copts have been more or less "enfants gatés" of the Residency, and have been better treated than the Arabs themselves.

The question of the Coptic Clergy has become very acute during these last few months owing to the famous trials of the turbulent priest, Marcus Sergius, and the Amba Basil, Metropolitan of Abutig, who was condemned to three years' seclusion in a convent because he dared to protest to the Patriarch against the abuses of the Church. There has been another scandal, the case of the Monks of the Moharrak Monastery against their Abbot, whom they accused of having prodigally spent the fortune of their wealthy monastery. The scandal was hushed up by the camarilla at the Patriarchate, and the Monks apologised and went penitent to the desert.

We therefore see that around the centenarian Patriarch the ambitions of his Metropolitans are turning incessantly. Johannes of Behera is ambitious and of an old school. Timotheus of Jerusalem has made himself known since the National movement, Basil of Abutig has dreamed of a revival of his church, Marcus of Esneh, Isaac of Beni Suef, Thomas of Minia, Severus of Sanabo, Joseph of Fayum and Theophilus of Manfalut sided with the Patriarch on the question of the veto against any Reform in the Church, Makarius of Assiut and Lucas of Keneh are progressivist, Pachomius of the Moharrak Convent acquired a reputation as the "Abbé Mitré of the Middle Ages," and as for Serapamon of Nubia his diocese is so far away that he does not count at all.

The Patriarch is a staunch partisan of the old things, as is his kinsman Abbot Peter, and thinks and sees only through the dark spectacles of his Eminence Grise. In the opinion of many of my Coptic friends, this state of things must necessarily endure until the time comes to elect a new Patriarch, and the Coptic Church has never been more in need of a strong Pastor of the type of the late Patriarch, Cyril IV., the predecessor of Demetrius and the actual Patriarch. Cyril IV. was not only ambitious but also a great reformer. He had dreamed of a United Greek and Coptic Church with himself as head of that Patriarchate. He was planning the fundamental reformation of the Coptic Church, when he died rather mysteriously. Nearly sixty years have passed since his death, and the truth may now be written:— This valiant Patriarch, the "Father of the Reform," as his people claim him to be, was dastardly poisoned by order of the then Khedive Said, who was afraid of Russian influence in Egypt, because it is an open secret that the idea of a United Orthodox Patriarchate in Egypt was due to the Archimandrite Porfyrii Uspenski, a great friend of Cyril IV., and an emissary of the Panslavist Movement in the East.

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The Angora Assembly has conferred the rank of Marshal upon Mustapha Kemal Pasha, together with the title of "Ghazi" (victorious).

While allowing Bulgaria to enlist 13,000 gendarmes and frontier guards the Council of Ambassadors is asking the Government to formulate a scheme whereby no large reserves may be accumulated.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

### British Ballet.

Prominent amoug the signs that the impulse of British musical life is quickening is the marked taste for Ballet. This taste, it is true, was first cultivated and is still fostered by Society, but the movement towards the formation of British ballet has survived this unfortunate, though perhaps inevitable, experience, and is now well on its way to completion. During this month, indeed, a British ballet is to be performed at the Kingsway Theatre.

There are those who believe that all music can be interpreted choreographically, that in the various forms of the dance can be reproduced the thought of the music. For myself I do not go so far as this, but there is no doubt that the ballet is a pure form of art, just as, for instance, the cinema may be. On this subject there is in the recently published "Proceedings of the Musical Association" a very informing and readable article called "Why not British Ballet?" written by Mr. Mark E. Perugini. In his paper the author briefly sketches the history of the ballet, noting that the composite parts of the Ballet as we know it to-day–dancing, miming music, and *decor*–were really only amalgamated in the eighteenth century. He interestingly points out that though the Egyptians and the Greeks had mimetic dances, they had no Ballet in our modern sense—a distinct and developed form of theatrical spectacle—, and that though the Greeks brought to perfection the natural school of dancing, it is to the Romans that we chiefly owe the art of miming. On the fall of Rome dancing and miming of course suffered, for during the Dark and much of the Middle Ages there were no theatres; but later a revival of dancing came about, manifesting itself in the forms of the ballet-banquet, the masque, and the Court entertainments, which for the first time permitted the inclusion of women. Then in the eighteenth century came the popularisation of the art of Mime, doing away with the necessity for words; and since that time the Ballet has, off and on, been a fashionable indulgence. It will be easily remembered how in this country Queen Victoria in the 'forties made Ballet almost more popular than Opera, and how a rage for it was created by the opening of the Alhambra and the Empire in the 'eighties.

And still a British Ballet has not yet been founded, a ballet, that is, owing its inspiration to British dancers, musicians, and designers. Every foreigner recognises the genius of the British dancer; the material in fact has always been there; but it was not until the incomparable Russians came that the passion for Ballet as a form of art was awakened within us. Under the stimulus of such personalities as Kyasht, Pavlova, and Karsavina (to me the most glorious artist of all) English ballet-designers, dancing-masters, dancers, scenic artists and musicians have already accomplished much, though a perfect combination has not yet been achieved. Very certainly we have the dancers—one need only think of Phyllis Bedells—, and the musicians (*e.g.* Holst and Bliss), and the scenic artists: all that is needed is a fusion of these, and the consequent establishment of British Ballet upon a financial basis. It is with the keenest sympathy and attention, therefore, that Miss Marion Wilson's resuscitation of an old Mozart piece at the Kingsway Theatre will be watched.

To all those interested in this subject I cordially recommend Mr. Perugini's paper in the "Proceedings." He is justified in being perhaps a little diffident about the future of Ballet in this country, but, personally, I have have very strong hopes that this graceful form of theatrical production will usurp the places at present occupied by inane *revues* and sugary musical comedies, the continued co-existence of which with our certain musical progress in other ways is almost inconceivable.

### British Song.

The cause of English song is not yet satisfactorily proved, but it is in far better condition than would have been thought possible a year or so ago. This is due, not so much to the developed musical ability for appreciation of our audiences, as, first, to the persistent enthusiasm of a handful of artists, and secondly, to the enterprise of one or two publishers. Chief among the singers is Mr. John Coates, who untiringly proclaims his belief in the value of English song-writers. There is no singer who more intimately than he enters into the spirit of each song he sings; and it is fair, therefore, to measure through his interpretation the worth of the new songs he brings forward. In a series of recitals at Chelsea Town Hall he is introducing many new settings; and though his scheme does not permit of any one recital being a complete artistic success—excellent English songs are not sufficiently numerous for that, and there must be some that fall short of greatness—his work should be judged as propaganda and lauded as such. To praise Mr. Coates' own personal artistry is superfluous; all the singer's meed is his, and he should now be considered as a prophet.

His last recital, on September 29, was divided into four groups of five songs each, representing twenty different composers. All of these were removed, but some not so very far, from the ballad type, the shadow of which still heavily stalks our composers. Of this impermanent, really undesirable sort were such songs as Harold Samuel's "Oh, my swetynge," Frederic Austin's "My dear Mistress," and Balfour Gardiner's "Winter." Others again in a conscious effort at originality showed more cleverness than anything else, they had many points and much evidence of cerebral ability, but their greatest merits were technical. Of such were C. B. Rootham's "Everyone Sang," Felix White's "The Theft," and Eric Fogg's "Broken Tryst." And finally these were the songs which really counted, such songs as give one absolute confidence in the future of British song-writing. One of these was the late Denis Browne's "To Gratiana dancing and singing." Denis Browne was killed at Gallipoli, and it would seem that in him and George Butterworth we lost two of our finest song-writers. This song, with a magnificently rhythmical melody and a richly chorded accompaniment, was recognised by the discerning as one of uncommon merit when first it was sung by Mr. Steuart Wilson at one of his recitals; and why it should still be in M.S. is a lamentable mystery. Another great song of which Mr. Coates gave a first performance was Owen Mase's "There is no more to say." Of this young composer's ability there is no question at all; his treatment of one of Bliss Carmen's Sappho Lyrics has the impressive mark of genius in it. With but a bare, chill background of discord in the pianoforte accompaniment, the voice sings, unsupported for the most part, sorrowfully sustained phrases of sombre beauty. It is a thousand pities that this song, which to me was the most memorable of all the evening, cannot, owing to a question of copyright, be published. Mr. Coates sang these two difficult songs admirably, but perhaps he was his own perfect, unsurpassable self only in the lighter things, like Walter Whittaker's "Diaphenia," a rarely finished, quasi-mock setting of Henry Constable's words.

Mr .Coate's next English song recital will be given at Chelsea Town Hall on October 18, when his programme will be drawn from twenty more contemporary composers.

ANDANTE.

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The Ali brothers and the other five non-co-operators have been committed for trial at Karachi on charges relating to their support of a resolution which declared that it was unlawful at present for a Mussulman to remain in the British Army.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## FLYING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

**"In the Clouds above Baghdad; Being the Records of an Airman Commander." By Lt. Col. J. E. Tennant, D.S.O., M.C, (London; Cecil Palmer.)**

This is a war book, but we can safely say that it is not at all likely to bore any readers. When it came into our hands we were suffering from a surfeit of war impressions and war records, aud we put it by for future reading. We have read it now, and have enjoyed it thoroughly. The author saw Mesopotamia from—literally from— a new angle and he gives us a very graphic account of what he saw, of the fighting in which he and his command took part and of the experiences that befell him by the way. In places the book is as exciting as any fiction could possibly be; and high though our opinion of our flying men was before the we read it, it is now higher than ever. Mesopotamia, we know, was not unduly favoured in the matter of flying machines, but this book shows us how the R.F.C. rose above all difficulties and how it asserted its superiority to the enemy's service. At the same time it does justice to the other side; and it seems that in Mesopotamia, as elsewhere, the feeling between our own flying men and the enemy's was much better than that between the surface forces —if we may so describe them.

The first thing that most people learn about Mesopotamia is that it has one of the hottest climates in the world, and this belief is by no means disturbed by Colonel Tennant's pages. He tells us that, "as usual, the British troops withstood the climate and trying conditions far better than the Indians, who went down like flies;" but with the thermometer standing "well over 130 degs. Fahr, during the day" within the tents, and apparently running much over that in the open at times, it is not wonderful that the many hospitals were filled with cases of heat-stroke, and that the hospital ships went out full every voyage. In an early chapter we read :—

> While the weather was still hot aerial work during the day was limited to the early hours, for the late afternoon was as hot as midday till the sun went down; then it was dark. Cooler air was not to be found under an altitude of 3,000 feet, and little difference could be felt much under 5,000 feet. Flying in the night one would start in fairly cool atmosphere, but on reaching 500 feet one entered the hot air of the day. It was a curious phenomenon; the belt of hot air on the ground during the day rose up at night, being lighter than the air cooled by the radiation of the earth. . . . . After service in France, it was odd to see a pilot going off for a long flight dressed only in shorts, stockings, and shirt, with a helmet bound down on his head, for at 5,000 feet the sun's rays are as fierce as on the ground.

Later we read of night flights taken on purpose to get some relief from the still, close heat of the earth, and when we came to the real business we find mention of trouble with the radiators, and seizing up of the engines again and again. Thus, on page 142, and 143 we read :—

> Heat was beginning to restrict the performance of aeroplanes. . . . . Those without special radiators were now no use and out of action, as the water boiled away even if flown at dawn. It was a gamble how long the Bristol Scouts would last; they were already coming down with "blued" cylinders, and making forced landings with pistons seized.

and there are very many passages of the same character. Moreover the flying men themselves felt the heat and were put out of action by it almost as much and as often as their machines. Here is a description of what befell No. 63 Squadron, when it reached Basrah, in the very trying month of August.

> Till they arrived in port the health of the squadron had been excellent, but the Busrah climate immediately drove 50 per cent. into hospital; two died of heat-stroke within the first few days. They were a well-trained crowd, mostly air veterans from the Western Front, and they arrived with a morale superb, ready to finish the war. But climate had been out of their reckoning, and by the time I arrived the remaining half had mostly succumbed. This remnant was lying on its back at Aircraft Park, and even those who could stand up were badly shaken. I had feared such a débacle. Busrah was doing its damnedest to destroy humanity. At the Aircraft Park there were about sufficient left to make up the funeral parties in the evening. I spent the whole of one afternoon rubbing C., a new pilot, with ice from the chest that kept the soda-water cool. He had rolled over with heat-stroke while taking an afternoon siesta. We pulled him round just before the last small lump of ice melted away.

That passage gives some idea of what Basrah *can* do in the way of heat, and, we may add, of what manner of commander, Colonel Tennant was. When he himself went sick, we may note, and was ordered "down river," he contrived to recuperate on "a brew of rice water" which "must have been good;" and promptly returned to the front.

Of the reconnaissance work and the actual fighting we need here say nothing more than that they are dealt with in very interesting fashion by the author. His description of the capture of Baghdad is clear and vivid —notably the part in which he refers to the Loyal North Lancashires' gallant deed at the Diala crossing; and we like well the account of the fighting at Ramadi, when General Brooking won such a complete victory. The narrative of events following is also very well done. The devotion with which the airmen did their duty is clear throughout the book, but the reader is not bored with technical details. In this connection we may note the illustrations, which are an admirable feature of the volume. Some of them, notably the air-view of Samarra, at page 151, suggest that aerial photography will be found extremely useful to the archaeological excavator.

The author is generous in his praise of others, though so modest about his own achievements. His admiration of and affection for that fine soldier, General Maude, will warm the heart of many readers, and his references to the part played by the Navy in this theatre of the war show all the true Englishman's love of the senior service. He is, too, an admirer of Colonel Leachman, of whom he writes: "His prestige was amazing, and his name known to every Bedouin from Aden to Mosul." We could wish, by the way, that Colonel Tennant had not fallen into the common error of using 'Bedouin' as a singular and making the plural by adding an s. Even the Arabs, who come in for so much abuse from some writers on Mesopotamia, get a good word for their virility (p. 231), though the compliment may be only for the people of Nejef. The praise of the little Armenian girl, about 14 years old, who was found in the hospital at Baghdad, the sole person, apparently, looking after the wretched Turkish wounded, is surely well merited—"this gallant little soul had been a godmother to the wretched men since the Turkish medical staff had packed up and left them to their fate."

We have left ourselves no space to refer to a score of things we should like to mention, but we must give two more short quotations. The first refers to the arrival of one of our airmen in Teheran :—

> The natives of Teheran could not understand that the aeroplane itself was the means of flight, but thought it only the carriage to sit in, and that the propeller merely acted as a fan to keep the airman cool while he exerted himself with some hidden wings, which they were very intent to discover on the person of the pilot.

The second is an unsolicited testimonial, in the form of a Turkish message which fell into our hands, and ran :—

> "The German aviator told me that he could not report clearly on the body of troops north of Samarra this morning, as the fire of the British Anti-Aircraft was heavy and accurate."

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On which our author comments: "One can imagine the reception afforded to the British petrol who would volunteer such a report!" Indeed, pilots who went through experiences such as are to be found in plenty recorded in this book would be unlikely to submit any report of the kind.

## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-day.**
October 6. (New Style).
September 23 (Old Style).
Safar 4, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 4, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Princess Bibesco returned to London from Paris by air on September 30.

Lord and Lady Islington have returned to town from Lennoxlove, Haddingtonshire.

Lady Oranmore and Browne arrived in London last week from Sunningdale for a short visit.

The Persian Minister left London on October 1 for Paris to meet the Persian Crown Prince.

M. Gennadius, formerly Greek Minister, and Madame Gennadius have left London for Versailles.

Sir John Norton Griffiths, M.P., and Miss Norton Griffiths sailed for Brazil on the s.s. Almanzora.

The Hon. W. A. F. Erskine, M.V.O., the newly-appointed British Minister at Sofia, has left for Bulgaria.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., has arrived in England from Bulgaria.

M. Petrow-Tchomakoff, First Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation, arrived in London last week from the country.

The Senate of the Calcutta University has agreed to confer on the Prince of Wales the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes (September 25):—Mr. Edwyn Hole returning from leave has resumed his duties in the Smyrna Consulate-General.

Admiral Sir John de Robeck arrived in Bucharest on September 26, and proceeded to Sinaia to wait upon the King and Queen of Roumania.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (September 21):—2nd.-Lieut. Flora Sandes has returned from her tour in Australia and resumed her military duties with the 2nd Infantry Regiment in the Belgrade garrison.

The Greek Minister and Madame Rangabé returned to 51, Upper Brook-street, last week from The Birches, Penshurst, where they have been staying the summer.

The Rev. D. R. Mitchell, Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Alexandria, and Consular Chaplain, who has been in England during the summer, has returned to Egypt.

M. Také Jonescu, Roumanian Foreign Minister, was expected to pay a flying visit to London this week. He was due to arrive on Tuesday and to leave the country on the following day.

The Very Rev. C. Pagonis, the Great Archimandrite of the Greek Church, has removed to St. Sophia's Vicarage, Moscow-road, W.2., which is henceforth his permanent address.

Madame Stancioff, wife of the Bulgarian Minister, has returned to London from Haute-Savoie, France, where she has been staying with her brother, the Comte de Grenaud.

The engagement is announced of Charles William Gibbon, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gibbon, of Wattegama, Ceylon, and Gladys Bergg, daughter of the late Thomas R. Bergg and Mrs. Bergg, of Eastbourne, Sussex.

The marriage was celebrated on September 23, at St. Thomas's Cathedral, Bombay, between Wilfred Philip Barron, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., Chittagong, and Dorothy, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cunliffe Shepherd, Ranworth Hall, Norfolk.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at All Saints' Cathedral, Allahabad, on October 17, between Cyril, only son of Major W. H. Newham, O.B.E., T.D., late R.A.S.C., and Elaine, only daughter of Bertram H. Burton, Indian Police, U.P.

At the Greek Church, Moscow-road, Bayswater, on September 29, the christening of the infant daughter of M. Dimitri Bikelas, Secretary to the Greek Legation, and Madame Bikelas, took place. The Great Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, performed the rite. The child receive the name of Patricia.

A grandson was born to the Maharaj Rana of Jhalawar at Oxford on September 28. His Highness is now with his son, the heir apparent, and his daughter-in-law at Oxford, where they have been residing since October last. This is the first case of an Indian Prince of Rajput family being born in England.

The Garden Cities and Town Planning Association have arranged a series of illustrated lectures on the great cities of the world at King's College, Strand. The first lecture will be given by Professor Patrick Geddes on Thursday, October 13, at half-past five o'clock. His subject will be "The City of Jerusalem."

The E.E.F. Staff Dinner Club announce a dinner for all Staff Officers and Officers attached staffs G.H.Q., Corps, Div., Brig., Force in Egypt, and the Hejaz, from July 31, 1917, to July 31, 1919. Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby will preside at the dinner, which will be held on Wednesday, October 12, at 7.15 for 7.45 p.m.

The marriage was celebrated on September 24 at the Parish Church, Moffat, by the Rev. Wellwood Landale, M.A. (cousin of the bride), between Leslie Gwatkin Williams, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieut.-Col., 5th Cavalry, Indian Army, and Helen Mary (*nee* Landale), widow of Dr. W. B. Grandage, 74, Gloucester Road, London, S.W.


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The passengers who will leave Marseilles in the P. and O. s.s. Caledonia on October 9, for Alexandria include the Bishop of Jerusalem, Sir W. and Lady Willcocks, Brigadier-General R. B. D. and Mrs. Blakeney, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Cator, Mr. Justice Fleming, Mr. Justice Vaux, Sir W. and Lady Taylor, Mr. Justice Van Horne, and Mr. Justice Hill.

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An American Correspondent writes:—Mr. Roland L'E Bryce, formerly Secretary of the British Legation at Belgrade and Secretary-General of the Carinthia Plebiscite Commission, is visiting America with his uncle, Viscount Bryce. They have been staying in Massachusetts with Mr. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, at one time Military Attaché at the American Legation Belgrade.

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The marriage took place on September 29, of Captain Herbert Pease, D.S.O., Durham Light Infantry, a kinsman of Lord Gainford, and the Hon. Cynthia Chaloner, third daughter of Lord and Lady Gisborough, of Gisboro' Hall, Guisborough. The Rev. the Marquiss of Normanby and the Rev. H. E. Hubbard were the officiating clergy. Lord Gisborough gave away his daughter. She was attended by her sisters, the Hon. Ursula and the Hon Elizabeth Chaloner, and the Hon. Eileen Plunket, Miss Wharton, Miss Margaret Stillwell, Miss M. Drake, Miss Rachel Pease, Miss Margaret Bruce Chaloner, and Miss Helen Medlicott. The bridegroom's brother, Mr. Rivers Pease, M.C., was best man. A guard of honour was formed by the local troop of Boy Scouts. Those invited to the ceremony included, among many others: The Marquess and Marchioness of Zetland, Lord and Lady Southampton, Captain the Hon. Eric and Mrs. Long, Sir Alfred and Lady Pease, Mr. and Mrs. Pike Pease, Lieutenant-Colonel George Gibbs, M.P., and Miss Gibbs, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. William Long, Mr. Robert Mond, Mr. and Mrs. Whitley, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Peel.

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The Queen of Roumania, with Princess Marie and Princess Helen of Roumania (the former of whom, according to Roumanian custom, gave away the bride), was present at the marriage on Sunday at Manastirie, Sinaia, Roumania, of Captain Philip George Bateman, London Irish Rifles and Royal Air Force, son of the late Dr. A. G. Bateman and of Mrs. Bateman, of 7, Queen Anne-street, W., and Mademoiselle Marie-Louise Blanc, eldest daughter of Mme. Irène Procopiu, lady-in-waiting to the Queen of Roumania, and of the late M. Louis Blanc. M. Misu, late Roumanian Minister in London, was best man. The Staritz Dionisie, Superior of the Monastery of Sinaia, officiated. The bride was attended by Mlle. Alice Cantacuzène, Mlle. Colette Blanc, Miss Dorothy Hibbard, Mlle. Lily Misu, Mlle. Rodica Hurmuzescu, Mlle. Irène Pherikidi, and Mlle. Dina Berindei, Mlle. Lila Procopiu carried the bride's train. After a reception held at the Villa Caprita, Sinaia, the bride and bridegroom left for Constantiniople, where the honeymoon will be spent. Those present at the marriage, which was attended by almost all the members of the diplomatic corps in Roumania, included among others: Signor Martin-Franklin (Italian Minister of Bucharest), and Signora Martin-Franklin, Mme. Lahovary (lady-in-waiting to the Queen of Roumania), Princess Nadige Stirberg, Mr. and Mrs. Boxhall, Count and Countess Tchikowsky, Mme. Marie Barindei, Mme. Radu Costinesco, Mlle. Adèle Cantemir (lady-in-waiting to Princess Marie of Roumania), and Count and Countess Quarnata di Zulino.

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## APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

M. Vladimir Milanovitch has been promoted to First Secretary of the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Captain F. Burnett, M.C., has been appointed a Divisional Agricultural Officer in the Department of Agriculture, Ceylon.

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Major Victor Frendo Azopardi, LL.D., has been appointed a member of the Executive Council, and an official member of the Council of Government of the Island of Malta.

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Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (September 20):—Lt.-Col. A. C. Tompkins has been appointed Commissioner of Papho: and Captain A. M. Fleury, Commissioner of Famagusta.

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Captain Wardle, who has been selected as chief of staff to Rear-Admiral Aubrey Smith, head of the British Naval Mission to Greece, joined the Naval Intelligence Division at the Admiralty on October, for one month's service before proceeding to Athens.

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El Lewa R. M. Feilden Pasha, C.B.E., Civil Secretary Sudan Government, has retired on pension. He was appointed Civil Secretary in 1917, and has filled the position with marked success. He joined the service in 1904, as Junior Inspector, Red Sea Province, and has been Assistant Civil Secretary, Senior Inspector and Governor of Bahr el-Ghazal Province.

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Professor Edward Driault, who has been commissioned by the Greek Government and the French Govermnent to write a History of Greece from 1821 to 1925 from diplomatic sources and Government archives, has returned to France after a stay of several weeks in London during which he has been studying the State records bearing on the subject. M. Driault, who is Professor of History at the Lycée de Versailles and l'Ecole Normale Superieure de St. Cloud, and is well known as the author of "La Question d' Orient" published in 1898, and now in its eighth edition, will deliver this winter at the Sorbonne, a public course of lectures on the history of Greek Independence.

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## OBITUARY

The death is announced of Mr. Henry Adair Richardson, for many years chairman of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, only surviving son of the late Mr. William Richardson, M.R.C.P. of London and Tunbridge Wells. By his death the only two living near relatives (on his father's side) of John Ruskin are Mrs. Ruskin Wolseley, of Steyning, and her sister.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1921.


## GREECE AND THE LARGER OUTLOOK.

Disappointment, it is to be feared, is in store for the Greeks, and it is from a desire to see the blow mitigated that we would urge them to adopt a wider outlook than they have been accustomed to in the past. With this wider outlook not only will their disappointment pass, but they will also find in it an incentive to greater things than they have achieved before. No bitterness exceeds that which attends superfluous sacrifice. From a purely military point of view the Anatolian campaign has added lustre to the Greek arms; the advance to the Sakaria River was a triumph of strategy, organisation, and endurance: the battle for Angora marked the limit of the possible, and the Greek authorities very rightly decided to withdraw to the Eskishehir district. Their duty to-day, as they conceive it, is to hearten their own people, to intimidate the Turks and generally for their own sakes to make the worse appear the better cause. Hence the announcement of the permanent occupation of a large expanse of Turkish territory and the preparations for its administration. In the meantime the Allied Governments will be approached, and quite sincerely, with genuine conviction, every available argument will be marshalled to prove to them that there is no other possible solution of the Turkish question than the Greek method. The arguments, we believe, will carry no weight with the Entente, and Greece will be called upon to abandon territory that she has come to regard as her own by inalienable right. The blow must be a severe one, and it is because in such circumstances anything may happen, that we would fain have the Greek nation, as becomes a people who rightly aspire to play a role in the world, face the situation betimes, and make up its mind that only good shall come out of it. Unfortunately the difficulties of the position are enhanced by the unjust treatment to which Greece has been subjected by the Allied Powers. King Constantine's Government ought not to have to regard the Allies as hostile; but if they are otherwise, it may well urge that they have a peculiar way of showing friendliness. The settlement in Asia Minor which will now have to be imposed will be held in Greece to have been dictated by personal spite against King Constantine and the present regime, whereas a loftier conception on the part of the Supreme Council of its duties and responsibilities since the King's return would have helped the Greeks to acquire a sense of solidarity with the new order of things in Europe in sacrificing their aspirations in Asia Minor.

Greece, in effect, will have to assimilate the lesson that has already been acted upon by Great Britain. Just as the British, as a result of war in which they have been victorious, have had to modify their views in regard to India, Egypt, and Mesopotamia, to say nothing of events in Ireland, so the Greeks must prepare themselves for a revision of pre-war standards and prejudices. Nothing can alter the Turkish past or the world's judgment of it; but one effect of the Great War has been to impose the necessity of a fresh start throughout the world, and the countries that kick against the obligation may gratify their *amour propre* for a season, but will certainly pay heavily for the mistake hereafter. The Greeks themselves repudiate all imperialistic designs and in their Asia Minor policy are concerned only to save their nationals from oppression and the blight of Turkish rule. Before the war it would have been reasonable to contend that the only way of achieving this end was by removing the Christian populations from Ottoman jurisdiction. To-day this policy, in common parlance, will not work. It is of no use for Greece to contend that it will. While she is trying to prove her point, a large part of the world, containing some two hundred million Moslems, is seething with unrest; the bulk of trouble, entailing heavy expenditure and loss of life, falls upon the British Empire. The question, therefore, which responsible statesmen in Athens, and the Greek people as a whole, have to answer is whether it is reasonable to expect that the Allied Powers should continue to bear indefinitely the brunt of the Greek experiment when an easier solution offers itself. For the moment the strain on Greece imposed by her own method and the ultimate benefit accruing to her from the alternative policy may be left out of account. The easier solution is to admit the existence of the new spirit pulsating through the peoples of the world, as Great Britain is doing in the case of India, Egypt and elsewhere. The Turks are satisfied that they can do better as an independent nation than they have done in the past; they are prepared to fight for their belief, and circumstances enable them to embroil the world to an extent that renders Greece's valour and good intentions of no avail. They must be given their chance of proving their point or of having its fallacy established above all challenge. If the Greeks urge that the risk to their nationals is too great, they must be reminded that the same risk is being run by others in India and Egypt. Should the new order in any of the countries where it is introduced, Turkey included, endanger life and prosperity, there will be such an overwhelming case for its suppression that the task will labour under none of the disabilities which make it impossible to-day.

The problem of Greek as well as of Allied statesmanship is to look facts in the face. Much heartburning will be caused by the process. The Entente Powers will have to scrap the false foundation on which they erected the Treaty of Sèvres; Greece must sacrifice some cherished aspirations. We hope and believe that she will go farther, and will convince the Turks that she is prepared not only to give them every chance to make good, but also to assist them, if they will accept her co-operation. Smyrna as an autonomous State, under a joint Greco-Turkish administration, can become the radial centre of this co-operation, and will indicate to the new Turkey how she can encourage to the full for her own benefit the business instincts of the Greeks without impairing her independence and integrity. The new role admittedly implies a new spirit in Greece, or rather the resumption of the old spirit, submerged under centuries of foreign dominion, that made her twenty-five centuries ago a pioneer of civilisation. Her scope to-day covers almost the same ground., for who can doubt that, if she assumes her new responsibilities towards Turkey, she will give a lead which every Balkan State will feel obliged to follow. Her services to Turkey can be duplicated for Albania, where the Greek-speaking Albanian can be encouraged to place his ability with undivided loyalty at the disposal of the young State. This policy will bring peace to the northern frontier of Albania more effectually than a mere demarcation of territory imposed by the Ambassadors' Conference. For neither Yugoslavia, in regard to Albania or Bulgaria, nor Roumania, in the case of the Dobruja, will deliberately adhere to the traditional methods of the Balkans when Greece with a larger outlook has shown them the way with a better plan.

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## THE SLOVENES.

*By our Zagreb Correspondent.*

Of the three branches of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, it is the last who are the least known in Europe, although they are the most westerly of the Southern Slavs, have been for the longest time exposed to the influence of German and Italian civilization, have absorbed more than the others Western influence and have become essentially Europeans. But they have preserved their national identity, consciousness and language.

The name "Sloven" in Serbo-Croat means "Slav" in the wide sense. The Slovaks, who are nearest in every way to the Czechs call themselves "Sloveni." But the people whom we call Slovens, and the Germans, until recently, Weden, are "Sloventsi," and their language is "Slovenacki." This is the most nearly allied language to Serbo-Croat, but yet is quite distinct, and the two tongues are only to a moderate degree mutually intelligible. Slovenish contains many archaic forms, such as the dual number, for paired objects, which is completely declined in the substantive and conjugated verb. Other archaisms of form and structure there are which have disappeared from Serbo-Croat, such as the persistence of the "v" for "u" and the final -l of the past participle; but many of these have been preserved too in Macedonian.

The Slovenes have never been exposed to the influence either of Byzantium or of the Turks. Their language is free from orientalisms, which are numerous even in Croat, and very much so in Serb, especially in the southern dialects. Old Greek writers do not refer to them. They are, in fact, in no way a Balkan people, but intimately associated with Central European history. In Zagreb even, a *kranjec*, or Carniolan, is regarded as essentially a representative of European civilization.

The first we hear of them is from Lombard sources, in the latter part of the VIth Century, when they were surrounded by three powerful, military and numerous peoples, the Lombards, Bavarians, both Teutonic, and the Avars, who were Turanians. Until the middle of the VIIth Century they were subject to the last, the only Asiatic influence to which they have been exposed, of which no trace has survived. We next hear of them invading Istria in company with the Avars and Lombards, their allies for booty alone, but the Slovenes for purposes of colonisation. Many settled in that rocky peninsula, and some overflowed into Lombard country, into the Friuli and eventually became absorbed into the Friulian Italians. They helped the Lombard king Agilulf to take Cremona, but remained in a state of permanent hostility to the Bavarians. We read that Raduald, Duke of Benevento, a Lombard, could talk with the Slovenes in their own tongue. For many years there was intermittent fighting between them and the Lombards, and by the early part of the VIIIth Century, large numbers had permanently settled in Lombard Friuli. About 740 they called in the help of the Bavarians against the Avars, but, as their numbers were inferior, the Bavarians took them for themselves and nominated their princes. Hotimir, who died in 770, and had been educated in Bavaria, was the first to accept Christianity. By the end of that century the country was practically Christianised throughout, and brought under the Archbishopric of Salzburg, which, of course, brought them more than ever under German influence and tended to destroy their national character. By the beginning of the IXth Century, all the Slovenes, including even those settled in Istria, were brought within the Frankish Empire. They had a degree of autonomy under native rulers for a few years, but from 861 onwards they lived permanently under a foreign ruler, and became simply "cannon-fodder" for the Germans, ceasing to have any further history of their own.

The people were scattered in the Friuli country, in Istria, and so far north as the southern parts of the Tirol and of Upper Austria, where they were soon absorbed by the Germans; but the main mass were, and still are, in the three provinces of Korushka, or Carinthia, Krajnska or Carniola and Shtejersja or Styria. Korushka, the German Karnthen, is a corruption of the Latin name Carnatania, said by Shafarik to be derived from the Keltic *karn* and *tan*, that is, the Rocky Land, for it is known that two Keltic tribes, the Taurisci and Norici, formerly inhabited this country. Kranjska is also from the Keltic *karn*, a rock, which we find in our British *cairn*, or else from a Keltic tribe called Karni. The name Shtejerska, Styria, must be derived from the little river Steyer, a name the origin of which is unknown and may be connected with our equally unknown and ancient river name Stour. At present the Slovenes inhabit only the lower portion of Styria, but a thousand years ago they overflowed the northern borders into Austria.

In the early Middle Ages, the Slovenes extended away into Hungary and formed a direct connection with the Czechs and Slovaks. Their intellectual centre was Blatni Grad, the City by the Lake, the Blatno Jezero, shown on our pre-war maps as Lake Balaton or Platten See, to-day an essentially Magyar country. The Hungarians swamped them out and absorbed them in the XIth Century, but no Slav can forget that it was here that St. Cyril and St. Methodius translated the Scriptures into the ancient Pannonian Slavonic tongue, of which Slovene is the direct descendant.

Slovenia is a mountain country, with beautiful scenery, lakes, forests and Alps; the people are industrious and hard-working. They are as pure a Slav type, probably, as could be found. Big-boned men, fair or reddish, with blue eyes and prominent cheek-bones are common. They are one of the few Slav groups who make good domestic servants. Agriculture is well developed, but it is not the vital element in their lives that it is in the alluvial districts; they are more industrial, engaged in mining, especially for coal and mercury. The people are thoroughly civilised, preseverings to a degree of obstinacy, a feature which has enabled them to retain their individuality in the teeth of the Germanisation of the country through so many centuries.

Their boundary runs down eastwards almost to Samobor, a popular resort near Zagreb. They are connected with the true Croats through the Zagortsi, the *kaj*-speaking natives of the three countries of Zagreb, Varazhdin and Krizhevtsi. This district, smiling and densely populated, was the home of the old Croatian aristocracy, conservative to a degree, which has been so delightfully described by Djalski. In temperament, generous hospitality, "broad-breastedness" and in true *joie de vivre* this conservative old nobility resembled the Serbs of the Shumadia and Podrinje, but they died out during the last century. The peasants or *muzhi* of the Zagorje, are industrious, rather obstinate, but docile folk, very friendly once their confidence has been

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gained. Jagitch, the greatest modern Slavonic philologist, is a Zagorats. Their dialect more closely resembles Slovenish, but the Zagortsi consider themselves the very elect of the Croats, though the home of the historical Croats is further to the south and nearer to the sea.

After being exposed for a thousand years to systematic Germanisation and foreign rule, it is remarkable that the Slovenes have any vestige of national feeling left. But it received a tremendous impulse from the invasion by the French in the Napoleonic wars, who recognised their language and issued proclamations in it. The national movement became vigorous, and Liubliana became the seat of a widespread system of espionage and merciless repression from the Austrians, as it was the heart of the Illyrian movement, the precursor of the Yugoslav gospel. It produced such philologists, which in this case means patriots, as Kopitar and Miklositch. The intellectual impulse became irresistible. The Slovenes had learnt method and organisation from the hated Germans, and applied it to their own cause. They followed Serbian progress with the most intense interest, helped in every way possible, thus drawing on their head vials of wrath from Vienna, and looked to Serbia as the Piedmont of the Yugoslav cause. Too few in numbers to stand alone in the pincers between the Germans on the north and the Italians on the south, they looked to the Serbs for the great liberation, in which they joined with enthusiasm, and contributed their many fine qualities to the common cause.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

### The Anatolian War.

The Special Constantinople Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* gives, in the issue of that journal for September 23, his impressions of Greece at war. Generally he found the Greek country people puzzled over the situation: they believed in their many victories, but why was there no end to the war? Further, they were uneasy over the fall in the value of the drachma; and the writer speculates upon the result which the possession of fuller information will have upon the Greeks:—

When the truth is known (and the Government cannot conceal it for long) I still do not think that there will be a revolution in Greece, but I do prophesy with some confidence that the Greek public will be more inclined towards peace (even a peace involving the evacuation of Anatolia) than it has been since the failure of the March offensive—or, in fact, than it has been at all, for after March there was still all the summer in which to try again, while now the winter is near, the drachma is lower, and unhappily many more young men are disabled or dead. In fact, the moment is as favourable now for mediation by the Powers as it has been unfavourable during the latter part of the summer.

And, as far as Great Britain is concerned, it is high time that we cleared up our position. In every Greek village, as in every battalion and battery that I have visited, I find the same conviction that Greece has not only our moral backing but our secret assistance. "If Great Britain had not supported us we should have been lost months ago." "You are not assisting us? Then where do all these munitions and lorries come from and all the money? We are a poor country, they can't be ours." "You are going to let us enter Constantinople, aren't you? You say no? Your Government declares that it will resist us? Oh, we know you English. We know that that is only your little joke—dust in the eyes of our friends the French. We know you will let us through." Everywhere the English traveller in Greece is embarrassed by such pronouncements, and still more by the kindness and hospitality which the genuine conviction behind them calls out. There is no doubt that the conviction is genuine, and that, more than anything else, it is encouraging the Greeks to carry on the war.

To put our conduct at its best, we have been culpably negligent in failing to undeceive them. At its worst, we have landed them as well as the Turks, in a slough of confusion and suffering from which it is our business to help both nations to find an issue. Now is the moment for us to build a bridge, and we have the materials for a golden one. On grounds of statistics and self-determination Cyprus ought to be a part of Greece, as Western Anatolia ought to be a part of Turkey. It is notorious that the Greeks of Cyprus (three-quarters or more of the whole population) desire union with Greece as strongly as the Turks of the Aidin vilayet desire reunion with Turkey. Let us put Cyprus into the pool and take an active hand promptly in the long-overdue settlement of this miserable Graeco-Turkish war.

Writing under the same heading in the *Fortnightly Review* for September Mr. H. Charles Woods traces the recent history of events up to the Anatolian War, and having looked at the position form all sides, he gives his views upon the possible grounds upon which the Western Powers might intervene:—

Although the Near East is an area in which the unexpected generally occurs, no such article as this would be complete without brief reference to a possible basis for ultimate mediation and to the kind of terms by which the present war may be terminated. In this connection I think that two conditions should be excluded. Firstly, to whatever degree one may be critical of the post-war distribution of what was formerly Turkey in Europe, it appears to me impracticable that there can be any immediate change in the status of Eastern Thrace. Such a change would not only be resisted by Greece, but it would also be opposed by Roumania and by Jugo-Slavia on account of its probable bearing upon the stability of the Treaty of Neuilly. And, secondly, however unsatisfactory the maintenance of the Turks at Constantinople may be considered by some people, this is in fact the least objectionable settlement of a very complicated problem, and as such it must not be upset either by handing over that city to Greece or by appointing her a sort of mandatory for the protection of the freedom of the Straits. This said, much as I have been opposed to Hellenic expansion into Asia Minor—an expansion as dangerous to Greece as to Turkey—I recognise that a definite and far-reaching victory by the former country would of necessity change the position and entitle her to advantages which otherwise might not have been hers. Hence, whilst I still feel that in any eventuality King Constantine would be well advised to adopt an attitude of strict moderation upon territorial questions, it is obvious that this ruler would lay claim to the maintenance of many of the principles of the Treaty of Sèvres, if not to the very letter of that document itself. For example, whatever might be the exact line of demarcation between Ottoman and Greek territory, adequate safeguards would surely be demanded for the protection of the Ottoman Christians. In addition, even if the Greeks were prepared, some months ago, to consent to an augmentation in the strength of the armed forces of Turkey, such consent would hardly again be forthcoming, considering what has since taken place. And, lastly, although it seems difficult to see from what quarter compensation can be anticipated, it is not unnatural that Greece should endeavour to save herself from the necessity of bearing the military expense of operations for which she disclaims all responsibility—operations which she contends have been carried out largely in the interests of the Allies as a whole.

### The Near East.

*The Times* of September 27, in an article called "The Tangle of the Near East," lays stress on the fact that the longer the Anatolian War is allowed to proceed, the more difficult will the problems created or accentuated by it be to solve. And of an end to it there is as yet no sign:—

The fighting may die down for a time as a result of the exhaustion of both sides and the severity of the Anatolian winter, that makes big movements impossible. But the war will continue, whether in the form of raids by Greeks or Turks on enemy positions or in the form of careful preparations for some new effort in the spring; and in the meantime all the manifold resources of Oriental intrigue are being brought into play, and the whole atmosphere of the Near and Middle East is being poisoned by this prolonged and indecisive war of which Western Anatolia is the theatre.

Into this remote and dangerous area of strife European misunderstandings and rivalries are introducing strange complications. All these confused battles are being fought out with modern European weapons and under the inspiration of doctrines in which the fanaticism of the East is mingled, in a strange jargon, with the catchwords of European democracy. The discords of Europe re-echo in weird and barbarous forms throughout the East, and those whose duty it is to guard and pass on all that we still possess of civilization must be vigilant in face of this new danger. This is no time for the pursuit of petty national advantages. The problem is far too big for any one European nation to cope with it alone, or to be acrimonious in the pursuit of its own private policy. The perils in which the new movement in Asia Minor involves our own manifold interests in the East are sufficiently obvious in this country. It may be admitted that, in some respects, our own policy in Asia Minor has been short-sighted and precipitate, and we should be prepared to remedy our errors. But this is no matter in which we can act alone with any prospect of success, nor is it only our national interests that are in question. We cannot act effectively unless we have the close and frank co-operation of all our Allies. In the East the Allies are in duty bound, for the sake of their common ideals, to act resolutely together. The intolerable situation in Asia Minor has reached a pass which makes it imperative that the Allies should agree at last on a policy and make haste to carry it out with all the means at their disposal. The war in Asia Minor must be stopped, and with a disinterestedness

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that corresponds to the highest interests of Western civilization, the Allies must settle boundaries and remove all possible causes of friction.

And it proceeds to state that the financial ruin of both Greece and Turkey is certain unless Western mediation is brought to bear :—

For the shifting shadows of ancient hatreds and ancient dominations a spectral war is being waged in a land of exhausted memories. Thousands of young men are losing their lives in the process, and a broad area is being wasted. The whole effort is fruitless and vain. It is a mockery of the European statecraft that has drawn into its modern struggle for world hegemony the ruder forces of the East, and has left them to go on fighting for the shadows of shadows, for the dim reflections of our hackneyed and now discarded watchwords. The danger is that we may have set in motion forces that we may not be able to check or to control.

It details the indications which show that the situation is being allowed to drift, and concludes with statesmanlike impartiality.

**Egypt.**

In its "Monthly Commentary," written by H. B. Usher, the *Fortnightly Review* of September discusses the problem of Egypt. After posing to itself the essential question "whether the wit of man is equal to the solution of the problems his progressing civilisation has created; whether, now that the efforts of multitudes of enterprising people have created an interdependent structure of civilisation, more complicated and more modern than the rival political systems in which they have been content to live, those systems can be adapted so that the salvaging of that civilisation may be possible; or whether civilisation must smash, and mankind start again far back towards its beginning," it continues :—"If it is to be saved, there must be a definite will to save it strong enough to rule out many old political ideas and methods; there must be a readiness to recognise that force can only destroy, and that it cannot maintain or create, that for the final arbitrament of force there must be substituted a permanent willingness to compromise, to reconcile conflicting interests, even sometimes to give way on points which, according to the old theories, may seem almost vital." And it comes specifically to Egypt :—

Egypt never has been part of the Empire, and there is no sort of reason why she should become so. Great Britain has one serious interest in Egypt that must be safeguarded, namely, the Suez Canal. She is entitled, therefore, to stipulate that adequate guarantees must be forthcoming for the safety of that vital waterway. Those guarantees must include the right to garrisons which can protect it, and the conclusion of a Treaty which will give us some control over Egyptian foreign policy, otherwise Egypt should be allowed to go her own way, the principal difficulty being the reconciliation to her new status of other Powers which have rights under the Capitulations. We need to understand that we cannot any longer govern a large part of the world by force. We can afford neither the men nor the money. The Empire and its appendages must therefore be held together by consent. Fortunately the manifest advantages of a common citizenship, of the elimination of all forms of international friction over a very wide area, of the mutual protection and strength which all the members gain, and of the assistance Britain is able to give out to her ripe experience in government, are bonds which should be quite sufficient to hold it together, provided there are no unsatisfied ideals striving to pull it apart. It should be our constant preoccupation to see that there are none. We shall then be able to feel at peace with ourselves, and at the same time to confront the world as an organisation which bears no resemblance to a military empire in the older sense, which threatens no one, and stands across no one's path, but which does on the other hand present a striking example of the benefits which unity and co-operation can bestow. For an Empire of that sort there should be a great future, for unity and co-operation are what the world most sorely needs. For one of the older sort, it is difficult to foresee any but a disastrous future, in which the one thing certain is that Britain herself will sink under the weight of her obligations.

## "PASSIVE RESISTANCE?"

Under the title "August the First," the *Civil and Military Gazette* publishes some amusing verses which offer advice—the character of which it is not for us to criticize—to the Indian extremists. We quote the first four verses :—

"India expects that every man this day will burn his Dhoti."

Brothers, Freedom's Day is nearer!
Hail the Dawn of the New Era,
Purged by sacred fire!
Give three cheers, three regular rousers:
Gather round, and burn your trousers
On the funeral pyre!

High and low, whate'er your stations,
Set on fire your combinations;
Let the rites begin!
Liberty's alert Defenders,
Char to atoms your suspenders,
Do your *dhotis* in!

Manchester will mourn and grizzle,
While the pink pyjamas sizzle
In the blazing vats:—
Clothed in khaddar cloth (your best coats),
Burn the foreign devil's waistcoats.
And cremate your hats!

Learn the lesson Soul Force teaches!
While the flames consume your breeches
Cleanse your minds of wrath!
Love your very souls inspiring,
Heap a crore of mounds of firing
On the hated cloth!

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Monsignor Bartolomasi, Bishop of Trieste, who was head of the chaplains on the Italian front during the war, has had an audience of the Pope, who wished to be informed of the conditions of the clergy and Catholics in the new provinces, especially among the Slav population.

The Maharaja Holkar of Indore has sent a donation of £500 to the funds of the Mental After Care Association, Church House, Westminster, to assist them in dealing with patients in their care who have suffered from nervous or mental trouble caused directly by war service.

Salonika City has passed a resolution deciding that one of the central streets shall be named after Dr. Russell S. Wingfield, the American Red Cross Surgeon, who died a few weeks ago of burns received in a fire at the Red Cross Children's Hospital there.

Dr. Karabeily, president of the most popular and influential Moslem party in Azerbaijan, has been arrested by order of the Bolshevist authorities at Baku, and with another forty members of that party has been sent to Moscow and imprisoned.

Lord and Lady Reading were at Simla last week, entertained at dinner by the two Punjab Ministers, Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussein and Lala Harkishon Lal. Replying to the toast of his health the Viceroy said that he was not in the slightest inclined to lose the hope with which he came to India.

A Constantinople message says that a Kemalist Mission under Ismail Hakki, including two commercial representatives, has started from Angora for Sofia. The report probably emanates from a source hostile to Bulgaria.

M. Stergiades, the Harmost of Ionia, and the Hellenic High Commissioner in Constantinople have been summoned to Athens to consult with the Cabinet.

A great advance in improving the treatment of leprosy is being made in India, in which the Rev. Frank Oldrieve, Secretary of the Mission to Lepers, is taking a prominent directing part.

On the ground that the authorised quota of Greeks admissible into the United States for one year under the new Immigration Law, has already been completed, the New York immigration authorities on Saturday, says Reuter, refused admission to 371 Greeks.

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# THE CARAVANSERAI

*Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*
—OMAR KHAYYAM—

A traveller, lately home from the Balkans, tells a true story which illustrates well one of the pitfalls of our language. In Belgrade he was invited to lunch by a leading citizen, and during the meal a rather well-known Englishman who had visited the country was mentioned. "Did you meet him?" asked the visitor. "Yes," replied the host, and added puzzlingly: "He is a big potater, is he not?" The Englishman did not know just what the other meant—"a big potato?"—but politely agreed nevetheless. But he had to cudgel his brains for a long time before the riddle was solved. "A big potatoe?" Then, suddenly it dawned on him, when in thinking over the other Englishman's characteristics, he remembered that he was by way of being "a two-bottle man." Potations—potater—the riddle was answered.

Before the great war we were often told that the Serbs were the "Irish of the Balkans." I have not seen the statement made lately, but I suppose it still holds good. At any rate the Serbs' brothers, the Croats, appear to have certain Hibernian characteristics, if one may judge from a little incident reported by a correspondent. A Croat peasant was lately grumbling about the "tyranny" of the Serbian police authorities. He had been punished, he declared, with great bitterness, merely for eating a goose. "Too bad" said a sympathetic friend, "but where did you get the goose from?" "Oh, I stole it," replied the Croat cheerfully. Talk about "grievances!"

I am very glad that the Lord Chamberlain has stood by his decision not to allow the new play that Mr. Oscar Asche purposes putting on at His Majesty's Theatre to be called "Mecca." The point was quite a simple one, after all:—Should the spectacle be called "Mecca"—to satisfy Mr. Asche, apparently—at the risk of offending susceptibilities of Moslems, or should it not? It is beside the point to argue that Moslem susceptibilities ought not to be upset by the use of the word; that Moslems ought rather to like an advertisement given to the name of their most sacred city by its association with a show such as those lately produced at His Majesty's; that the risk of giving offence is small, and so on and so forth. The point is that the risk is there; and that being so, the Lord Chamberlain presumably considered that if he must choose between offending the manager of "His Majesty's" and His Majesty's Moslem subjects, he preferred the former course. It was purely a matter of taste, of course. For my part my taste agrees with the Lord Chamberlain's, on this subject at any rate, and I am rather surprised that Mr. Asche should have pressed the point at all; for, unlike some London stage-folk, he is a travelled man, and a man whose views are not bounded by his own footlights. But the discussion has given the new show a pretty good "advert," hasn't it?

Why is it that the Rabbit is always regarded as a contemptible coward? Admittedly, he is not exactly lion-hearted; but then he has not the lion's armoury; and on occasions he does show fight in his own way. So why insult him by calling "conscientious objectors," and other objectionable beings "rabbits?" As a matter of fact, I myself have seen a rabbit show fight against a human being who endeavoured to capture him. He was a tame rabbit, and his owner—a very big boy—wished to capture him after a run on the lawn; but bunny objected, and when the youngster tried to drop a cloth over him, he caught it in his teeth and shook it, much as a dog might do, but in very real anger. Eventually he was caught, of course; but he showed pluck in fighting for his liberty—a thing which, as a Briton, I admired greatly. Again, bucks will fight fiercly at the breeding season; and lately I have learned that they will engage in combat for a choice bit of food. At any rate, a friend who has lately returned from a holiday in Norfolk tells me that a countryman there assured him that whereas the soil is now rich it used to be so poor that "two rabbits would fight for one blade of grass." And yet—and this is the *raison d'etre* for this excursus on the habits of rabbits—a correspondent who was travelling in the Balkans lately wrote that at one place he was "lucky enough to get a drop of arak that would have made a rabbit spit at a dog." As if a rabbit needed any such "Dutch courage."

CORSAIR.

## CASTOR OIL FOR MOSQUITOES.

(*To the Editor of "The Near East."*)

Sir,—As regards Corsair's reference to the castor oil plant and mosquitoes, I read while in Cyprus that the plant was very efficacious against flies, and that branches of it hung up in rooms would keep them off. I tried this, and I also grew large, luxuriant bushes of it outside both dining room and kitchen windows. My experience was that it really does keep away flies to some extent, but not so that other and stronger remedies can be dispensed with—far from it. As regards mosquitoes, the only efficacious remedy at present is that laid down by Sir Ronald Ross,—the destruction of larvae in breeding places and areas.

I. am, etc.,

R.M.

## MILITARY CROSS AWARDS.

A supplement to the *Gazette* announces that a Bar to the Military Cross has been awarded to Captain J. G. Simons, Gurkha Rifles and the Military Cross to Captain Atul Krishna Kar, Indian Medical Service, and Lieutenants J. G. Pargiter and C. H. B. Rodham, Indian Army, for distinguished service in the field with the Waziristan Force, India.

The Military Cross has also been awarded to Captain W. H. Butcher, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, for distinguished service in the field in Mesopotamia.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square.
E.C. 2,

**The Exchanges.**

The problem of the hour—the stabilisation of the exchanges—is dealt with in an article on page 425. The exchanges are, indeed, rapidly becoming something more than a problem, for it is now recognised that it is a matter of vital necessity for Great Britain and every other country that the obstacle to trade imposed by the exchanges should be overcome. At present international trade is simply strangled because commerce cannot be carried on with the rates at their abnormal levels, and the consequence is widespread unemployment and distress. It was only after a prolonged experience of the "slump" that the seriousness of the situation has come to be generally recognised; for the "boom," short-lived as it was, which followed the termination of hostilities, gave grounds for the view that the economic difficulties arising from the war would not be difficult to overcome. It is realised now that the situation which the world has to face is no whit less serious than that with which the Allies were confronted during the war.

**The Outstanding Problem.**

As pointed out in the article to which I have referred the action the Government will take to meet the situation as it affects ourselves will no doubt include a much more extensive export credits scheme. But while that step will no doubt relieve the situation to the extent of enabling our manufacturers to export their goods, it is not going to help in the achievement of a permanent settlement of the exchanges, without which anything that may be done can have no lasting effect. The exchanges represent the internal position of the country, and their adverse movements indicate, among other things, that progress is not being made with reconstruction. The development of the export credits scheme is essential to enable us to tide over the period of abnormal conditions, but it is even more necessary that at the same time we should give what assistance we can to the countries with the adverse exchanges in the shape of credits for reconstruction. Given that they are placed in a position in which they can recuperate, and given also that there is a real tendency to settle down to work, then we shall be well on the way towards solving the problem of the exchanges.

**The Gezireh Scheme.**

The Gezireh project comes in for further criticism in the current issue of the *Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce. The writer of the article in question, whose previous comments I referred to recently in these columns, declares that the scheme can only be achieved "at a very heavy charge on the country, and only to the extent of 50,000 feddans out of the 300,000 spoken of. It will be, in my opinion, many years before the total area planted yearly in the Gezireh with cotton will exceed 50,000 feddans." He proceeds to deal with the present position of private agricultural enterprises in the country, and points out that there are more than 50,000 feddans to some extent planted in the Khartoum district north of Khartoum, Kassala, and Tokar. "These areas" the writer adds "have been at a standstill for some time owing to local difficulties, and must be reduced unless present conditions are changed, but with Government assistance the areas could be increased right up to the full extent of the available labour in the country."

**State and Private Enterprise.**

Given sufficient labour, which is one of the great problems in the Sudan, and provided cotton growing in the country proves profitable, the writer argues that individuals will go in for cotton cultivation to the greatest possible extent. "If cotton growing is not profitable for private enterprise" he says, "I cannot understand how it can become a profitable undertaking for the Government, particularly as it is now generally recognised throughout the world that Government controlled enterprises are not usually conducted on the most economical lines." In conclusion he declares that the 50,000 feddans of the Gezireh will only be a substitution of what individuals will have to give up so that the position will be unchanged as regards production, that the result will be the end of private enterprise, and that "massing labour in one place is not good, and the dangers of disease to the crop will be much greater."

**"An Intolerable Burden."—**

A correspondent comments very pointedly on the anomaly presented by the rates of the Bank of England and the Imperial Bank of India, and those of the Exchange Banks. While the bank rate is 5½ per cent., and the Imperial Bank of India rate is 5 per cent., the rate of the Exchange Banks is 8 per cent. This has to be paid by merchants on goods shipped to India and lying in the godowns. When goods were going into consumption rapidly the rates charged by the Exchange Banks were not felt to any great extent, but developments in India during the last year have brought about conditions in which the rate has come to represent, says my correspondent, "an intolerable burden" on merchants. They cannot tell when the Indian market will improve, but in the meantime they have to go on paying the 8 per cent.

**---and the Remedy.**

As my correspondent points out it is not merely a question of payment for advances against merchandise.

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All the time the goods are in the warehouses heavy rental and insurance charges are being piled up, the consequence being that in the best circumstances British firms are compelled to face a very heavy loss on their goods, sometimes amounting to as much as 30 per cent. In this connection my correspondent makes the suggestion that as things are it is the duty of the Exchange Banks which have flourished exceedingly over a long period of years to bear their part in the necessary sacrifices by a considerable reduction in their rate of interest and other charges. On the face of it this seems an eminently reasonable view to take.

**Roumania's Financial Position.**

Our Bucharest Correspondent gives details this week of the proposals made by the principal Roumanian banks with a view to meeting the critical financial position in which that country finds itself as the result of the depreciation of the exchange. Broadly speaking the programme would appear to be drawn up on useful lines. It is an axiom that the way to economic recovery lies in the acceding of the greatest possible amount of freedom to the individual, but if Roumania's circumstances make further restrictions necessary for the time being, and those who are on the spot and are thus in a position to know evidently think they are, it would appear that the proposals as a whole are as little open to criticism (if I except the clause restricting trips abroad) as anything that could be devised.

**Roumania's Railways.**

In an article on the forests and railways of Roumania in the *Daily Telegraph* Lieut.-Colonel Repington comments on the obstacles to progress presented by the inefficiency of the railways, and the congestion at the ports. Of these two factors the former he places as "first among the deterrents to business." Roumania, has now, he points out, about 1,300 locomotives in use, and it is hoped to have 2,000 by April, and ultimately 4,300. America, Germany, and Canada are supplying locomotives, and "there is also one large contract for locomotives under consideration with a British house on favourable terms for Roumania, but it hangs fire though the need is imperative." Why in the circumstances there should be delay is difficult to understand, seeing that it is in Roumania's interests that normal conditions should be attained as quickly as possible.

**The Haifa Report.**

The report, so far unconfirmed, regarding the award of a contract for the development of Haifa to Messrs. S. Pearson and Co., reference to which will be found elsewhere in this issue, takes the memory back to pre-war days when the question of the development of Haifa, Beyrout, or another port was constantly on the *tapis*. Nothing happened because the Turkish authorities could not make their minds up as to what they wanted done, and then the war came to cut short any schemes that were under consideration. There is I think, no question, that of the various possible ports for Syria, Haifa offers the best prospects for development, and given favourable conditions should grow into a most important centre, though it is going a good deal too far to speak of it as a contemporary does as the "natural port of Mesopotamia." It certainly is not that, though the development of communications with that country will naturally divert much trade that would otherwise flow to the Gulf.

**Commentator,**

**NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.**

*We regret to learn that a certain number of subscribers received last week's issue late owing to a strike at one of the Firms of Newsagents who help to distribute the Paper. All copies despatched from the Office of "The Near East" were sent off as usual on Thursday.*


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## THE RIDDLE OF THE EXCHANGES.

In the discussions in the press and elsewhere regarding the trade crisis it is satisfactory to note that the tendency to obscure the issue by an insistence on relatively unimportant factors is disappearing, and is being replaced by the recognition that the principal obstacle to the development of British commerce, and indeed to any trade revival at all, is presented by the collapsed exchanges. There are many other factors, it is true, some obvious, some obscure, but compared with the problem of the exchanges they are comparatively negligible.

Unfortunately the course of the exchanges since the Armistice provides small encouragement for the belief that they will right themselves within any reasonable period; on the contrary a number of them have been going further and further from parity, this movement being specially pronounced during the last few months. It is idle to urge that in most cases the rates utterly misrepresent the actual position, for there is nothing to show when they will become representative, and in the meantime manufacturing countries like our own must have markets and the countries whose exchanges have depreciated must be in a position to import the goods they require. That, in short, is the problem which the Government have now to solve, and it is not rendered less difficult by the comparative lack of success that has attended previous efforts in that direction. The first export credits scheme was distinctly a failure. Its successor, which was intended apparently to tide over the period that would intervene before the Ter Meulen scheme came into operation, was in many essentials a great improvement, but while advantage has been taken of it to an increasing extent it would be futile to assert that it has promised to prove equal to the emergency. The last attempt—the Ter Meulen scheme, fathered by the League of Nations—appears to be still in the organisation stage. At any rate so far as is known, none of the countries it was designed to help has taken any steps towards making the necessary issue of bonds. Obviously, therefore, fresh means must be devised to cope with the emergency.

It may be assumed that the policy of the Government will be to provide a much more comprehensive export credits scheme which will really appeal to our traders. But in addition to this there would seem to be a good deal in favour of the suggestion that has been made by Labour that the Government should enter into direct dealings with countries requiring certain goods. Payment in this case could be in the form of short dated loans. The Government would be responsible for paying the manufacturers and exporters, while there would be no actual transference of credit to the importing countries. The main disadvantage would be that the resultant borrowing would necessitate further inflation followed by a new rise in prices, but that seems inevitable, and if the problem of unemployment can be solved at no greater cost the price will be cheap.

Obviously the adoption of expedients such as these will only relieve the position temporarily as far as we are concerned, and will only indirectly affect the exchanges by enabling the resumption of trade. It is a negative policy, and must if possible be supplemented by positive measures if it is to achieve really useful results. In the language of metaphor it would be like applying ice to the head of a feverish patient while neglecting to administer anything to remedy the cause of the illness. There are many ailments, however, that are incurable by the doctors without the very active assistance of the patient, and this very aptly exemplifies the position with regards to the collapsed exchanges. There are ways in which we, and other countries situated like ourselves, can assist, as for instance by the postponement of payment of reparations, should such a course be deemed advisable, but in the main help must come from within. Unless internal conditions are satisfactory it is hopeless to look for any permanent improvement in the exchanges.

The main factors necessary for the stabilisation of the exchanges were emphasised at the Brussels Financial Conference of last autumn, and the fact that since then the position has become worse is due simply to the fact that in many cases there has only been a half-hearted attempt to follow the principles laid down.

One of the most thorny questions throughout has been finance. It goes without saying that the restoration of a country's credit must depend on its monetary situation. Budgets must be made to balance, and there must be an end to inflation. But with the burden of debt imposed by the war this is easier to recognise than to accomplish, for the necessary economies can only be achieved by the curtailment of expenditure in directions which the authorities concerned view with anything but favour. It means, for instance, the minimum expenditure for military purposes, and the recognition that in the future no State will be able to undertake large responsibilities in this direction, takes time for appreciation. The trouble is, of course, that no State cares to take the risk of inviting an attack by a neighbour whose financial policy has been framed on more reckless lines, and until really stable conditions are established any advance in this direction must be difficult.

Apart from the fundamental question of the re-establishment of the currencies by the adoption of sound financial methods, there are a variety of other factors essential for the stabilisation of the exchanges, the most important of which are the relations between adjacent countries and the policy of the various Governments in regard to commercial matters in general. Since the war the tendency has been for States to erect formidable barriers between themselves and their neighbours by means of tariffs, prohibited imports or exports, and by similar expedients. Some of the regulations are no doubt justified by local conditions, but they are only too obviously framed, broadly speaking, without any regard for the general well-being, and their effect is simply to hinder the flow of commerce, and thus to check the natural progress of reconstruction. Free trade is an ideal, and can never be realised literally, if a country's real interests are to be protected, but it is a fundamental proposition that the freer trade is at the present juncture the greater the prospects of regaining normal conditions within a reasonable period. Government interference with the economic life of a nation is open to objection on precisely the same grounds. The grant of subsidies, the fixing of maximum prices, and similar measures are alike open to objection in that they serve no lasting purposes, and simply hamper reconstruction.

### Indian Treasury Bills.

The India Office has issued the following statement on Indian Treasury bills:—Outstanding with public on March 31, 1921, Rs. 43,73,55,000; September 17, 1921, Rs.27,32,60,000; In paper currency reserve March 31, Rs. 61,26,00,000; September 17,1921, Rs. 60,000,00,000; Total, Rs. 104,99,55,000, and Rs.-87,32,60,000.

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, September 20.*

**Further Restriction of Cotton Area.**

An announcement has been issued that the Government is preparing a decree restricting the area under cotton cultivation for a further period. The statement adds that the Government regrets its inability to abolish the tax of P.T.35 per kantar on cotton, but will consider a modification of the tax on inferior grades, and also promises consideration of the question of the reduction of the railway freights on the staple.

**The Economic Position.**

The cotton market has been weaker during the week, but the closing hour on Friday brought a revival and November staple closed at 44 dollars.. One hears on all sides of a more hopeful outlook for business during the season, but unfortunately there has been a simultaneous increase in the prices of most foodstuffs apart from those controlled by the Government and it seems as if the rise in cotton is to have as a corollary a quicker rise in the cost of living. The native Press is protesting indignantly against the suspiciously sudden increase in the prices of foodstuffs and is demanding Government intervention, but I understand that the Government is inclined to let the natural forces of supply and demand regulate matters for a time until developments prove whether the inflation of cotton prices is likely to be permanent. If cotton prices do remain in the neighbourhood of 50 dollars it is certain that there will be an attempt at exploiting householders, but previous experience has taught that official control of prices of locally-produced foodstuffs is unwise. The Government will achieve much more satisfactory results if it endeavours to keep the markets well supplied by preventing hoarding, and by supporting the co-operative societies which 18 months ago were found to be the best weapon with which to bring the profiteers to their senses.

## GREECE.

*Athens, September 16.*

**Finance and the Exchange.**

The efforts of M. Maximos in the United Kingdom and other countries to raise a loan on behalf of the Greek Government would appear to have met with no success, and the Governor of the National Bank is, for the second time, returning to Athens empty-handed. His apparent non-success has already been reflected on the Stock Exchange. On Wednesday last the rate of exchange on London which is fixed by the Committee of the Consortium of Banks, was raised from 66.25 to 69.50, and has since been steadily raised daily. In the free market sterling is quoted to-day at 83.50, whilst in Smyrna one could get as much as 85.50, and there is every tendency for the increase to be maintained..

The Consortium of Banks which was established last June, on the passing of the law regarding the control of the exchange, has, to a certain extent fulfilled some of its objects. It has practically stopped speculation on the Exchange in Athens, which in view of the present situation might have become a serious menace to the nation. In some respects, however, it has failed rather lamentably, inasmuch as balances of foreign currencies abroad have been seriously depleted by constant sales here which had been effected without corresponding purchases, the rate fixed by the Consortium for such purchases being considerably lower than the prices which could be obtained in the free market.

Various rumours, originating from Italian sources, are in circulation here to the effect that either a loan has been raised, or conversely that Great Britain has agreed to pay the balance still outstanding of the £10,000,000 granted to the previous Government. But confirmation of either of these reports is still lacking, and meanwhile the depreciation of the drachma continues.

**General News.**

The Minister of Supplies has prohibited the export of fruit on the ground that this year's production is not sufficient for local consumption.

The Greek Chargé d' Affaires at Berlin has telegraphed to the Government that there is very little demand for Greek tobacco in Germany, the Germans having suddenly developed a great liking for Virginian tobacco. There, is, however, a small demand for Kavalla tobacco.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, September 21.*

**The Bucharest Fair.**

The official opening of the Bucharest Fair took place on September 16 in the presence of Prince Carol, the Cabinet Ministers, the members of the Diplomatic Corps, and other high officials. The town has a festive aspect, and visitors are streaming in from all parts of the country The fair is being held in the Carol Park. The undertaking is well organised, and the products exhibited are worth seeing even by visitors from the Occident.

A British Press delegation, which has recently arrived in this country to study Roumania's economic conditions, has visited the fair. The mission consists of Sir Harry Brittain, M.P., K.B.E., President of the British Press Association, Mr. Leon Gaster, secretary of the association, Mr. Walter Jerrold, author and journalist, and Mr. Walter Lee, economist and journalist.

**The Financial Crisis.**

The sudden rise in the exchange to 492 lei to the £ has had a most alarming effect on the country, and many of the local merchants even favoured a moratorium as it would have meant ruin to a good many of them to be compelled to meet their engagements at such a rate. The danger of the enforcement of a moratorium was recognised, however, and the principal banks, headed by the Banca Nationala, convened a meeting for the purpose of impressing upon the authorities the necessity for measures to support the exchange. They are now drawing up a programme, which it is proposed should be carried out by the State and the banks, the main proposals of which will, it is rumoured, be as follows:—(1) the import of all goods that are not necessary for production and reconstruction to be prohibited; (2) the State's expenses abroad to be reduced by the recall of legations, missions, and delegations that are not absolutely essential; (3) pleasure trips abroad to be prevented; (4) production and the means of transport to be encouraged by every means; (4) freedom of export to be allowed; (5) the State to cease interfering in economic questions, and, in particular, to cease trading on its own account which has only resulted in heavy financial losses and unpleasantness, while discouraging production, an example of which is forthcoming in the decision of the farmers not to plant the cereals which the State specially desires; (6) to arrange to deal with the Roumanian Treasury Bonds in circulation abroad. By carrying out this programme the State will automatically reduce the budget by abolishing many Government offices and posts. The Banks will assist the State by stopping all speculation in the leu, and will also do all in their power to give credit for the imports of goods that are indispensable to the country, and will give the State their utmost financial support whenever needed. Should the Government accept these conditions, the banks and merchants will gladly set aside any idea of a moratorium.

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**Export of Gold.**

The Government has at last decided to allow gold producers to export their available supplies. This privilege has been granted for one month and on condition that the counter-value of the exported gold is paid in lei and imported into the country in order to improve the rate of the lei. The gold in question is, of course, that of private gold mining companies and not of the State mines the latter's stocks still going to the Banca Nationala at the old fixed price. If the private companies had been compelled to dispose of the gold in the country at the price fixed by the State, it would have meant selling below cost of production. The export tax will probably be 22 per cent. *ad valorem*.

**Miscellaneous.**

According to Transylvanian newspapers the export of cattle from that province has proved considerably larger as a result of the abolition of the annoying formalities and greater transport facilities. Three trains daily are now running between Transylvania and Galatz for this purpose. Most of the cattle are destined for Constantinople and Italy.

In view of the very slow progress made in the declarations of capital and income for the new taxes, the Government has been obliged to extend the time for making their returns by another two months, *i.e.*, December 1, for people in the country and December 15, for those abroad.

The town of Bucharest is now floating an internal loan of 100 million lei, which amount is very urgently needed for sanitary and other municipal work. This loan is issued in bonds at 88 lei per cent. redeemable in 60 years and bearing an interest of 3½ per cent. per annum. There will be three prizes yearly.

It is reported that M. Titulescu has been successful in obtaining in Switzerland a loan of 40 million Swiss francs. This money will be used to pay some of the urgent coupons in arrears and also to form a fund to counteract any sudden fluctuations of the lei on the Paris Exchange by buying large amounts of lei at the right moment.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, September* 15.

**Increased Customs Duty.**

Without warning to merchants the Greeks Administration has suddenly applied the old Turkish tariff of 11 per cent. *ad valorem* on all goods passing through the Smyrna Customs House. This tariff entails a considerable increase in the duty on many classes of goods, especially those needed for industrial purposes. For the time being merchants have refused to accept this sudden change in the customs tariff and have appealed to the Allies to insist that proper notice should be given to traders before any change is made in the existing tariff, which has been in operation since 1915. It is a fact that the High Commissioners in Constantinople have approved of the old Turkish Customs tariff being applied "in Turkey" and hence the Greeks are in order, in imposing the increased tariff, although it is natural that merchants should ask for a reasonable period in which to rearrange contracts. The Greeks claim that they have applied the tariff without warning to avoid speculation; but this is small consolation to the trader who suddenly stands to lose several thousands pounds through the change.

It is also announced that an additional duty has been placed on coal of Ps.20 per ton.

*Smyrna, September* 24.

**Application of Tariff.**

Sir Harry Lamb, Representative in Smyrna of the British High Commissioner, has induced the Greek authorities to give one month's notice from September 13 to merchants before applying the 11 per cent. *ad valorem* customs tariff. The Chambers of Commerce are also appealing to him to persuade the Greek authorities not to impose the tariff on goods contracted for before the change was promulgated even if they reach Smyrna after the month's delay.

**Sanitary Restrictions.**

Agents of shipping companies in Smyrna have appealed to the Greek High Commissioner, M. Stergh-lades to put a stop to the vexatious regulations ordered by the sanitary inspector. Coasting steamers arriving at Smyrna after calling at the Port of Adalia have been ordered to undergo 10 days quarantine in the Port of Pireas. A single case of cholera had been reported at Adalia on September 7. The chief cause of complaint is that the sanitary inspector did not advise the agent that such a measure would be enforced against ships calling at Adalia, thus enabling the agents to cable their respective captains to omit calling at the infected port.

## LOCOMOTIVES FOR INDIA.

In pursuance of their expressed policy of making India as far as possible independent of outside sources in the supply of materials for railways, the Government of India have had under consideration the question of the construction of locomotive engines in India, and they are now in a position to give a general undertaking that tenders will be invited annually in India for all the railway locomotive engines and locomotive boilers required by Government during the 12 years commencing with 1923. It is estimated that the average annual requirements of Government will be 160 locomotive engines and 160 additional boilers during 1923 and 1924, and thereafter 400 locomotives and 400 additional boilers. The first tenders will be invited on October 1, 1922.

The following general conditions will be observed:—(*a*) The invitation to tender will be published simultaneously in India and England, and will remain open for at least three months. (*b*) The qualities of the article offered must satisfy in every respect the specifications laid down. (*c*) The prices in the case of tenders made in India must compare not unfavourably with the imported article. (*d*) Tenderers in India must satisfy Government in the earlier years that an appreciable part of the manufacturing will be done in India. This condition may be expected to become gradually more stringent, until eventually tenderers, in order to be successful, will be required to show that they can carry out in their works in India all processes usually carried out in locomotive works in England. (*e*) Government will reserve the right to insist that the proposed sources of supply of parts which cannot be manufactured in India, should be stated in the tender, and should be subject to their approval. (*f*) Government will reserve the right of inspection at any stage of the process of manufacture, both in India and elsewhere. (*g*) Firms receiving orders in India will be expected to provide facilities in their works for the training of Indian technical students, and where such firms have their main works outside India, or are subsidiary companies promoted by or closely connected with firms which have their main works outside India, they will be expected to provide thereat similar facilities for students recommended by the High Commissioner for India in London.

Firms interested in the above announcement are invited to apply for further information to the Secretary, Railway Department, India, or the High Commissioner for India, London.

## COX'S SHIPPING AGENCY LTD.

We are informed that Cox's Shipping Agency Limited, of London, are about to establish a subsidiary company under the style of Cox's Shipping Agency (Roumania), Limited, with a Head Office in Bucharest, and Branches at Braila, Constantza and Galatz.

## "BRITISH CONCESSIONS" IN ALBANIA.

An article in a recent issue of *La Vita Italiana*, entitled "Réalistic Politics: How England conquers Albania," give the clauses of a convention for twenty years, between the Albanian Government and an English Group for Cigarette and Tobacco manufacture. The names of the original beneficiaries of this concession are given as Messrs. Barnes and Wallace.

The clauses of another convention "about to be signed" in favour of the "D'Arcy Exploration Company, Limited" for petroleum, benzine and natural gas are also given.

Messrs. Barnes and Wallace are declared to be treating, in addition to their tobacco concession, for the following:—

(*a*) Exclusive match concession.
(*b*) Exclusive telephonic plant and telegraphic material.
(*c*) Hydro-electric concession.
(*d*) Constitution of a Bank "on the lines of the Persian Bank."
(*e*) Concession for Agricultural undertakings.

Our contemporary suggests that the Consulta is quite ignorant of all these fast ripening Albanian plums. But it is to be noted in this connection that since the writing of this article the Anglo-Italian Convention has been signed.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

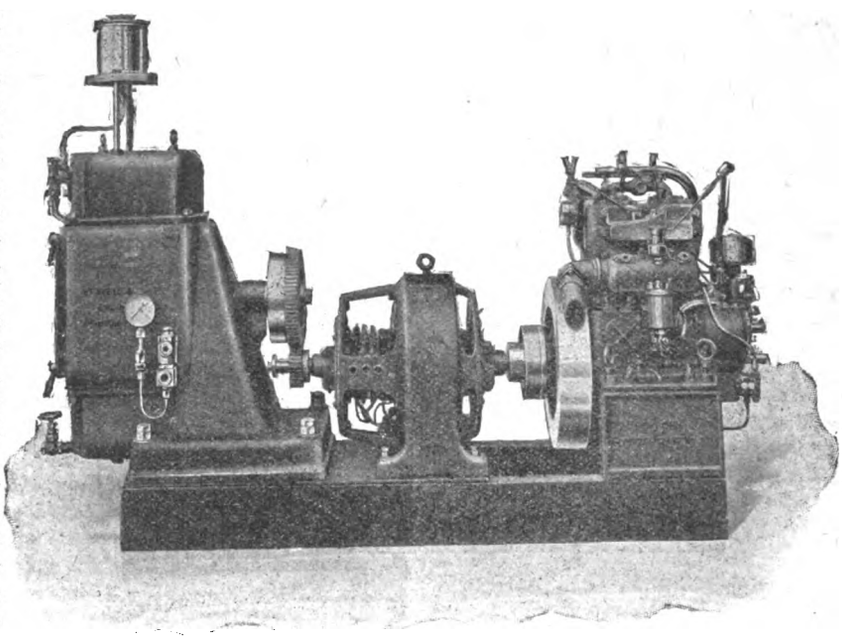
**Brass Fittings.**

The art of producing brass fittings and parts for the engineering trades has now reached a very high stage of development, and in this direction specialization has been carried to as closely approximating a perfect state as possible. We have just had an opportunity of studying a few of the specialities manufactured by that well known British firm, Messrs. United Brassfounders and Engineers, Ltd., who have so large and well-equipped a factory at Cornbrook, near Manchester. This firm pay special attention to the production of all kinds of high grade gun metal valves, cocks, and general steam fittings, plumbers' brass work, sanitary fittings, injectors, ejectors, and general jet appliances, semi-rotary double and quadruple acting &c., pumps, cast-iron stop and sluice valves, cocks and fittings. Of these their range is so extensive that it is to all intents and purposes comprehensive, and I should imagine it would be difficult to find anything of this kind that the firm do not make. I would point out, also, that they are makers of bronze and extruded brass bars stampings and special alloys suitable for all kinds of machine tool and other operations.

**Metal Research.**

Emphasis has always been placed in these columns on the need for scientific research into industrial methods in order to improve efficiency, and a few days ago before an audience of the leading engineers and metallurgists of this country, Mr. F. Adcock explained the direction in which science is now aiding the commercial production of finer and purer metals.

With some of the non-ferrous metals and their alloys, not perhaps so much with zinc and copper as with some of those which are not in such general use, it has not been easy hitherto to make proper microscopic examinations owing to the difficulty of preparing suitable micro-sections. Particularly has this been the case in connection with nickel and copper nickel alloys, nickel silver and certain grades of gun-metal. For this reason an element of uncertainty has always existed in connection with their productions.



14 h.p. Ships Auxiliary Set.

Continued research work, however, has resulted in the discovery that electrolytic methods of etching these metals can be employed and that by this means useful micro-sections of practically any non-ferrous metal or any alloy, can be prepared. The apparatus required is simple and beyond the cost of the necessary electric current, but little expense need be incurred.

**Citric Acid Bath.**

A variety of chemical compounds was tried in the etching bath, ranging from dilute acids to metallic salts and compounds, but it was not until citric acid was tried as an electrolyte that really satisfactory results were obtained. This bath is most successful with silver, copper-nickel, and nickel and silver alloys, and it was noticed that silver and nickel silver specimens which had been comparatively roughly treated during the polishing process often gave clearer etchings than the specimens which had been polished with great care. One of the most amazing discoveries was that certain specimens of silver showed on etching a cell structure of the net work which was not only smaller than the existing crystaline and granular composition of the metal but was in some cases actually independent of it.

A further discovery has been made in this connection, and it has been found that molybdic acid dissolved in excess of an ammonia solution will give somewhat similar results. The use of this solution has revealed a curious network, or subsidiary cell arrangement in brass containing 6 per cent. of aluminium.

Such reagents as hydro-fluoric acid, chronic acid, and bromine water have been used in this new field of scientific research, the investigations into which will probably have a widespread effect on the commercial production of non-ferrous metals.

**A Boiler Installation.**

The new boiler house plant erected in connection with the Wimbledon electricity undertaking consists of two Spearing water tube boilers, each having an actual evaporative capacity of 25,000 lb. of steam per hour at 250 lb. per square inch pressure, with a superheat of 250 degs. Fahr. It is interesting to learn that these boilers are fitted with "Bennis" chain grate stokers and super heaters of the Ferguson type. The gases pass out at the back of each boiler along flues, which converge into a short main flue leading to a steel chimney about 70 feet high. A "Sirocco" motor driven induced draught fan is installed at the base of the chimney, with the usual damper arrangements. An ash tunnel is built beneath the boilers and the flues and this battery of boilers is actually in itself a complete, self-contained steam raising unit.

**Lead and Gun Metal.**

It has not been altogether clear as to whether the addition of lead when the metals were in a molten state to gun metal was actually a detriment, so long as the quantity added was of a reasonable and not an excessive amount. It appears now that the effect of lead on Admiralty gun metal has been studied in a most exhaustive and highly scientific manner. A number of sympathetic alloys have been produced containing gradually increasing proportions of lead up to 1.68 per cent., subject to control as regards compositions, casting temperatures and general conditions. In sand cast gun metal lead gradually increases the strength, and softness of the alloy up to about 1.5 per cent. of lead, but above this proportion causes a decrease in these properties.

In chill-cast gun metal the effect upon the hardness parallels that of the sand cast metal, with a change point at about 1.5 per cent. of lead, but associated with a minimum rather than a maximum strength figure. If the lead is increased the ductility decreases, a result one would hardly expect. It also increases the impact figure of the metal when subjected to a second melting, it being found that metal melted once only gives still more irregular results.

**A Ships Auxiliary Set.**

I referred in my review of the Shipping, Engineering and Machinery Exhibition to the interesting stand of of the Parsons Motor Co., showing among other things a Combined Generating Set, a Marine Set and 14 H.P.

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Ships Auxiliary Plant. The last of these is illustrated on the previous page.

**Humber Prices.**

On several occasions I have dealt in these columns with the merits of the Humber cars, and I hear that important reductions have now been made in the prices for their range of models for 1922. These new prices took effect as from September 19, and it is particularly stated that they are established for the entire 1922 season, a procedure which seems like looking a long way ahead.

The 11.4 h.p. 2-seater with double dickey seat has been reduced from £660 to £595, the 11.4 h.p. 4-seater will be sold at £620; the 11.4 h.p. Coupe with double dickey seat has been brought down for £790 to £725, and a new 11.4 h.p. model, a saloon car, has been added to the Humber range at £750. My especial favourite amongst this firm's productions, the 15.9 h.p. five seater which has hitherto been £950 is now to be sold at £850, and the 15.9 h.p. saloon-de-luxe is now reduced from £1,350 to £1,200.

**Hardness of Metals.**

It appears that certain scientifically based but imperfectly applied tests may have given rise to numerous mistakes, some of which may have had serious results. Metals manufacturers and users generally will await with interest the scientists' reply to the serious charge, for that is what it amounts to, made by Mr. F. S. Tritton, at the annual meeting of the Institute of Metals at Birmingham.

Dealing with that particularly important subject, the hardness of metals, he stated that he had conducted a number of experiments in the use of the scleroscope, an instrument devised for the purpose of testing and ascertaining with absolute exactitude the degree of hardness possessed by the metal tested. In the course of these he had occasion to test a number of small pieces of metal in the laboratory, for hardness and other attributes.

In his opinion the results he obtained were unsatisfactory and he was led to doubt whether the real hardness values of small samples were obtained in spite of the usual precautions taken, to support the specimens in as rigid a manner as possible. He explained that the experiments were undertaken with the view of finding out whether errors existed when the ordinary methods of support were used, and, if so, to find some method of eliminating them.

Errors were detected, from which it would seem that any deductions based upon similar, and similarly conducted, tests in the past must be more or less faulty. The mere suggestion that errors have escaped notice in connection with laboratory and practical hardness tests in the past is disquieting. The definite statement that such errors have existed and passed undetected may necessitate a lengthy series of fresh experiments in order to correct inaccurate data.

To reduce these errors the experimentalist selected two materials, pitch and glucose, for supporting specimens in the scleroscope, a special form of clamp being required when pitch was used. It was said that by the aid of these substances as supports the hardness of materials with curved as well as those with flat surfaces could be readily and exactly tested.

**Geared Diesels.**

Up to the moment very little has been allowed to transpire regarding the new mercantile fleet which Germany is now building up, although sufficient is known to show that German shipowners intend to construct vessels of the most modern and economical type. The Hamburg-America Line, according to the *Motor Ship* has just put into commission a particularly large vessel said to be of 4,000 tons, in which some 6,000 h.p. of Diesel machinery is installed. The statement is made that this is the first time such plant has been utilised, and is no doubt the result of success which has been achieved in reduction gearing in connection with turbine vessels.

Quite a number of advantages are claimed for the new system, about which a good deal is likely to be heard in the near future. We are all aware of the economy in fuel which results from the use of Diesel engines in place of oil-fired furnaces, but it appears that the geared Diesel machinery is much lighter and occupies much less space than any other type of marine propelling plant. I understand that a second and similarly equipped vessel has also been launched at one of the big German yards, and will be completed in the course of a few month months.

**A Huge Motor Ship.**

A short time ago the construction of a 20,000 ton motor ship would have been far too risky a proposition to undertake. Since the armistice, however, progress and development in this direction has been so rapid that no hesitation need now be felt in equipping a vessel of this size with internal combustion engines. So far as my information goes, the first 20,000 ton liner in which such plant will be installed, is the new British trade ship which is to be specially built for exhibition purposes. The intention is that this ship shall make an eighteen months' tour of the world, sailing on her first voyage not later than August, 1923. According to the above-mentioned authority, three Diesel engines, each of 3,000 h.p., will be installed, and in this instance the employment of internal combustion motors offers even greater advantages over steam than in the ordinary cargo ships. Extra space will be rendered available for the goods exhibited, additional cabin accommodation will be provided, no funnels will be needed, and coaling will be entirely eliminated. Moreover, the propelling machinery will represent the very latest developments of modern marine engineering, and as such will be of the utmost interest to visitors at the overseas ports at which the ship will call.

**Detachable Wheels.**

The degree of favour with which wire wheels of the detachable type are regarded was clearly shown in the Paris Motor Show, which opened on October 5th. I noted altogether some 47 makers had fitted their cars with wheels of this type, amongst these being such well-known names as Chenard-Walcker, De Dion, Darracq, Peuggot, Brasier, Delahaye, Ballot, Sizaire Berwick, Panhard and Delage. In addition, the makers who exhibited wheels made under the Rudge-Whitworth detachable wire wheel patents included such firms as Rolls-Royce, Sizaire, Charron, Delaunay, Hotchkiss and Hispano Suiza. It would seem that it would be only a matter of time before all makers fall into line in this matter of standardising road wheels.

**FOREIGN EXCHANGES.**

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange. | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria ... | Piastres to £..... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens ..... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 77.50-78.50 |
| Belgrade ..... | Dinars to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 197 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £..... | 22.43 | 420-440 |
| Bombay..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.5½-1.5.9-16 |
| Bucharest .... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 400-420 |
| Calcutta..... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.5½-1.59-16 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £..... | 110 | 620-640 |
| New York ... | Dollars to £ ..... | 42.86 2-3 | 3,72-3.73 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £..... | 25.22½ | 51.90 52.30 |
| Prague ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 340-370 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25,22½ | 93.00-95.00 |
| Sofia..... | Levas to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 525-575 |
| Teheran ..... | Krans to £..... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna ..... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 5,000-5,600 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 20,000-25,000 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**GERMAN MARKS OVER 400 TO THE £**

**Has the Depreciation of the German Mark come to an end.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.—Exclusive information on the present position of GERMAN MARKS and an indication as to the future price movements. (Highest last year, 353—lowest, 147), together with CABLE INFORMATION FROM OUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE NOW IN FRANKFURT A-MAINE can be obtained free of charge by Investors writing to the:—

**Foreign Exchange Department,**
**THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,**
**Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London S.W 1.**

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## HAIFA : REPORTED CONTRACT.

The report that Messrs. S. Pearson and Co., the well-known firm of contractors, who have many great undertakings to their credit, have been granted a contract for the construction of harbour works at Haifa lacks confirmation as yet. A representative of "The Near East" was informed that the firm had heard nothing of the report, though it was admitted that this did not necessarily invalidate its accuracy.

## CONDITIONS AT BUSREH.

The following particulars are taken from the recently-issued Administrative Report of the Port Directorate, Busreh, for the two years ended March 21 last :—

The Port of Busreh is very convenient for the handling of ships. The river is of uniform ample depth, and the width in the vicinity of the wharves allows the largest ships likely to visit the port for some time to turn round. The current is moderate and adequate facilities exist for landing goods and mooring ocean craft. Some transit sheds have been constructed and others are in the process of construction. Adequate safe storage for petrol and petroleum has been provided and dangerous fuel is stored at some distance from the wharves.

The Port has abandoned stevedoring work on privately owned steamers, and local agents make their own arrangements to stevedore their ships, and when necessary import their own labour for this purpose. It is understood that the Port is able to quote an "all in" rate of Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 per ton for the landing, storage and delivery into rail or barge of up-river cargo. For this charge three weeks' free storage is provided. Shipping firms can, however, hire out sections of the transhipment cargo sheds at a monthly rental, if they prefer it.

The Port Director has the power to order any sea-going vessel within the port to come alongside any wharf, pier, etc., within the port in order to land or ship cargo, and he may also direct that no goods shall be landed or shipped from or in any sea-going vessel within the port, except to and from such wharves, piers, etc., as he may determine. So far as the funds at his disposal will allow the Port Director provides and maintains wharves, piers, warehouses, etc., and he is not bound to land, ship, or move any single article exceeding 35 cwt.. in weight, except at special rates. He may permit goods to be landed and shipped by other than his own servants, subject to special agreement with the masters of vessels, agents or owners of goods. Commercial goods can be conveyed direct up country from the wharve either by railway or by river craft.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended August 31, amounted to £E10,835. For the corresponding period of last year, receipts amounted to £E14,900.


**ANCHOR LINE**

**First-Class Passengers only.**

**LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.**

**KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt**

**LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.**
**FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.**
**RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.**

**PASSENGER SAILING DATES—**
**ELYSIA, OCTOBER, 19,**
**CIRCASSIA, NOVEMBER, 2,**
**OLYMPIA, NOVEMBER 18.**
**SCIUDIA, NOVEMBER 30.**
**CASTALIA JANUARY 6**
**MASSILIA, JANUARY 20,**

**Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,**
**16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.**


## NOTES FROM SMYRNA.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Smyrna, September 23.*

The strike of stevedores in Smyrna Port only lasted one day owing to the efficacious intervention of the Captain of the port. The men claimed double pay for each day's work or to be paid at the usual rate for days on which there was no work. Their claim was not entertained by the shipping agencies and the strike collapsed.

The United Chambers of Commerce in Smyrna have succeeded in obtaining a reduction in landing, loading, and stevedore charges at the port of Smyrna equal to about six shillings per ton.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses* :—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 11).

*Anchor Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, October 8); s.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 12); s.s Malia for Calcutta (Manchester, November 5); s.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 5); s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 19).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon, (London, October 12 and Birkenhead, October 26); s.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 12).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Broughton for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 15); a steamer will sail from Liverpool on October 28, for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan MacNair for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 19); s.s. Clan MacNaughton for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 20).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Brescia for Ceuta, Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk and Batoum (Glasgow, November 3).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Asturian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, October 8).

*Ellermans "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 15); s.s. City of Harvard for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, October 22); s.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 3).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of Palermo for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, October 15).

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 20); s.s.—Glenavy for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, November 3).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Diplomat for Calcutta (Liverpool, October 15).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Bhamo for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 19).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Pomaron for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 12); s.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 22); s.s. Peruviana for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, November 5)

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Sitra for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Piraeus, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina, (Liverpool, October 15).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, October 22).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 13); s.s. Kaisar-I-Hind for Bombay (London, October 14); s.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, October 21);

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*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 7); s.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 14); s.s. Neuralia for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 21); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 28); s.s. Merkara for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 4).

## SHIPPING DIRECTOR'S RETIREMENT.

The retirement is announced of Mr. William Miles Moss, managing director of the well-known Liverpool shipping firm of Messrs. James Moss and Co. The association of Mr. Moss with the concern has extended over a period of 37 years, during which he has made many friends in this country and the Near East, who will regret to hear of his severance from business life. Mr. Walter Harding who has been a co-director with Mr. Moss for many years, has been appointed to the position thus vacated.

Mr. Moss, who is an ex-Chairman of the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association, has played an important part in the development of the Mersey port, having been actively identified with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, of which body he has been a member for 16 years. He has, however, relinquished his position with the Board, and is now resident in Hampshire.

## SIDKY PASHA IN MANCHESTER.

On the occasion of the banquet given in honour of Sidky Pasha and Shefeek Pasha during their recent visit to Manchester by the Egyptian section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, at which Mr. T. E. Casdagli presided, an Arabic address of welcome was read by Mr. J. Jebara, honorary secretary of the section.

The following is a translation of the address :—

"It is with much pleasure that I extend to you, on behalf of all our members, our warm welcome, on the occasion of your visit to our city. It give me also a special pleasure to address you in your beloved Arabic language. I believe this is the first time that any Egyptian Ministers have paid a visit to our city which is the greatest industrial centre of the United Kingdom, and I feel certain that such visits tend to improve the commercial relations of the two countries, as the best means of furthering business undertakings are the exchange of personal visits, personal acquaintance, and mutual confidence.

We know of your Excellencies' influence, and your presence in our city to-day is a guarantee of the deep interest you both take in Egyptian commerce generally and Manchester trade with Egypt in particular. Knowing this, we are entitled to look to the future with full confidence. You know as well as we do that the mainstay of a country's finance is the furtherance of its commerce. On this point, you and we have an undoubted community of interest. Further, it is admitted on all hands that the first condition of a prosperous trade is confidence, and to create this confidence there must be general safety and peace as well as laws by which the rights of men are safeguarded, along with the sanctity of commercial morality.

The magnitude of the present commercial relations between us is a proof of the existence of mutual confidence, and we cherish the hope that, through the personal efforts of your Excellencies, we shall have, in the near future, still closer bonds based on the unassailable foundations of an even fuller mutual confidence, so beneficial to the welfare of the two countries.

## BENGAL IRON.

The net profit of the Bengal Iron Company for the year ended March 31, 1921, including £8,157 brought forward, was £318,710, less depreciation and colliery sinking fund £28,264, transfer to taxation reserve £54,000, to general reserve £16,168, preference dividends £37,496, leaving £182,781. The directors recommend a 10 per cent. divided on Ordinary shares, subject to tax at 3s. 7d. carrying forward £25,378. Floods on railways interfered severely with supplies of raw material during the last six months of 1920 and caused a large reduction in output. The completion of new blast furnace has been delayed, but the work is well in hand, and it is expected that the furnace will be in blast early in 1922. Works are still well employed, but the fall in price has tended to make customers hold back their orders. Meeting, Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., Oct., 13. noon.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts and must be made by the dates mentioned.*

(*Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.*)

**Egypt.**

Timber.—H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt has forwarded specification and copy of the conditions of tender for the supply of the undermentioned timber required by the Ports and Lighthouses Administration of the Egyptian Government at Alexandria:—100 pieces of beech, 16 ft. x 4 in. x 4 in. 10 pieces of elm, 20 ft. x 12 in. x 12 in. 10 pieces of ash, 20 ft. x 12 in. x 8 in. 10 pieces of teak, 20 ft. x 12 in. x 12 in. 4 pieces of jarrah, 20 ft. x 12 in. x 12 in. 4 pieces of jarrah, 20 ft. x 12 in. x 6 in. 2 pieces of lignum vitae, 6 ft. x 12 in. diameter. October 5 (D.O.T.)

Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Cairo Tanzim Department, Ministry of Public Works, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery for Giza, Gezireh, and Agouza Waterworks. October 15.

Paper etc.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery. December 15.

**India.**

Copper Wire.—The East Indian Railway Company invites tenders for the supply and delivery of bare copper strip and wire, October 5.

**Yugoslavia.**

Indiarubber Covers.—The Artillery Section of the Ministry of War and Marine, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of the following articles :—

270 indiarubber covers for one ton automobiles marked "Berliet," dimensions 940 x 130. 400 indiarubber covers for three tons automobiles marked "Berliet," dimensions 1,000 x 130. 100 indiarubber covers for automobiles marked "Paccard" dimensions 34 x 3½ or 1715 x 100. 120 indiarubber cover for two ton automobiles marked "Paccard" dimensions 34 x 3½ or 715 x 100. 40 indiarubber covers for two ton automobiles marked "Garford," dimensions 36 x 4. 120 indiarubber covers for two ton automobiles marked "Garford," dimensions 36 x 7. 12 indiarubber covers for two ton automobiles marked "Tracteur Latil," dimensions 1,000 x 140. Four indiarubber covers 37 x 6 for moving workshops.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Banque Franco-Serbe, 30 Coleman Street, E.C.2. Tenders close October 22.

**Roumania.**

Sacks.—The Roumanian Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of 250,000 sacks. The fibre to be of hemp or Calcutta jute. The number of threads by square centimetres to be :—6—7 in warp, 5—6 in woof. Resistance :—In warp 90 Kgrs; In woof 60 Kgrs. Elasticity :—In warp 11—14 mm. In woof 10—11 mm. Size of sack :—Length, 1.m. 10cm. Width, 0m 70cm. Weight of sack—¾ kilo 100 gr.—1 kilo 200 gr. The sacks to be made of a single piece, the sides of which should be sewed with very strong hemp or jute thread and the top hemmed. All tenders, which should be addressed to "Inspectoratul Technical Intendentei, Cala Grivitei, 28, Bucharest," must be accompanied by samples and a bank guarantee of 100 per cent. of the total value of the tenders to be returned to firms whose tenders are not accepted. October 15.

Pipe Line Construction.—In connection with the laying of a pipe line, 26 kilometres in length, for the supply of natural gas to the town of Targul-Mures in Transylvania. H.M. Consul at Cluj has received from the Engineer in charge of the scheme a statement of the material which will be required. This includes : 8,000 metres Mannesmann steel pipe; 21,600 metres steel pipes of various diameters; 17,700 metres drilling tubes of various diameters; 15,000 kilogrammes steel for hand tools; 40,000 metres galvanised iron or copper wire. Various valves and fittings; spades, shovels, mattocks; also tools for two iron workshops and two mechanical workshops; 500 metres camel hair belting pulleys, etc. Quotations for the supply of this material are desired from United Kingdom firms who would be prepared to grant a long credit of three or more years. (D.O.T.).

## TENDERS FOR PUBLIC WORKS IN MOROCCO.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that the question of public adjudications was discussed at a recent meeting of the Counseil de Gouvernement, when the Casablanca Chamber of Commerce drew attention to the practice of certain contractors of undertaking work which they were incapable of completing, with the result that it was left to the State to finish the work. The question has been studied by the Public Works Department and instructions have been given that in future, the guarantee exacted should be in proportion to the importance of the work to be executed, and that a stricter examination of the certificates presented by the contractors should take place.

The directors of the National Bank of India have appointed Mr. Charles Nicoll, the London manager, to succeed the late Mr. H. Chalmers as general manager of the bank, and Mr. James Young Munro inspector of branches, to be London manager.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Coffee.—The market has been firm. Costa Rica is unchanged at 122s.; and Indian is the same at 110s. Nairobi at 104s. is the same, but Jamaica has gained 10s. at 140s. Futures are :—December, 50s. 6d.; March, 51s. 3d.; and May, 52s. 3d.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair demand at the official rates. White Mauritius at 48s. and Czecho-Slovakian at 23s. 6d. are unchanged. Other transactions include West Indian crystallized at 40s. to 46s., White Java at 51s., and beet sugar at 121s.

Oilseeds.—All prices are lower. Indian linseed at 17s. 6d. has dropped 4s. 3d. and La Plata at 17s. 1½d. has shed 7½d. Rapeseed is lower with Toria at 20s. 6d., bold Ferozepore 21s., and brown Cawnpore at 20s., decreases of 1s. 6d.; 3d., and 3d., respectively. Indian cottonseed is 1½d. down at 11s. 4½d., and Egyptian black has lost 3d. at 14s. 9d.

Seed Oils.—Prices are unsteady. Linseed oil is 3s. 9d. down at 31s. 6d. Cotton oil is variable with common edible at 54s.; 1s. down, while Egyptian crude at 48s., and deodorized at 63s. are 9d. and 1s. up respectively.

Oilcakes.—Business has been dull. Linseed cake is 1s. down at 320s.; finest Arachis cake is 14s. up at 310s.; and London-made cottonseed cake is 10s. down at 210s.

## SUDAN NOTES.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Khartoum, September 5.*

Information from Kassala is to the effect that the Gash flood has so far been exceptionally weak. No big spates have come down, and the flow has on several occasions during the month been reduced to a mere trickle. In consequence there has been great difficulty in filling the Feddadin Canal.

News comes from Darfur Province that rains in the capital (El Fasher) have been much below average. This however is set off against the cheering reports from outlying districts, where the rainfall is stated to be sufficient and all crops doing well. There has been a distinct revival of the cattle trade with Wadai (French Military Zone), some 240 head of cattle and 420 sheep having reached El Fasher from there during the month under review. Livestock prices averaged PT 300. for cattle, PT 48. for sheep, PT 220. for donkeys, PT 962. for camels, and PT 28. for goats. There has been considerable activity on the part of the Public Works Department in connection with the completion of new Government buildings, the Zaptia and Mudirieh being very nearly finished.

Reports on the cultivation in Kassala Province are promising as also from Kordofan with the exception of the Nuba Jebels of Rahad District where the maraig crops have suffered severely from the depredations of rats. The southern maize crop in the Fung Province is stated to be in excellent condition. Sesame crops are stated to be good, and dhurrah fair but showing signs of improvement.

## NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended September 17 amounted to £13,578.

A new branch of the Crédit Foncier d'Algérie et de Tunisie has been opened at Castiglione (Algeria).

It is understood that the tractor trials, which were to have been held at Constantinople this month, have been postponed until May of next year.

H.M. Consul-General at Algiers announces that the export from Algeria to all destinations, except France, of sheep, cattle, horses, mules and donkeys has been prohibited, except under licence.

It is reported that the *Idea Nazionale* is raising a protest because British companies have obtained or are trying to negotiate for the exploitation of Albanian tobacco, matches, oil, electrical and telegraphic installations, banks and agricultural concessions.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

City marchant proceeding to Roumania, Greece, Turkey, etc., in order to dispose of large consignments shipped by his firm is prepared to undertake for others the disposal of stocks available in these countries, or the sale of goods shipped on consignment. Good outlet assured for Textiles, Hardware, Produce, etc. Will interested Merchants, Bankers, Liquidators, communicate with Box 188, "*The Near East*," 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report under date September 19 :—Since writing our last report of August 13, our market has been fairly active for Continental markets; the total sales amounting to 146 cases at prices ranging from 8s. 6d. to 11s. as to quality and exchange rates. Our exchange last month oscillated from 550 to about 570 piastres per pound sterling, and from 0.75 to 0.67 dollars for one Turkish pound, and to-day it is Ps. 616 for sterling cheque, and 0.60 for the dollar. With those extraordinary big fluctuations firm offers are impossible unless the shipper decides to run the chance of either gaining a handsome profit or sustaining heavy losses. The arrivals are 360 cases against 301 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 1272 cases.

## LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for August :—

A series of disastrous fires broke out during the month, the biggest being at Scutari, where it is estimated that about 1,000 houses were destroyed. Most of these houses were built of wood, and this, coupled with the fact that there was a strong wind blowing from the North at the time, accounts for the enormous loss of property. The lack of water and proper fire fighting appliances also contributed to this disaster. In view of the almost daily occurrence of fires in this city, it is to be regretted that the Municipality is unable to provide efficient material to combat these conflagrations. It is understood, however, that this question is at last going to be gone into and, provided the necessary sanction from the Allied Finance Commission is forthcoming, it is proposed to raise the tax on house property in order to defray expenditure entailed in the buying of new fire engines.

**Produce.**

Flour.—The total imports for the month were as follows :—130,000 sacks from the United States, 40,000 sacks from Egypt, 10,000 sacks from Bulgaria ; Total 180,000 sacks. Of this 4,000 sacks were re-exported to Batoum and the Sea of Marmora. Most of this flour was of second and third grade quality. In addition to the above, between 1,700 and 2,000 tons of wheat were imported, as it is cheaper to import wheat and mill it locally, in view of the relatively higher duty which has to be paid on flour.

It is estimated that this stock is sufficient for local requirements for a period of 25 days, calculating a daily consumption of 5,600 sacks of 63 kgs. each.

Barley.—Information from Roumania indicates that the harvest has not been so favourable as was expected and it is reported that a new tax has been imposed on cereals, whereby any person wishing to export has to sell to the Government an equal amount of the quantity exported, at a fixed maximum price. The figure for Roumanian barley was 7½ piastres per oke f.o.b. Roumanian ports. Prices from the United Kingdom and the Continent are low and render business difficult on account of the exchange. The local price closed at 9-9½ piastres per oke.

Sugar.—Imports were 7,000-7,500 tons from Holland and the United States at £30-32 ton c.i.f. 2,000-2,500 tons were exported to Bulgaria and Batoum. Closing price at the end of August £27-29, according to quality. Owing to heavy arrivals, prices have dropped below those ruling in the producing centres and for a month or so, no new orders will be placed which may improve prices. Stocks on hand 5,500-6,000 tons. It is estimated that the daily consumption of sugar in this city is 59,500 kgs.

Rice.—3,150 tons arrived from Burma, Saigon and U.S.A. Exports amounted to 2,500-3,000 tons, chiefly to Roumania and some to the Black Sea. After a sharp advance, prices began to drop on account of fairly big arrivals. Stocks are about 800-900 tons The daily consumption of rice in Constantinople is estimated at 35,000 kgs., which gives a stock for 25 days.

Coffee.—1,500-2,000 bags were imported from Brazil, Rio Rio and Santos and 1,000 bags were sent to Bulgaria and Roumania. The stocks on the market are very small.

**Dried Fruits.**

Raisins.—As has been feared, the drought has caused considerable damage and the crop is now estimated at 500 to 550,000 quintals. Arrivals for the month amounted to 18,000 bags or 50,000 quintals. 12,000 bags which are equivalent to 30 to 35,000 quintals, were exported, most of them going to Liverpool. Very high prices were realised for early lots, as much as Piastres 85 per oke. being paid, but towards the end of the month, a heavy fall occurred and quotations are now from piastres 50 to 70.

A railway train, consisting of 33 coaches and containing samples of Czecho-Slovak industrial products, will leave Prague on October 10 for a two months' tour of Roumania, Bulgaria, and Poland.

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## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 26, 1921 :—September 19—Moderate rain has fallen in Gujerat and extreme North. Monsoon strengthened in South Burma. September 20 to 24—Widespread rain has fallen in United Province of Agra and Oudh and South East Punjab. Monsoon very weak in Peninsula. September 25—Strengthened in North East India and Peninsula. The figures of rainfall from June 1 to August 31 for different tracts in India show that the total fall in every tract has been normal except in South East Madras, Kashmir, the North West Frontier Provinces, South West Punjab and Sind, where the fall has been more than 20 per cent. in excess of the normal. Only in Eastern Rajputana had there been a deficit exceeding 20 per cent. of the normal, viz., a total fall of 13.3 inches as compared with an average of 17.5 General reports throughout September have continued to be good. Very satisfactory crops now seem assured throughout India and Burma. September 24—Punjab Crops generally improved by rain but too much in some places. Probably area to be sown with wheat and grain will now be about normal. Central Provinces—unchanged. Assam—sugarcane, tea and cotton normal. Autumn rice poor, winter rice excellent Bombay cotton market, September 22—firm. Oomras Rs. 516 September 21 ; Rs. 459 December-January. Cotton arrival September 1 to 16, 59,000 bales, as compared with 23,000 bales in corresponding period of last year. In Bombay piece-goods market, retail demand slightly more active, particularly in white staples. Local goods improved. Calcutta jute market on September 23, quiet but steady. September 24—Hessians fairly steady. Heavy goods quiet but steady. T.N. Shellac Rs. 142 sellers. At the tea sale on September 20 fewer Assams and Darjeelings and selection less attractive. Prices generally unchanged. Keen competition for good liquoring kinds, but plain medium kinds sold slowly. 201,535 packages sold to date at average price of nine annas per lb. Special rice, September 23—Rs. 635. Agra-Ajmer-Karachi railway survey by Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company sanctioned with a view to investigate possibilities of aligning proposed Agra-Karachi Broad Gauge Connection Railway through Ajmer. No change in bank rates.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon : (Continental), 159s. cwt. ; (Canadian), 125s. cwt. ; (American), 101s. 6d. cwt. ; butter : (Danish), 228s. cwt. ; (Australian), 200s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 220s. cwt. ; cheese : (Canadian), 106s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 98s. cwt. ; lard, 92s. 6d. cwt. ; eggs : (Danish), 25s. 9d. per 120 ; (Styrian), 10s. 6d. per 120 ; chillies, 155s. cwt. ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3d. lb. ; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 86s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee : (Costa Rica), 144s. 6d. cwt. ; (East India), 140s. cwt. ; (Central America) 120s. cwt. ; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt. ; (Mocha longberry), 113s. 6d. cwt. ; (Santos, superior), 65s. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 50s. 3d. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb. ; pepper : (Singapore, black), 4d. lb. ; (Muntok white), 9d. lb. ; pimento, 2½d. lb. ; raisins (Valencias), 142s. 6d. cwt. ; sultanas (Smyrna), 125s. cwt. ; currants : (Vostizza), 71s. 6d. cwt. ; (Calamata), 46s. 6d. cwt. ; sugar : (Tate's cubes), 57s. 9d. cwt. ; (Lyle's granulated), 52s. 7½d. cwt. ; (Mauritius crystals), 48s. 6d. cwt. ; (West India crystallized), 44s. 3d. cwt. ; (Centrifugal), 18s. 3d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour, 17s. 3d. cwt. ; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 22s. 3d. cwt. ; rice (bran Rangoon), £8 12s. 6d. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 1½d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb. ; Tea : (Indian common to good common), 10d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 5d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 5d. lb. ; Ceylon (Common to good common), 10½d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 5d. lb. ; (fine to finest) 2s. 7½d. lb. ; Java (Common to good common), 6d. lb. ; wheat : (English white), 60s. qr. ; (La Plata), 82s. qr. ; (Australian), 73s. 9d. qr. ; barley (malting), 75s. qr. ; barley (feeding), 40s. qr. ; oats (English), 33s. 3d. qr. ; oats (La Plata), 28s. qr. ; maize (mixed American), 37s. 3d. qr. ; maize (La Plata), 36s. 3d. qr. ; flour, 53s. 9d. qr.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £120 10s. ton ; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton ; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £97 16s. 3d. ton ; copper (electro), £73 ton ; gold bars, 110s. 10d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 125s. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 100s. ton ; galvanized sheets (24G), £19 5s. ton ; lead (soft foreign), £22 12s. 6d. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit ; molybdenite, 41s. 3d. unit ; nickel, £190 ton ; platinum, 365s. oz. ; plumbago, £20 ton ; quicksilver, £10 3s. 9d. ton ; silver bars, 40¾d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 11s. 3d. ton ; tin (standard), £156 6s. 3d. ton ; tin plates (20 by 14), 21s. 6d. box. ; wolfram, 13s. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 66s. cwt. ; oxalic, 8½d. lb. ; citric, 2s. 4½d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 5½d. lb. ; ammonia (sulphate), £13 11s. 6d ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £31 5s. ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £16 10s. ton ; borax crystals, 30s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 127s. 6d. cwt. ; Potassium : Bi-chromate, 8¾d. lb. ; chlorate, 5d. lb. ; caustic, £30 10s. ton ; nitrate, £48 10s. ton ; permanganate, 11½d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.), £17 ton. Sodium : Crystals, 141s. 3d. ton ; bi-carbonate, £12 5s. ton ; bi-chromate, 7d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 5s. ton ; chlorate, 4d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 10s. ton ; hyposulphite, £17 ton ; prussiate, 7¾d. lb. ; nitrate, £17 17s. 6d. ton ; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton ; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.) £110 ton ; lemon oil 3s. 10½d. lb. ; quinine, 4s. 0½d. lb. ; red lead, £39 15s. ton ; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton ; white ground lead, £53 2s. 6d. ton ; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron, 117s. 6d. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 10¾d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 10¾d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 10¾d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 10¼d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 8,3-8d. lb. ; (second), 90 lbs. and up 9¼d. lb. 80 to 89 lbs., 9,3-8d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 9¼d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 8¾d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6,7-8d. lb. ; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up 8¼d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 8¼d. lb. ; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 6¾d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under 6¼d. lb. ; bulls (first), 5,3-8d. lb. ; (second), 4¼d. lb. ; Kips (first), 6,7-8d. lb. ; (second), 5,7-8d. lb. ; (third), 3,7-8d. lb. Calcutta market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic hides (cows) : Agras, 8 to 13 ; Durbhangas, 5.8 to 6.8 ; Patnás, 4.8 to 5.8. Salted cows, 3 to 6.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo) : 3 to 5. Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. ; goat, 250 to 285 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American) 15.27d. lb. ; cotton (American Sakel), 25.87d. lb. ; Oilseeds : Linseed (La Plata), £17 2s. 6d. ton ; rape (Toria), £22 ton ; soya beans, £15 15s. ton ; palm kernals, £22 6s. 3d. ton ; sesame seed (China), £31 13s. ton ; Oils : Linseed, £34 2s. 6d. ton ; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton ; palm £43 2s. 6d. ton ; rape (crude), £54 10s. ton ; soya, £44 10s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon), £53 10s. ton ; cotton (crude), £48 10s. ton ; ground nut, £55 ton ; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; fuel oil (ex tank), £3 15s. ton ; Shellac (T.N. second orange), 327s. 6d. cwt. ; (A.C. garnet), 287s. 6d. cwt. ; rosin (American), 20s 4½d. cwt. ; turpentine (American), 67s. 9d. cwt. Rubber : Plantation No. 1 crepe, 9¼d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 9¼d. lb. ; fine hard Para, 1s. ¾d. lb.

## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st July, 1921, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each.) | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund : | |
| Statutory Reserve | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve | 585,000 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | 11,873,911 |
| Mixed Tribunals | 1,712,370 |
| Egyptian Government | 429,238 |
| Bankers Accounts | 663,279 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | 228,707 |
| Sundry other Accounts | 1,040,527 |
| | £E20,920,532 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | | 6,353,181 |
| Sundry Securities | | 214,976 |
| Advances on Merchandise | | 1,083,383 |
| Advances on Securities | | 1,851,664 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | | 556,973 |
| Sundry other Advances | | 1,452,123 |
| Bills of Exchange | | 442,541 |
| Local Bills Discounted | | 238,835 |
| Buildings and Furniture | | 240,053 |
| Money at call and at short notice | | 1,402,500 |
| Bankers Accounts | | 915,952 |
| Sudan Government | | 18,099 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 511,299 |
| Egyptian Government | | 4,065,433 |
| Cash : | | |
| Notes | 1,276,726 | |
| Gold | 29,771 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. | 201,023 | |
| | | 1,507,520 |
| | | £E20,920,532 |

### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Notes Issued | | 31,400,000 |
| Gold | 3,339,573 | |
| British Treasury Bills | 12,360,427 | |
| | | 15,700,000 |
| Securities : | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | 379,394 | |
| British Treasury Bills & National War Bonds | 15,320,606 | |
| | | 15,700,000 |
| | | £E31,400,000 |

By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of 30th October 1916.)

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Stamboul, September 10.

There is no improvement to record in the market position. The stagnation continues ; consignments to Roumania have notably decreased owing to the pronounced depreciation of the leu. Those made to Batoum have equally diminished because of the dues levied by the local authorities on imports of merchandise. The marked strength of sterling during the month is increasing the embarrassment of traders.

Manufactures are recovering in countries of manufacture following the great rise in the price of cotton which has risen from 8d. to 15d. per lb. in the space of twelve days. This rise has not had an effect on cotton goods here up to the present owing to the fact that the demand is almost nil, and that there are numerous importers who are pressed to realise.

*Produce.*—Sugar.—The European markets remain quiet with insignificant transactions. Buyers, foreseeing a new fall, are maintaining an attitude of reserve. Everywhere the new crop is reported to be abundant. Our market, owing to the lack of outlets, remains quiet. There have been some unimportant transactions. There is no demand for Roumania or Bulgaria as a result of the depreciation of the exchange. The arrivals of the week are 350 wagons, three-fourths of which have had to be warehoused. Stocks here amount to about 800 wagons. Prices are :—American, prompt shipment, 9.80 dollars per 100 kilos ; Dutch, prompt shipment, £30-31 per ton ; here (in transit) American £27 10s. per ton ; Dutch £29 per ton ; in Customs £T27 per 100 kilos.

Haifa.

A report dated September 2, states :—The results of the crop are far from being satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality. Although the area of land sown was greater than that of the previous year, agriculturists have obtained poor results. The causes of this are (1) the great heat that began towards the end of the spring (2) the appearance in the plains of Galilee of field rats who destroyed a great part of the crop.

The first arrivals of wheat, lentils, barley etc., besides being far from abundant have not given rise to important transactions in view of the monetary stringency, and the prices of these commodities though below those of previous seasons, are yet above those obtaining abroad. It follows that this market is in a state of complete stagnation. There have been no exports except some isolated consignments of wheat and barley to Syria and Cyprus, where prices have of late been a little higher. Prices here per 100 kilos are as follows for the principal products of this region :—Wheat £2, barley, 18s. 6d., beans 21s. 4d., lentils, 27s. 10d., vetches, 28s. 8d., chick peas 25s. 3d. sesame £4. The tendency is for these prices to rise.

Imports from Europe and Egypt are strictly limited to the needs of the country. During August there have been large arrivals from Trieste, France, etc., of construction material, which is in great demand in view of the great numbers of new buildings necessitated by the housing crisis in this town.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**FOUNDED 1863.**

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**
**Reserve - £1,250,000**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.
Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Sub-Directors.
J. UNGAR
DJEVAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

**GENERAL COMMITTEE.**

**LONDON.**

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALY.
GEORGES HEINE.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
LE COMTE PILLET-WILL.
FELIX VERNES.

## London Office : 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager : E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary : R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager : W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS :**
7, Rue Meyerbeer.

**MANCHESTER :**
50/60 Cross Street.

**MARSEILLES :**
41-43, Rue Grignan.

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

**EGYPT.**
Alexandria. Cairo.
Mansourah. Minieh.
Port Said.

**PALESTINE.**
Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
Caiffa.

**CYPRUS.**
Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

**SYRIA.**
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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Manchester, Saturday.*

The tone of the market during the past week has been better than for some time back, and throughout the market a feeling of optimism now prevails with regard to future developments. Of course any progress towards better times will naturally be slow, but the opinion is held by the majority of traders that before very long we ought to experience a period of greater activity. Most manufacturers have increased their prices in sympathy with the rise in raw cotton rates, and the higher values in some instances are to a certain extent checking developments. With regard to cloth the demand for Egypt and the other outlets of the Near East has kept up very well, and although the sales have not been what might be termed satisfactory the turnover has brought relief to many traders. In the yarn section Bolton spinnings have hardened somewhat in quotation, and buying has been of a hand to mouth variety. Shippers to India have reported a disappointing request in piece goods but a little more inquiry has been received from Madras. The political situation out there is still very disturbing. Buyers for China have operated more freely, and some encouraging sales have taken place in a variety of fabrics. In some instances goods shipped out there have been sent straight to the up country districts. South American advices have been a little better. Quotations for American counts have hardened somewhat. Buyers generally have not been prepared to pay the increased prices, and on the whole transactions have not been of any weight.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 29 :—Another week of good enquiries and big sales has been witnessed. Fully Good Fair to Good Sakel has been largely in request, and Tokar and Sudan cotton have once again received considerable support. Brown and Uppers have been comparatively neglected, and quotations of the latter show signs of widening out as compared with those of the finer stapled qualities. C.i.f. business has been quiet, and spinners, as yet, seem in no hurry to book ahead. Possibly, they will change their views before long, as the most recent crop reports are far from satisfactory. It would seem, however, for the present, that, until manufacturers are in a position to meet spinners on the basis of the recent advance, we can only expect a continuance of the hand-to-mouth purchasing to which we have now become so accustomed.

Manchester reports vary, but, on the whole, speak of a fairly general improvement, and are distinctly more hopeful. Two factors which will bear very directly on the course of events in the near future are (a) first picking reports from Egypt ; (b) the figure of condition (of the American crop) which will be issued by the Washington Agricultural Bureau on Monday next, the 3rd October. With regard to the first, we have to-day received the following cable from Alexandria :—" Result first picking less satisfactory than expected. Deterioration crop very pronounced many districts and yield will suffer considerably. Owing disaster Fayoum Province Upper Egypt crop expected only about million kantars." With regard to the second, the figure is anticipated variously, but is generally expected to be below 40 per cent.

If this is confirmed, the attention of spinners of American staple cotton will be directed more than ever towards the Egyptian crop. A large quantity of the Tokar cotton which changed hands during the last week or two has already gone in this direction. Holders of Tokar cotton show a disposition to withdraw their cotton from the market. We can only repeat what we said last week on this subject. There is a large stock of this cotton here, and the enquiry for it comes but seldom. Some of the lots now being pushed for sale in the neighbourhood of 18.00*d*. went through the boom year. At one time the paper profit to the holders must have been enormous, but there was no enquiry, and a considerable quantity of this cotton is still unsold at the present day ! As we write, we see no reason for anticipating any drop in prices, and the indications are rather the other way. Still, it is well to remember that the trade has not yet accorded its support to any large extent, and it is extremely difficult to predict when it is likely to do so. Total sales, 7,500 bales (includes 3,250 bales Sudan). Quotations show a further hardening all round, Sakellardis being raised 225 points, Brown 125 points and Upper 75 points on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakel 28.25*d*.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields—Gemsah production (week ended, September 16, 54 tons (previous week, 75 tons) ; Hurghada production (week ended September 16, 3,105 tons (previous week, 3,511 tons).

## INTERNATIONAL COTTON FEDERATION.

### HALF YEARLY STATISTICS.

Mr. Arno S. Pearse, the general secretary of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations, has just published statistics relating to the consumption of cotton for the half-year ending July 31, 1921, and stocks of cotton in spinners hands on August 1, 1921. In view of the present crisis in the cotton industry throughout the world questions were introduced in the inquiry forms sent to spinners asking for the number of spindles stopped, and the hours during which they were idle. These points have been answered satisfactorily by most countries. The returns have been tabulated and show that with regard to Great Britain in the half year ending July 31, the amount of short time amounted to 12.92 weeks, against 6.04 weeks in the previous half year. The figures for France are 6.92 against 2.3 ; Germany, 5.48 against 7.5 ; Spain 9.17 against 4.7 ; Belgium, 12.94 against 7.5 ; Switzerland, 3.39 against 1.39 ; Japan 21.25 weeks against .09 weeks.

The consumption of raw cotton throughout the world during the half-year ending July 31, amounted to 7,357,212 bales. Of this amount Great Britain used 630,230 bales ; France, 251,935 bales ; Germany, 457,257 bales ; Italy, 289,044 bales ; Spain, 117,529 bales ; Belgium, 82,286 bales ; India, 904,181 bales ; Japan, 971,654 bales ; and the United States of America, 2,540,000 bales.

Stocks of cotton in the hands of spinners throughout the world on August 1 amounted to 3,926,619 bales. Of this amount Great Britain held 296,997 bales ; France, 84,642 bales ; Germany 176,287 bales ; Italy, 170,780 bales ; Spain, 85,573 bales ; Belgium 59,673 bales ; India, 845,369 bales ; Japan, 700,846 bales ; China, 186,128 bales ; and the United States of America, 1,102,000 bales.

There are now in Great Britain 56,140,738 spinning spindles, and the Federation has obtained returns from the owners of 49,740,631 spindles. These consist of 38,961,707 mule and 10,778,924 ring spindles. Throughout the world there are 152,317,054 spinning spindles and the Federation has obtained returns from the owners of 129,458,472 spindles.

With regard to the short time movement in England the stoppages are equal during the half year to over 620 hours. Practically the entire industry has been suspended for a period of nearly thirteen weeks of 48 hours. More than 2,000,000 spindles have gone out of existence during the last year.

## MOROCCO'S PHOSPHATE EXPORTS.

It is announced that in future a steamer will leave Casablanca every week for various French ports with 400 or 500 tons of phosphates from the Oued-Zem beds. Normal exploitation is due to commence about 1926, when the production will reach 500,000 tons per annum. This figure is hoped to be increased to 1,750,000 tons in 1930 and 3,000,000 tons in 1940.

Bombay Labour Office estimates that the index figure of the cost of living in August was three points, or 2 per cent., higher than in July.

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# RAW COTTON PRICES.

## REMARKABLE CHANGES.

In raw cotton circles the outstanding feature of the past three months has been the strong upward movement in values. On July 1 the prices on the spot in Liverpool for the recognised standards of American and Egyptian growths—Fully Middling American and Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis—were 7.85d., and 15.50d., per lb., respectively, but on September 30 the quotations were 15.22d., and 27.75d.

The average prices for the 65 days on which the market was open for business work out at 10.58d., for American and 18.65d. for Egyptian, compared with 8.60d., and 17.33d., respectively for the first half of this year. Many fluctuations have taken place during the quarter. The biggest advance occurred on September, when American rose 1.82d., per lb., and Egyptian 42½d., per lb. On the following day, however, values slumped again and the largest drop of the quarter was experienced, American descriptions declining 1.60d., and Egyptian 3d. per lb.

## LIVERPOOL COTTON ASSOCIATION.

### Annual Report.

The Liverpool Cotton Association has published its report for the season 1920-21 and the circular contains some striking figures. The average price of Fully Middling American cotton during the past season was 12.93d. per lb., against 26.32d. per lb., in the previous year. With regard to the Egyptian staple the average price of Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis qualities during the past twelve months was 30.24d. per lb., against 60.34d. per lb., in the previous year. The highest point of the market for American cotton during the season was on August 6, 1920, when Fully Middling was quoted at 28.60d., and the lowest point was on February, 1921, when the figure was 7.13d. per lb. The total import of cotton into Great Britain compared with the preceding year shows a decrease of 1,551,453 bales American, 370,939 bales Egyptian, 107,387 bales East Indian, 91,901 bales Peruvian, 64,680 bales Brazilian, 3,053 bales West Indian, and an increase of 28,842 bales African, the total decrease being 2,160,571 bales. The average weekly consumption of Great Britain during the year amounted to 40,000 bales, consisting of 31,400 American, 4,570 Egyptian, 1,490 Peruvian, 1,360 East Indian, 690 Brazilian, 370 African, and 120 West Indian, being a decrease of 26,040 bales. The total weight of cotton consumed in Great Britain during the season was 1,065,713,488 lbs., against 1,726,011,159 lbs. in 1919-20. According to figures published Great Britain continues to consume a smaller proportion of the American crop. In the period 1890-95 exports to this country totalled 37.28 per cent. of the total, but by 1910-15 the percentage had fallen to 25.45 whilst last season the amount was only 15.86 per cent. On the other hand the takings of spinners in the United States have increased rapidly, the proportion in 1890-95 being 33.05 per cent., and rising to 56.49 per cent. in 1915-20. Last year there was a drop to 49.22 per cent.

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# ON 'CHANGE.

## IRREGULAR TONE PREVAILS.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday.

On the whole it has been a very dull week, with pronounced weakness in evidence in most sections, gilt-edged securities and Rubbers being among the few exceptions. The main factor in the continuing depression is, of course, the trade outlook; another influence that has not been without an effect during the week has been the commencement of what promises to be another flood of new issues. More favourable news regarding Ireland gave a fillip to the markets on Friday, but it was not sufficient to have any outstanding effect.

The gilt-edged group has been fairly firm. Consols are 48,5-8, while War Loan Fives are 88,7-8, a rise of 7-16. Fundings are 7-8 down at 71,7-8. In Near Eastern securities Egyptian guaranteed 3 per cent. are a point up at 69, Greek guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are unchanged at 66 while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855, are the same at 69. The India 7 per cent. Loan is ¼ up at 103.

An irregular tone has ruled in Industrials. A good deal of liquidation has been going on, and, generally speaking, prices have moved towards a lower level. Iron and steel shares have been dull. There has been little doing in shipping shares. P. and O. are 2½ up at 375, while Furness Withy are 9d. up at 25s., and Cunards are 18s. 9d.

**Oils Decline.**

Substantial liquidation has been in progress in the Oil Market during the week, and in a number of directions declines are to be recorded. Mexican Eagles which have been a specially weak feature on adverse reports regarding the Amatlam Field, close at 4,7-32 after being considerably lower. Anglo Egyptians are 5,-32 up at 1,7-32, while Roumanian Consolidated are unchanged at 9s. 9d. Steaua Romana are 1s. down at 10s. 6d. while Phoenix have shed 6d. at 8s. 6d. Burmahs are 8/16 up at 5⅛.

Bank shares have been steady. Agricultural 3½ per cent Bonds remain at 54, while Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 55¾. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 7 7-8, while National Bank of Egypts are 1-8 up at 20. Bank of Athens are 2 2-8, while Ionians are 3 ¼.

Quite a cheerful tone has prevailed in the Rubber Market, and a general though slight improvement in values has taken place.

**Greeks Buoyant.**

Greek shares have been buoyant. The 5 per cent. 1881 loan and the 5 per cent. 1884 issue at 41 have both advanced 2 and 3 points respectively. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan has gained a point at 35. The 5 per cent. funding loan at 39 has gained 1 point, but the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 1 down at 40.

In Land Shares a firm tendency has prevailed. Beheras are 11 while Behera Prefs. are 3¼. Egyptian Delta Lands are the same at 9s. 3d. but Egyptian Consolidated Lands have shed 1½d at 1s. 1½d. New Egyptian are unchanged at 25s. 6d., while Sudan Plantations are 1-8 up at 3.3-16. Union Foncieres have gained 1-8 at 3.

Among miscellaneous descriptions Egyptian Markets are 20s., Egyptian Salt and Sodas are unchanged at 35s. 6d., and Alexandria Waters are 7 3-16,

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on September 16 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 21-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7,3-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2⅛; Associated Cotton Ginners, £27-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56½; Behera Ord., £E 10⅜; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £21-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 55; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 30; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt., 6; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 835 ex: Credit Foncier Act; Fr 645 Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 231; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110 ex.; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 80; Eaux du Caire Jouissance. Fr. 105; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 6d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4,5-32 ex.; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £12¼; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5, 7-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2 9-16; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £5,¼; Kom Ombo Ste., Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37; Lots Turc., Fr., 34; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270; Nungovich Hotels, £6,29-32; Ramleh Railways, £3 3-16; Salt and Soda, Pt., 34s. 5½d.; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr., 49 Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 60; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £3,1-32; Egypt Hotels, £1 7-8; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 544—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Asia Minor Deadlock.*

Hostilities on the Asia Minor front appear to have been confined during the last week to isolated engagements, attempts probably on the part of the Turks to test the strength of the Greek line. In the meantime there is a French Mission under M. Franklin-Bouillon in Angora, the British Government has effected an exchange of fifty-one Turks interned in Malta for the seventeen British subjects detained in Anatolia, and the Angora Government has announced the execution of seventy-one Greek notables of the Pontus district on the charge of conspiring against the integrity of Turkey. The three incidents are in themselves a lurid commentary on the Allied blundering in Asia Minor. The French mission is officially stated to be concerned with a convention for the exchange of prisoners and with French economic interests within the Cilicia zone, in which France has special rights. But if any Allied Mission is to be at Angora at this time, it should be representative of France and Great Britain, and should be dealing with the question of the Turkish settlement. The mere fact that France sends a separate mission indirectly helps to make a settlement between the Nationalists and the Allies more difficult.

### *Turkish Intransigence.*

It is reported that the Angora Government is adopting a more intransigent attitude as a result of its successful defence against the Greek advance. Surprise at this development will be felt only in quarters to which psychology, whether oriental or occidental, is a closed book. The Turkish Nationalists are not the only people in the world who, if *asked* to do something to-day, will begin by refusing. It would, indeed, be interesting to discover any Government which is prepared to yield on any single point except under pressure. The form the pressure takes may vary, but it is certain that some kind of pressure will have to be exercised on Angora, if it is to fall into line with Allied wishes. It is equally certain that no pressure will be successful, if France keeps special missions of her own *chez* Mustapha Kemal. The Turks cannot be blamed for recalling their achievements in Constantinople with Germany filling a similar role *vis-à-vis* the Concert of Europe before 1914.

### *The Pontus Executions.*

If one thing more than another serves to condemn Allied policy in Asia Minor it is the execution of the Greek notables of Pontus. The Athens Government must have been well aware that in declaring war on Angora it was signing the death-warrant of its fellow-countrymen in that region. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Greeks of Pontus aspired to set up an autonomous State. Their natural desire, however, legitimate during what may be called the Armistice period when the fate of Turkey was under discussion, became at once a treasonable offence when Greece attacked the Nationalists. This is not said in defence of Mustapha Kemal's action, but the point needs to be emphasized because there is so much muddled thinking to-day with regard to events in the East. The opinion is apparently held in some circles that the Turkish Nationalists when fighting for their existence should behave as though they were at peace and on the best of terms with the whole world. It is only necessary to compare Pontus with Cyprus. Great Britain can afford good-humouredly to allow the Greek Cypriots to indulge their agitation to their hearts' content; but is it to be supposed that the British Government would be equally complacent if Greece suddenly declared war on Great Britain? (For the purpose of the comparison let it be remembered that Greece and Nationalist Turkey are evenly matched). The British might not execute Dr. Lanitis and his fellow-missioners without adequate cause; but if Greece (in this regard there is no difference between Venizelist Greece and Constantinist Greece, because the latter continued what the former began), if Greece imagined that the Turks would prove equally high-minded, further evidence of her misreading of the Turkish situation is registered against her.

### *A Concession to Realities.*

If you have no means of killing a wild elephant, the safest way to deal with it is to enclose it in a ring fence. Eventually it may be tamed and may be instructed in ways of usefulness. The Greeks were apparently not alone in supposing that they could "suppress" some eight or ten million Turks. The wild elephant, however, has turned on them, and more scientific methods of dealing with it are required. But it is useless to expect Greeks and Turks to arrive at an understanding between themselves. A settlement must be imposed 'from above,' and the necessary authority will be wanting until Great Britain, France and Italy are agreed on a

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definite policy and pledge themselves whole-heartedly to enforce it. If such a policy comes more nearly to meeting Turkish claims than it does to fulfilling Greek, aspirations, it must be regarded as an inevitable concession to the realities of the moment.

### *Diplomatic Changes.*

The long-delayed change in Brirish representation in Athens is at last announced. Mr. F. O. Lindley, British Minister in Vienna has been appointed Minister to Greece in succession to Lord Granville, who becomes Minister in Copenhagen. A grave injustice has been done to an able diplomatist by the retention of Lord Granville in Greece after the fall of M. Venizelos. As he was particularly associated with the Venezelist régime, his position would have been tolerable only if free scope had been given to his charm of manner and tactfulness in the resumption of friendly relations with the Court. By insisting upon a boycott of King Constantine the British Govermnent adopted an unjustifiable and derogatory policy, and made Lord Granville's position an impossible one. The appointment of a new Minister, we may hope, implies that normal relations are about to be resumed between Great Britain and the Greek Court. Lord and Lady Granville will be missed in Athens, in Greek no less than in British circles, for they have set a very high standard of what British representation abroad should mean, both to the people of the country and to their own nationals.

### *The Question of Albania.*

A definite step in the direction of securing peace in and for Albania has been taken in the resolution passed by the Council of the League of Nations to appoint a Commission of three impartial persons " to proceed to Albania and report fully on the execution of the decision of the principal Allied and Associated Powers as soon as it is given, and on any disturbances which may occur on or near the frontier of Albania." The Commission is to arrive at Albania by November 1, but is to take no action untli the Allied decision is given. The reference is to the decision of the Ambassadors' Conference regarding the future frontiers of Albania. It is a wise course to pursue to have a commission on the spot, clothed with the authority of the League of Nations, to see that effect is given to the Entente ruling. In empowering the commission at the same time " to appoint impartial observers " it will be possible to keep watch on the more critical parts of the frontier at the same time. Nothing in the way of a final demarcation can be carried out, but it should at least be possible to avoid the open warfare that has been in progress in some districts until quite recently. If disturbances should take place, responsibility can be apportioned officially, and it might be well for the League to test its authority to exact reparations or impose penalties.

### *Refugees: Armenian—*

The question of the Armenian refugees in Irak is attracting a good deal of attention just now; and the views expressed by an Armenian correspondent of the *Times of Mesopotamia*, and referred to briefly in these Notes last week, find an echo in *The Times*. 'An Ex-Political Officer' writes to our contemporary on the subject a letter in which he suggests that the British public would loose its purse-strings the more readily to support these refugees, 'if it received a lead from the wealthy members of this much-persecuted nation domiciled here and abroad.' Writing with an experience gained while living 'for more than a year with a regular officer in charge of a camp of some 7,000 refugees,' he declares that he was 'not favourably impressed;' and that the people struck him as 'dirty, insubordinate, and practically unemployable.' He holds that they are no fit recipients for State assistance at such a time as this, that they will not work until they are compelled to do so, and that the sooner they are made to do so the better it will be. It is only fair to add that the views expressed are shared by other observers, and it seems to be the case that the refugees in Irak are not favourable specimens of their race. If they are to remain there, it would certainly seem to be advisable to get them to work, preferably on farm colonies, with as little delay as possible. But the ex-political officer's reference to wealthy Armenians here has drawn a protest from another correspondent, signing himself 'Armeneus,' who seeks to prove that 'with very few exceptions wealthy Armenians in Europe and abroad, are, unfortunately, but a pleasant myth." In any case, it seems that help from such sources is bound to be limited.

### *— and Russian.*

But it is not Irak alone that has its refugee problem to face. The upheaval in Russia has driven uncounted thousands of Slavs into other countries. Yugoslavia and Bulgaria have absorbed a great many of them, and as our Correspondents' letters show, seem disposed to make use of General Wrangel's former soldiers for their own purposes. In the case of Yugoslavia, at least, this employment of former Allies may be quite natural; but as in have it on the authority of Miss Durham that these Russian refugees are being settled upon lands formerly occupied by Albanians, we may conclude that Yugoslavia's neighbours are likely to feel less enthusiastic about the new method of spreading Pan-Slavism. Moreover, in view of recent manifestations of what the Slav can do and cannot do, it is possible that Europe as a whole may wonder whether the overflowing of the Slavs into Southern Europe is an unmixed blessing. At all events developments along the Albanian border take on an added significance in the light of this movement. But whatever the case may be with regard to Slav countries, it is certain that in Constantinople the Russian refugees are most unwelcome guests. The secular hostility between Russia and Turkey cannot incline the Turks to look with favour on these unhappy Russians, whose presence in their midst not only puts up the cost of living very seriously, but increases enormously the risk of an outbreak of some epidemic in the city.

### *A Disgrace to Civilisation.*

We do not for one moment suggest that the refugees are anything but objects of pity, or that they should be repatriated forthwith at all costs. In the case of the Armenians in Irak that would be utterly impossible; and in the case of the Russians in Constantinople and its neighbourhood it would be hardly any easier. At the present time, indeed, the Soviet Government refuses to allow any Russians from abroad to enter Russia unless they are provided with a three or four months' food supply. But it is high time that the Allied Governments did something to improve the lot of the refugees. In a letter received lately from an Englishman in Constantinople we are told that the outlook 'is worse than we have had since 1917-18, when people dropped dead in the streets from starvation, and died in hundreds through eating offal from the gutter,

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Hundreds of Russians sleep on the pavements, and when the Americans cease their assistance, in October, there will be 7,000 more thrown on the streets.' It is useless, at this stage of affairs, to inquire who is responsible for the presence of these poor folk in Constantinople; but both for their own sake and for the Turks' it appears to be very desirable than an earnest effort should be made at once to deal with the problem they present. Inevitably they—or a remnant of them!—will sooner or later return to Russia. Cannot Allied diplomacy do anything to hasten that day, without sacrificing the refugees in any way? The state of Constantinople to-day is a disgrace to civilization.

### *The Teheran Plot.*

The news that with the passing of a week the 'plot' at Teheran has assumed a very much less alarming aspect will come as no surprise to our readers. Most of the people arrested on suspicion of connection with it appear to have been released, but several are still detained, and Mushir-el-Mulk is said to have been put across the frontier, into Mesopotamia. As he appears to be regarded by his late colleagues as the prime mover in the plot, it looks as if he is lucky to have got off so lightly. But perhaps while he was in *bast* he was able to make terms for himself; though, even so, we cannot forget that such bargains are not always strictly observed in the Orient. It will be interesting to see whether the Government, having 'convicted' the Minister of the Household of plotting against it, will next proceed to fly at higher game. The Sardar-Sipah's progress is certainly not slow.

### *The Outlook in the South.*

Persian affairs are still in such a tangle that it is next to impossible to know in which of the conflicting reports one can put any trust. We should hesitate to deny that there has been, or is, a plot afoot in Teheran, but we should hesitate equally to assert that the real plotters have yet been unmasked. Unless the symptoms mislead us entirely, the fact is that the country is in a condition not very far removed from anarchy. It may recover; and if we may believe the report that the trouble in Khorasan has been subdued, and Mahammed Taghi Khan killed, the Teheran Government may have more trustworthy tools available, and more skill in using them, than has been generally supposed. But British officials in Persia take no roseate view of the situation. The evacuation of all British families from Shiraz has been ordered by the British Consul, tribal disturbances being anticipated in that area as one result of the disbandment of the South Persian Rifles. And on the whole we incline to believe that the step is a wise one.

### *Indian Politics.*

The week's news from India has been concerned with anticipations rather than events. The position in Malabar appears to be described correctly in the phrase that, while the military situation is well in hand, it must be some time before order can be completely restored in the difficult hill-country where the rebels are operating. At Karachi, the Moslem agitators have been committed to the sessions, and the result of the trial must be awaited. Mr. Gandhi has announced to the country that his arrest is impending, and has offered what reads rather like a plea of guilty in advance, but no independent information is available as to the correctness of his anticipations. His principal adherents have joined him in a declaration that it is the duty of every Indian soldier and civilian to sever his connection with the Government, a hard task by the way for men whose families have for many generations looked to the State for a livelihood, but the wording of the message is not sufficiently precise to enable us to judge whether the signatories have brought themselves within the criminal law. So much however is clear, that the attitude of the Administration has stiffened since the spring, and that a large volume of Indian opinion approves of the change.

### *The Government and its Critics.*

In connection with this last point there is an interesting article by Sir Verney Lovett in the current *Asiatic Review*, the gist of which is that six months ago the Government could have counted on political support for a much stronger line of action than was actually taken, and that the results of their over-caution have been disastrous in Malabar and elsewhere. Undoubtedly this opinion is widely held, but it does not stand alone, for many observers in close touch with the situation think that the Indian Liberals in the mass were not prepared for a strong policy in March last, and that it was unnecessary for the Administration to hold its hand until opinion should have crystallised at the impact of unpleasant but indisputable facts. It would have been different, say these critics, if the Liberals had had a really great leader; but in fact no great leader has yet appeared, and a strong lead by Government might only have alienated a large proportion of the men on whom, in the new circumstances, it must depend. We are not prepared to pronounce a definite judgment on this issue, but it is only fair that the public should recognise that it exists, and that the men who were most closely in touch with the currents of Indian feeling were in a better position than the critics in this country to estimate the strength of the forces actually at work.

### *The Indian Fiscal Commission.*

The composition of the Fiscal Commission is eloquent of the new state of things in India. The main issue for investigation is whether the tariff shall be definitely protective, and the decision is likely to have a permanent effect on the whole future of the country, yet of the eleven members whose names have been published, only one is an official, and only one resident in England.

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Eight are business men, three of them English and five Indian, while the remaining place is filled by Professor Coyajee, an economist of repute in Calcutta. At first sight there is a certain want of balance between the mercantile element, which, as so many commissions have shown, is apt to take rather short views, and the economists, whose business is to bring short views to the test of wider knowledge and experience; but Professor Coyajee will be reinforced by the member for this country, the redoubtable Mr. J. M. Keynes, who can, at any rate, prick bubbles as well as any man now alive. We are usually reluctant to prophesy, but on this occasion it does not seem very risky to suggest that at least one minority report may be expected from the Commission.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday evening.*

**Conference Week.**

This is a week of conferences. The hygienic are holding a Health Conference. The pious are holding a Church Conference, and the Irish Conference opens with the Prime Minister tomorrow. Cleanliness and godliness, as represented by the two first, are important, but Labour and Ireland are more in the public eye than the doctors and the bishops at the moment.

The Irish Delegates arrived on Saturday; Mr. de Valera was not among them—a fact which seems to indicate that the alleged dissatisfaction of Sinn Fein at his methods of negotiation was not entirely an invention of the detestable Saxon. The new delegates, of whom Mr. Arthur Griffith is the head, are firm in their determination not to accept British hospitality during their visit; they have taken their own house in London, and in order to keep the faith pure and undefiled among the London fogs, they intend to speak Erse among themselves; it is said that some of the more ardent spirits even proposed to address the Prime Minister in that tongue when they came to Downing Street. But, on reflection, this was abandoned, for it was realised that Mr. Lloyd George might retort by replying in Welsh; and before that terrific threat it is no shame for even the bravest of Irishmen to retreat. The proceedings, therefore, will be in English.

The discussions will, of course, be secret, and it would not be surprising if they were to last for some weeks. There have been rumours that difficulties may arise at the outset, as it is suggested that the Irish intend to demand as a preliminary the release of all interned Sinn Feiners, and the withdrawal of British troops, to which the Government might reply by pointing out that the truce has been broken several times lately by the Sinn Feiners, and that the Irish boycott of British goods is maintained. That would not be a hopeful opening, and it is to be hoped that these *ripostes* may be avoided.

**Unemployment.**

On the other question of the day, it is generally held that the Labour Party have made a serious mistake in refusing the Prime Minister's invitation to co-operate with him in formulating plans for relief. The official Labourattitude is that they must keep their independence in order to criticise the Government's proposals in the House of Commons. By the narrower standards of party orthodoxy they are, of course, fully justified, but it would have probably been wise to recognise that an emergency of this kind, in which they cannot but be particularly interested, demands a broader outlook. They have missed an opportunity, and laid themselves open to the suggestion that they are exploiting the unemployed for party profit.

**The Washington Conference.**

It looked at one time as though Mr. Lloyd George would be unable to go to Washington for the Conference, in view of the many pressing problems awaiting him at home this autumn. It is believed, however, that Washington is urging him to come rather strongly. He will be unable to arrive there at the formal opening in any event, but it is thought that he will make a great effort to attend the later sittings,

**New Transport Problems.**

It is clear that we are at the beginning of a period of extreme competition in the transport world—not, as forty years ago, between different railway companies, but between different types of machines. The regrouping of the railways has made four great territorial systems with defined geographical areas, all inspired by one common purpose—to kill the motor-traffic on the main roads. The trains are quicker—we now have the old two-hour non-stop run from London to Birmingham again—and the new through trains are a marvel; particularly the Aberdeen-Penzance run. Longer as well as quicker trains are to be put on, but this raises the question of still larger locomotives, which is now being considered, with all its connected problems of heavier rails, stronger bridges, and so on. Roughly, the motor is to be allowed to take the pick-up and set-down village to village traffic, while the railways concentrate on getting back their old monopoly of long-distance express traffic. But there is danger to the railways on another flank. The commercial and passenger aeroplane is experimenting on night-flying, and if this can be successfully achieved, it will make a considerable difference to the future of aircraft, and indirectly to the railway.

**A New London Morning Paper.**

An interesting journalistic development is announced, London has long needed a first-class Liberal morning paper, and the *Westminster Gazette* is about to fill the gap. It has been an evening paper ever since the *Pall Mall Gazette* turned Tory, and the old staff of that journal left to start a new journal, and it has already been under the editorship of Mr. J. A. Spender, whose leading articles are celebrated. Indeed, the *Westminster* has always been better at views than news; its motto might almost be, the views of the day after to-morrow with the news of the day before yesterday. The old literary and political tone are to be preserved, but under the new régime it will attempt the happy mean. The sensational papers give the news before it happens, and the *Westminster* gave the news when it has become history; the new morning *Westminster* will give the latest news that is authentic. It will, of course, still be Free Trade, Wee Free, and orthodox Liberal; it will regard Mr. Lloyd George as the prodigal son, and Mr. Asquith as the Nestor, of the age. I wish it success in its new role, which will not be an altogether easy one to sustain.

**A Crisis in Clubland.**

One large West-end club has just suspended its entrance fee, and I hear that others are likely to follow. Hardly a single club, even among the oldest and most

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exclusive, now has a waiting-list; and the committees are divided between reducing the standard of membership and increasing the subscription. As a fact, the latter has already been done—and the hat sent round as a sort of voluntary benevolence as well—with disastrous results. Men simply cannot afford to pay more. Ten years ago the man who had three or four clubs was fairly common; now the species is almost extinct. The raising of subscriptions has converted the three-clubmen into a one-club man, and it is the political clubs which have suffered most. When a man has to give up either his political or his social club, the odds are that he resigns from the political one. I fancy the old and staid clubs are suffering the most; particularly those few which still look on women as an anachronism to be kept on the doormat. These are those who say that the golden age of clubs is over. This is an exaggeration, but the day of heavy entrance fees and subscriptions is certainly at an end.

**Summer in October.**

The amazing summer has broken out again. Three months ago, referring to the brown pastures, I referred to October in July; now we have July in October. Humanity is more than ever like grass, which the scripture informs us is cast into the oven; in fact, the burning fiery furnace of the prophet is all round us. Learned men are discussing sunspots, and Sir Oliver Lodge says that this is only the beginning of a cycle of hot summers, and that 1920 may be nothing to what is in store for us; while Professor Moore, who is an authority in biochemistry, has been attacking summer-time on the ground that we are getting too much of a good thing. If this kind of weather continues, we shall be getting in next year's crops this Christmas. The most popular explanation is that the Clerk of the Weather resents the high price of coal and gas, and is doing his best to ruin the coal-merchants; in which he has the public heartily with him.

**Prayerbooks and Motor Cars.**

The controversy as to the reform of the Prayer-book has broken out again. A bishop startled us last week by saying that it contains too many prayers for the King and not enough for the people. The Rev. R. J. Campbell, who will be a bishop one of these days, emphatically disagreed; what he objects to is the very frank language of the marriage service, which makes the bride blush—although it does not keep her away from the altar. As a matter of fact, what one may call the more biological portions of that service are generally omitted by the curate. On the other hand, Principal Garvie, a prominent Nonconformist, says that the real root of evil is that there are too many motor-cars; more perambulators and fewer motors is his remedy. But as we produced nearly a million babies last year in this country, I cannot help thinking that the excellent divine's warning is superfluous.

**The Week's Books.**

"From Private to Field-Marshal" (Constable), by Sir William Robertson, is not a controversial book, and it contains no "sensational revelations." For that reason, perhaps, it tells us more of the war than many of its predecessors. Indeed, more than half the work is taken up with the author's own rise in the army, which appears to have been by sheer force of character, since he has notoriously no superfical cleverness or smartness, and he would be the first to disclaim the idea that he was a great winner of battles. As a fact, he has not had the opportunity of seeing much active service.

On the question of the war the disagreement between the C.I.G.S. and the Prime Minister boils down to this, that Robertson was a convinced Westerner, whereas Mr. Lloyd George was attracted by campaigns in Bulgaria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia. General Robertson frankly recognises this incompatibility of temperament which led to the divorce; but he does not rub it in. The book is a little heavy in style, like the author; but—again like him—sound and honest throughout.

A book of quite extraordinary interest is "The Blocking of Zeebrugge" (Jenkins), by Captain A. F. B. Carpenter, V.C. It contains the full story of the famous exploit of the "Vindictive," in which Admiral Keyes signalled "St. George for England," and received the reply, "May we give the Dragon's tail a damned good twist." It was perhaps the most striking feat of the whole war at sea, and even those who are rather tired of the history of 1914-18 should make an exception in this case. If you once open it, you finish it at a single sitting.

**Ocellus.**

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, September 27.*

**The Labour "Mission."**

Of all the features of the complex political situation in Egypt, the visit of the Liberal-Labour Mission—Major Barnes, Messrs. Lunn, Swan, Lawson and Mills, with Professor Segal as Secretary—has been the most prominent since my last letter. The most sensational development came after the "Liblabs" had been in Cairo two days, with their host, Saad Pasha Zaghloul. The party composed of the Parliamentarians and Zaghloul Pasha and his lieutenants, was to have left on Friday last for Tanta. On the previous afternoon, however, a communication was sent to Zaghloul Pasha requesting him to abandon the journey. Zaghloul Pasha at once asked upon whose authority the request was made? It came from the Egyptian Government, through Sir Gilbert Clayton, the Adviser to the Ministry of Interior, but evidently Zaghloul suspected that there was more in the request than appeared on the surface. In response to his request for the nomination of the authority desiring the abandonment of the trip, he was informed that the military authorities had wished that the visit should be cancelled, on grounds of public security. This information was what the Pasha wanted. He immediately got the Parliamentarians into communication with the military authorities and, as a result of the conversations, the authorities decided to allow the visitors to be accompanied about the country by Saad Pasha Zaghloul, upon the condition that the party would not give notice in advance to each town upon its route. Accordingly the group left Cairo this morning, amidst the usual plaudits of those whose duties were not so pressing as to keep them elsewhere.

Whether the retraction of the decision to prevent Zaghloul Pasha moving about the country, ostensibly for the purpose of showing the visitors the depths of depravity to which the Cabinet has descended in order to maintain its prestige, but really for the purpose of furthering his own cause, was wise, is no longer of any interest. The tour has begun. But how? In a way to confirm the suspicions of those who saw that it is dangerous at the moment to allow anything to happen to inflame the latent excitement of the masses. The first big town passed was Benha. There the crowd had gathered in force, but the police, acting upon instructions, had prevented them from entering the precincts of the station. When the special train arrived the crowd in its enthusiasm, endeavoured to force its way on to the platform. The police ordered them to retreat, and upon a refusal, used their batons to force them to disperse. In the mêlée a boy was injured. The incident in itself is nothing, but it is what it stands for that is ominous. When it is realised that the party did not descend from the train, it can easily be guessed what would have happened if the excitement had been inflamed by the actual presence in the streets of the visitors. In the itinerary are several large towns at which the party proposes to stop. Everyone is awaiting the outcome with some trepidation.

**Unwelcome Visitors.**

The visit has now become transformed into something entirely different from that intended by the visitors. Their avowed intention was to inquire into the allegations made to them in London by Zaghloulist agents. They also issued a statement in which they expressed several desires about the future of the country. But the whole of Egypt, apart from a small section of rabid Zaghloulists, is watching their pregress with anxious eyes, apprehensive lest their very presence and Zaghloul-edited speeches should cause disorders. On the one side is authority, intent upon keeping public order; on the other is a section of people who allege that the legitimate actions of authority are oppression—and who are anxious that authority should be forced to severe measures in order that the blood spilled could be used in evidence against martial law and the Cabinet. To the latter what the Mission hears has ceased to be of serious importance, but what the world at large hears of disorders in Egypt is of paramount interest.

The visitors have already complained that they are not being fairly treated by the Press. The complaint presumably is because of the almost united opposition voiced against their visit at this juncture; but surely that should have been enough to show them that they are regarded as intruders at a delicate moment.

**Zaghloul and the Negotiations.**

Within a week from the time these lines are written the official negotiations will have recommenced in London. The native press has been rather curious during the last few days concerning the hint given by Zaghloul Pasha that he would be willing to consider an invitation to join in the negotiations. 'Who can invite him?' ask the leader-writers; and they answer their own question by citing the Egyptian Cabinet and the British Government. They add that the latter has no power to invite him and that they cannot imagine the former extending an invitation to him since he refused the one accorded to him in May. Apparently Zaghloul has realised that there are to be no bites at the bait he threw forth, for he is throwing himself with renewed energy into the struggle against the Cabinet. The decision of the Court that the Law of Assemblage, which was mentioned in last week's letter, is valid has prevented him from arranging a purely electioneering tour; but he has found a fairly satisfactory substitute in the visit through Lower Egypt with the M.P.'s. He is handicapped, however, by lack of knowledge of the outcome of the negotiations. Therefore, he is unable to malign fully the Adly Delegation or the British Government, but he doubtless will make it clear that unless Egypt is given a place in the very middle of the sun he is the man to whom the country must turn for guidance!

**Entertainment to Foreigners.**

On Sunday afternoon a number of prominent Egyptians entertained to tea a fairly representative gathering of foreigners. The function was supposed to be indicative of the hospitality which the Egyptians are at all times glad to accord to foreigners in the country. It was a graceful act, but if it was intended as proof that the events of last May in Alexandria were entirely without significance to the relations between Egyptians and Occidentals in Egypt, it was simply pathetic. The speeches exchanged overflowed with reciprocal expressions of good will, but one cannot help remembering what has happened in the late months, and if the promoters imagined—as their speeches seemed to infer—that the entertainment signified that the leopard had no spots now, and, indeed, never had any, they must have a poor opinion of the mentality of the foreigners in this country. Curiously enough, within 48 hours of that tea-party, Aly Fahmy Bey Kamel, who has been the acting President of the ultra-Nationalists in Egypt, and who is to leave the country on Friday at the wish of the military authorities, issued a manifesto to the Egyptians urging them to make every effort and contribute every piastre towards the cause of elimination of all foreign domination of the country.

**The Cost of Living.**

The Ministry of Finance has just issued some very interesting statistics relative to the cost of living in Egypt during the last five years. The basis chosen was the average of the cost of necessary foodstuffs in the country during the 18 months immediately before the war. In 1917 the rise was 80 per cent. above pre-war; 1918, 102 per cent.; 1919, 128 per cent.; 1920, 183 per cent.; and for the first six months of 1921, 64 per cent. It will be seen from the figures that the cost

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gradually rose till it reached its apex in 1920, since when it has been steadily declining, though, as reported recently, the rise in cotton had as a complement a rise in the price of certain essential foodstuffs. Nevertheless, the figures may prove of interest to people who are contemplating making a visit to Egypt during the coming winter season, as it is unlikely that the high prices complained of last year, and which were necessitated by the high cost of living as indicated above, will obtain this season.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, October 2.*

**M. Protitch's Plans.**

There is quiet at least outwardly in the political world during the recess, but as the Skupshtina will re-assemble in three weeks' time. there is plenty of underground action at work. The chief interest is centred in the personality of M. Stoyan Protitch, who has worked in collaboration with M. Pashitch for thirty years. M. Protitch has been carrying on a vigorous campaign recently, and visiting many parts of the kingdom with a view to forming a strong opposition, and it is within the bounds of possibility that he will succeed in dividing the Democrats from the Radicals, so breaking the coalition, and perhaps in splitting the Radical party itself, where he commands great prestige. In that case, the Crown would probably entrust him once more with the task of forming a Government. The main plank in his programme will be the revision of the Constitution, which is extremely unpopular with the Croats in particular, in which he would probably have the support of the Narodny Club, who were his allies in his last Cabinet: and he may possibly succeed in enlisting M. Raditch and his rustic henchmen, who must be tired of an ostrich policy. It will be remembered that M. Protitch produced a draft constitution a year ago which provided for a system of federalism, for he maintains that the country is yet unripe for a strong centralisation. The support which he gets for this scheme will be chiefly from north of the Save, for the idea is foreign and distasteful to the mass of Serbs of the old kingdom, though there are probably a certain number of thoughtful and influential men who would not be sorry to see a special position given to the Croats with Zagreb as their centre, provided that they maintained their ideal of keeping Belgrade as the moral, political, and intellectual centre of all the Serbs, whether those north of the Danube or west of the Drina. The attitude of the Slovenes is not so certain : these are in a minority, but are perhaps the most advanced Yugoslavs ; as there is no special sympathy between them and the Croats, it is probable that they, with the exception of Dr. Koroshets and his Papists, would support Belgrade. One practical difficulty is the fact that in Slavonia, Srem and southern Croatia, the population of Serbs and Croats is so intermingled that it would be difficult to demarcate a provincial boundary, especially in the great plains between the Save and the Drave. The chief point to note is that, although we must admit that there is plenty of discontent in Croatia, where interested parties ascribe most of the present day evils to the union instead of to the aftermath of the war, and although foreign intriguers, chiefly Magyar and Italian, do all they can to sow dissension between Croat and Serb, it is really a purely domestic question of internal administration.

**Yugoslavia and Albania.**

The restlessness of the Albanians along the frontier is giving a lot of trouble. The usual forays have developed into systematic fighting, with two or three thousand men engaged on each side. The Arnauts are in possession of guns of substantial calibre and range, which are obviously handled by trained artillerymen, possibly Italian. The matter is of more than domestic importance, since it has attracted the attention of the European press, who speak of it as a Balkan war. In Budapest, especially, it is magnified, as the Magyars wish to distract attention from their own frontiers, and are anxious to see the Yugoslavs obliged to remove troops from their northern to their Albanian frontier, and still more to strain relations between Italy and Yugoslavia. Besides, the matter has come before the League of Nations, where the Yugoslav delegate, M. Spalaikovitch, formerly Serbian Minister at Petrograd, made an attack upon Albania, which, although undoubtedly containing a good deal of truth, was unwise, and calculated to divert European sympathy from his side to that of the Arnauts. Mr. Balfour's crushing retort which his outburst provoked, is taken here as another proof of British enmity to Yugoslavia, and all the press credits the British Government with working hand-in-hand with Italy in supporting Albania to the detriment of Yugoslavia. Rightly or wrongly, Yugoslavia is now convinced that Great Britain is to be reckoned as an unsympathetic, if not an actually hostile Power, owing to the intrigues of Rome and Budapest. As a matter of fact, there is no reason why Yugoslavs and Albanians should not live together in harmony, as they have done in the past, for each respects the virtues of the other, and they certainly would do so if they were left alone, and more respect paid to the principle of "The Balkans for the Balkan peoples." Albania has always been a happy hunting ground for the intrigues of interested powers, and Italy is to-day playing the same game there as Austria played before.

**A French Financial Scheme.**

Considerable flutter has been caused in political circles by the offer of a group of French financiers under the title of "Omnium Serbe," who propose to erect big steel works in the Ibar valley, to work the local iron ore deposits and make agricultural machinery and war munitions. Although certain prominent Radical politicians have large mining interests in that district, the Radical Club does not appear to be at all satisfied with the proposal. The Democrats are naturally hostile, and point out that by one clause, the State is to guarantee 14 per cent. interest on the paid up capital before any dividends are partitioned between the State and the group, so that the Omnium Serbe is playing a game of "heads I win and tails you lose," for it is obvious that if in the first year there are no profits, the Frenchmen get their 14 per cent., and so have nothing to complain of, and do not even bear any portion of any loss which might be sustained. It is felt that the proposal should be discussed not by the Cabinet, but by Parliament as a whole. It will be interesting to see whether M. Pashitch is strong or clever enough to carry his point.

**A Yugoslav Insurance Act.**

As becomes an essentially democratic State, Yugoslavia is producing legislation of a marked socialistic tendency. The latest effort in this direction is an Act for the Insurance of Workmen, which is an extremely elaborate and comprehensive scheme for the compulsory insurance against sickness and accidents of all workmen employed within the kingdom regardless of nationality. It is just such a scheme as an idealistic Labour Party would produce, and, if experience shows that it can be carried out in practice without increasing the cost of labour and therefore of commodities too much, it will be an incalculable benefit to the country. Not only

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are all workmen amply insured in a most generous manner against sickness and accidents, but also all their families, in the widest sense. It is probably the first legal enactment which expressly recognises the rights of "unmarried wives" and illegitimate children, for it provides that a woman who has lived with a man for twelve months as a wife and born him a child, shall be regarded as his lawful wife. Puritans may object to this as putting a premium on marriage, but the humanity of the principle is admirable, owing to the frailty of human nature, which is no less frail in Yugoslavia than it is elsewhere.

**Personal News.**

When the Austrians were hanging Serbs freely, especially in Bosnia, during the war, King Alfonso of Spain intervened by pleading on behalf of the condemned and in many cases his intervention spared their lives. In recognition of his saving by this means the lives of twelve Serbs at Banjaluka in Bosnia, that town has shown its gratitude by electing His Majesty as Honorary Citizen of their town.

Franja Supilo, a prominent Yugoslav patriot and worker for the Union, died in London during the war. It is now proposed to transfer his remains to his native city of Dubrovnik.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, September 28.*

**Political.**

The campaign for the overthrow of the Government is being conducted with increased vigour. At the head of the movement are principally the Liberals and the Transylvanian National Party, who, according to rumour will probably form a coalition, to be eventually strengthened by a certain section of the Bessarabians, under M. Inculetz, and Bukovinians, under M. Nistor, and very probably by M. Jorga's group. This coalition is said to be ready to assume responsibility in spite of the present economic situation and to restore gradually normal conditions. It is further rumoured that they will shortly address a manifesto to the country setting out their programme, of which the principal items will be: revision of the Constitution; revision of the Fiscal Reform, by abolishing the levy on capital; franchise reform; and administrative reform..

Despite the fact that the combined Opposition is affirming with confidence a coming change of Government, General Averescu still seems satisfied that his party will continue in power. The way in which he spoke at Jassy, where a large meeting took place the other day, denotes that the Prime Minister has had no indication whatever from the King that he will have to resign before Parliament opens; and the result of the last by-elections does not seem to show that the country desires a change of régime. General Averescu emphasized that the King and the People are the only two factors that can determine a change of Government. He concluded by saying that if, when Parliament opens, the Opposition members who have withdrawn still persist in not attending the sittings, their seats will be declared vacant; and only if at the ensuing by-elections they should be returned would he consider whether his party would have to withdraw or not.

There are still a few more political meetings announced to take place, of which the most important one should be the meeting of the Tzaranist (Peasants') party, when it will be decided whether they will re-enter Parliament or not. As things are, it seems as if the decision of the Tzaranist party may turn the scales for one side or the other.

Parliament will re-open as usual on November 28.

**German elements in Roumania.**

Roumania, in gaining the new provinces, has now a large number of citizens of German origin—about 800,000. They comprise the Saxons of Transylvania, the Schwabs of Banat, the Austro-Germans in Bukovina, the colonists in Bessarabia and in the Dobruja, and others sprinkled in different towns of the Old Kingdom. This German element, having decided to unite into a political party in order to form a more compact national minority in the sense of the Peace Treaty, held the other day a congress at Chernovitz (Bukovina). There were delegates from all parts of the country, as well as one from Germany. From the tone and expressions of the various speeches delivered by several leaders it was plain to understand that they were Germans first and then Roumanian subjects. It is further interesting to quote the declarations on the minority question of Herr Gaspar Muth, who said that until the question is solved in accordance with ex-President Wilson's principles and the promises made at Alba Julia, there will always be dissatisfaction. He further asserted that their duty, as Germans, is not only to contribute to the material development of this country, but also to assist in its spiritual and moral improvement.

The Roumanian press considers that the tone of the first Congress of the German element in Roumania is very tactless, considering how lenient and tolerant the Roumanians are towards the national minorities and especially towards the German element, who, however, deserve such consideration least of all when it is remembered how they behaved during the time of occupation in this country.

**General News.**

Dr. W. A. Craigie, Professor of Philology, at Oxford, was received with great honour at a sitting of the Roumanian Academy on Friday last. On this occasion he gave a very interesting lecture on the famous Oxford English Dictionary, in the compilation of which he has collaborated for the last 24 years. Dr. Craigie has since proceeded to Cluj, where he will give two lectures at the University on the history of English language and literature. On his return he will stop at Sinaia, where he will be received in audience by the King and Queen. Before his departure for Constantinople and Athens he will deliver his last lecture at the "Fundatia Carol." Dr. Craigie will have spent 50 days in Roumania, devoted to studies, visits and lectures in the principal centres of the country.

It is reported that as a result of the recent negotiations between the Roumanian and Yugoslav delegations for the definite settlement of the Banat frontier, Roumania has been alloted a territory of nearly seven hundred square kilometres, territory which was due to her two years ago in accordance with the Sèvres Peace Treaty.

Admiral de Robeck has arrived in Bucharest, accompanied by a staff of five Naval officers.

## GREECE.

*Athens, September 25.*

**The Situation.**

There is no marked change in the situation since last week. The Hellenic Army continues to withdraw from all its advanced positions, which are promptly reoccupied by the Kemalists. The latter, who had but a fortnight ago given up all hope of retaining Angora, are naturally taking full advantage of this unexpected turn of events, and are proclaiming to the whole world that they have won the war. Mustapha Kemal Pasha is once again bringing the question of Smyrna and Thrace on the carpet, and boasts that ere long he will throw the entire Greek Army into the Gulf of Smyrna. The Greeks, on the other hand, are feverishly consolidating their new positions about 50 miles east of Eskishehir, from which the Turks will find it extremely difficult to dislodge them, despite the fact that the reinforcements they received recently from the Caucasus are reported to be considerable.

The Greek Government has officially denied the rumours to the effect that it had asked the Great Powers to intervene; and though there is a chance of the latter's doing so without being asked, it is feared that their good intentions would again be doomed to failure in view of the unyielding spirit prevailing amongst the two adversaries.

Whilst the atmosphere in Athens appears—at least on the surface—to be calm, the financial question is, no doubt, causing a good deal of anxiety to the Govern-

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ment. If, as anticipated, the entire Army is going to be kept on a war footing throughout the winter, the expense alone for clothing the men is bound to be enormous.

M. Maximos is not a very happy man just now. He has brought no money with him, but he is the bearer of many proposals for loans. The conditions, however, are so stiff, and would have such a disastrous effect on the future economic development of the country, that the Government, hard pressed for money though it is, is not likely to accept them. There is some talk about concluding a small loan in order to meet immediate requirements, In any case, the present situation cannot possibly continue indefinitely, and it would surprise nobody if the Government announced very shortly the issue of more uncovered bank notes (fiduciary issue).

**The Prime Minister's Declarations.**

To a number of journalists who asked his opinion with regard to the military situation, M. Demetrius Gounaris made the following declarations :—

Following the splendid victory of our troops as a result of our heroic combats near the Sangarius, the High Command, with the approval of the Government, has decided that it is unnecessary to continue operations as far as Angora. The object of these operations, as has already been stated, was not the extension of our occupation up to the point which we have reached, should this point be either Angora or the Sangarius. The real objects of the operations were to push back the enemy from the lines which had been planned as the limits of our occupation, to destroy completely intermediate communication, and above all, the railway line without which any enemy movement, should he contemplate a serious attack against us, would become difficult, if not impossible, and to use up all available resources of the region occupied by the two armies, after the retreat of ours.

All this has in a large measure been obtained. It certainly would have been advantageous to obtain the few advantages which still remained to be realized, but the desperate defence with which the enemy opposed our advance, without, however, being able in any way to stem on any part of the line the impetuous ardour of our men, and the fact that he relentlessly fought inch by inch, delayed operations until the near approach of autumn.

The advantages which would have resulted by pushing our offensive to Angora, were not considered proportionate to the sacrifices which would have had to be made, and to the fatigue and privations which, in view of the advanced season, our Army would have undergone, especially during its retreat. Our offensive has therefore been terminated, and our Army has returned to its original line of demarcation.

The enemy attempted no counter-attack and did not even harass us in our retreat. We are therefore actually on the line which was judged most convenient to cover our occupation in Asia Minor. This comprises an important sector of the railway to Baghdad, from Biledjik to Afion Karahissar, and thence 70 kilometres as far as Chai. The importance of the loss of this line to the enemy and its occupation by us will be readily understood. Our Army has been victorious, and the victory has assured us of many very important advantages.

We must now organise the country which we have occupied, in order that we may defend it with a minimum of sacrifice and expense. This is a paramount duty. We shall proceed with the organisation which we will complete as far as possible. I have already spoken on the subject to the High Commissioner, M. Stergiadis, who will arrive during this week. We shall then discuss the basis of this organisation and shall proceed with its execution as soon as decisions have been arrived at.

**Earl Granville's Wallet.**

Whilst on the 7.30 train from Athens to Kefissia, where his Lordship has been staying during the summer, the British Minister, Earl Granville, was robbed of his wallet containing a considerable sum of money and personal papers. The thief has not yet been arrested, but suspicion has fallen on a well dressed person who was travelling in the same compartment.

The *Estia* commenting on this impudent theft, writes as follows :—"The 'unknown' well dressed person whose 'traits' Lord Granville remembers quite well, is requested to return the wallet to the British Legation, and to retain the money as a reward for his honest trouble. If this is not done he will probably be sorry for it."

Strange to say, only about a month ago Earl Granville's house in Kefissia had been broken into by burglars who stole some silver and various other things. In this case, however, the thieves were caught a few days later.

On the day following the British Minister's unfortunate experience, the Consul of Portugal also had his wallet, containing about 2,000 Drachmae, stolen from his pocket on the Kefissia train.

**Personalia.**

King Constantine will probably return to Athens from Asia Minor towards the end of this week. He will be given a great reception.

Princess Elisabeth has left for Smyrna.

*Athens, October 1.*

**The King's Return.**

Athens gave a very enthusaistic welcome to the King on his return from the Asia Minor front, on Thursday last. It had been raining heavily during the night before, and with the sky overcast the outlook was very threatening on the following day. This, however, did not prevent thousands of people from waiting patiently from early morning outside the Station and along the roads through which the Royal cortège was to pass. Stadium and Hermes Streets were gaily decorated with the Greek colours and Allied flags, the Union Jack being very prominent. His Majesty, accompanied by the Crown Prince, Prince Nicolas, and the Minister of War, M. Theotokis, embarked at Mudania, on the s.s. Constantinople, and arrived at the Piraeus on Thursday morning. The Queen, and the Princesses Helene, Catherine and Irene, as well as the Council of Ministers, received the King at the Piraeus, the Royal train arriving at Omonoia Station soon after eleven o'clock. Thence continuously cheered by the crowds, the cortège proceeded to the Cathedral, where a Thanksgiving service was held, the Metropolitan of Athens officiating. All the Public Buildings and Banks remained closed on Thurs-

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day, and at night the town was illuminated, but the rain had recommenced heavily and the streets were deserted.

Prior to his departure from the Front, King Constantine issued the following Proclamation to the troops :—

Officers, N.C.O's. and Men.

On the occasion of my departure for the place whither I am called by the duties that are imposed upon me to-day, I wish to thank you and to praise you, but, I fear, words cannot express all that my heart feels. The greatness of your deeds, which the entire world recognises and admires, makes me bless God for being a Greek. You have shown yourselves worthy successors of all the heroes produced by the Greek Race, and History will inscribe our epoch in letters of gold. You have shown what we Greeks are worth and what we are capable of doing when we obey the call of our country. You have struck the enemy to the heart, you have poured out your blood—that so precious Greek blood—to liberate our enslaved brothers, and to re-establish civilization in the country where our ancestors were illustrious. To attain this you have performed a task which no other Army could have done so well and so rapidly.

I have heard you cry "To Angora," "To Angora." But I did not wish to let you go there and undergo fresh fatigues and further sacrifices, as the task which you have so far accomplished is sufficient for our purposes.

I am certain that you will maintain with all your strength the country which you have liberated. You will prove to the entire world, now looking upon you with admiration, that although you have arrived by force of arms where you are at present, you have not done so in order to fight the Mussulman people who live in the country of your ancestors, but to offer to them all, without distinction of race or religion, the gifts of civilization and love which ensure peace and tend to the progress and prosperity of the peoples. You have brilliantly accomplished the task of war with which the Motherland entrusted you. It only remains now for you to hold on to the results thus obtained in order that the necessary time which the work of organization requires may be completed, as it would be a pity if so much suffering, so many struggles, so many sacrifices, and so much glory were wasted.

When you have completed the little which remains to be done, you will return to your homes, happy and proud of having enlarged and covered with glory our beloved Motherland.

Your ardour, which guides your bayonet, has taught a cruel lesson to the enemy, but he, though crushed by you, is lying in wait and hopes that you will tire so that he can recover what you are now holding. You must therefore show him that the Greek never tires when he is struggling for his country, and with your bayonet thrust forward you will cry to him: 'Come and take it." (the famous answer which Leonidas gave to Xerxes at Thermopylae in 480 B.C.)

**The Prime Minister's Journey.**

M. Gounaris will probably leave for London within the next ten days in order to lay the Greek views before Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Curzon, and also to set forth the terms on which Greece would be prepared to conclude peace with the Kemalists. It is understood that M. Gounaris, while in London, will seize the opportunity to make further attempts with a view to raising a loan for this country, or, at least, to securing payment of the unused credits opened in favour of the previous Government.

**The High Commissioner of Smyrna.**

The Greek High Commissioner at Smyrna who, it is very persistently rumoured, will, before long, be Greece's Prime Minister, arrived in Athens on Wednesday. He stayed at the Hotel Grande Bretagne, where he was visited shortly afterwards by M. Gounaris and the other members of the Government. In the evening a long Council of Ministers was held, which occupied most of its time discussing the question of administration of the recently occupied territories In Asia Minor.

M. Stergiadis was received in audience by the King half an hour after the latter returned to Athens.

**The Colonization of Thrace.**

The Governor-General of Thrace reports that the colonization is proceeding actively in the Province, and he hopes that as far as Western Thrace is concerned, thi will be completed by the end of October. Thousand of small houses have already been built, and there are many more under construction. Over and above the relief allowance allotted to the refugees and small landowners, the Authorities have decided to grant additional help, either in the form of money, or in raw material, or in foodstuffs.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October 2.*

**The Question of Government Employees.**

In the course of a recent declaration M. Tourlakoff, Minister of Finance, said that the salaries of the State employees would very shortly be substantially increased. Whilst it is essential to double or even treble the pay of all functionaries it is also essential that the Government should satisfy themselves that there are no superfluous officials. For example, at a certain Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there are approximately fifteen employees who perform regular work. It is, however, understood on a very good authority that there are fifteen other employees whose only duty is a present themselves at the beginning of each month in order to receive their pay. If this is true—and it would seem that it is—the Government would be well advised to get rid of these fifteen 'hangers-on.'

The above is only one instance of alleged extravagance on the part of the Government, but it would also be interesting to know what is the total number of officials employed at the Legations abroad ? It is said that the numbers are greatly in excess of the pre-war standard and that some of the officials in question speak only their mother tongue. Considerable economies might be effected by reducing some of the Legation staffs as with the Bulgarian Lev only worth four Swiss centimes, a huge sum of money must be necessary each year for the payment of the personnel.

**War Clouds.**

The recent news from Albania is very disquieting, and it would appear that we are on the brink of hostilities between Yugoslavia and the Albanians. If this unfortunate event were to come to pass, it is not easy to see how Italy could stand idly by and see Yugoslavia gradually conquer Albania, as she undoubtedly would do.

Bulgaria fortunately does not border on Albania, and there would appear to be no reason why she should be mixed up in the affair in any way whatsoever. M. Stamboliisky and his supporters always preach the virtue of strict neutrality, and it is only to be expected that they will continue their past policy. Bulgaria has everything to lose and nothing to gain by associating herself even indirectly with any foreign Power. Her role must be one of complete and absolute neutrality.

What the Yugoslavs are thinking about Albania has been reflected in their press ; but more important than this is the recently-begun press campaign inciting the Belgrade Government to take steps that will ultimately lead to the occupation of Salonika. That the Yugoslavs are not content with the present situation at Salonika is a secret to no one, but up to now their press and their politicians have maintained a praiseworthy silence on the matter. One may well ask what the somewhat unexpected outbreak portends ? It is noteworthy that it occurred when the Greeks were having the worst of matters in Asia Minor. And what of Greece and her ability to resist warlike action on the part of Albania and Yugoslavia ? Many English writers hold that Greece has been fighting continually since

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1912 and that she is bearing a huge load of taxation and war weariness. Although it is worth while pointing out that during the four years, August, 1913, to July, 1917, Greece did absolutely no fighting, one is inclined to agree that Greece has enough to do in Asia Minor, which will prevent her from paying much attention to events in Albania. She cannot afford, however, to disregard the threat to Salonika, as the port constitutes a very great asset to the commercial life of the country. The only other remaining Balkan country (if I may call it so for the moment), is Roumania ; and one would imagine that she would be strictly neutral in any dispute that arose between Yugoslavia and Greece, as she is bound to the former country by the ties of the Little Entente and to the latter by the double Royal marriage, and in addition has troubles of her own which will not make her eager to interfere in any quarrel in the south-west corner of the Balkans..

**General News.**

The Bulgarian National Poet, Ivan Vasoff, was buried on Wednesday the 28th and the day was observed as a day of National mourning throughout the country. The King, the Cabinet, and many Deputies, officers, and officials attended the funeral.

General Gekoff, the Commander in Chief of the Bulgarian Army during the late war, who is due to be tried by the High Court of Justice at Sofia on October 11, is expected to arrive in Sofia on the 7th inst.

It is announced that the Soviet have refused to conduct negotiations with the Slovakian Government, who offered to act as intermediary between Sofia and Moscow with regard to the repatriation of Bulgarian subjects from Russia.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE NEAR EASTERN TANGLE:

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—In a recent article when commenting on the tangle in the Near East *The Times* writes of "the mockery of European statecraft which has drawn into its modern struggle for world hegemony the ruder forces of the East." When the Indian troops were brought to fight our battles in Europe I have no recollection of *The Times* questioning the morality of the action ? On the contrary the whole of the British Press acclaimed the move as demonstrating to the Germans the solidarity of the British Empire ; so I fear that *The Times* must share its responsibility of this "mockery of statecraft."

Again in the same article we learn of "the danger that we may set in motion forces that we are not able to check or control" . . . . "the advance of the Greeks in Asia Minor has violently stimulated national feeling amongst the Turks and has provided an occasion for agitation among the Mohammedans throughout the Middle East and as far as India" . . . "The Bolshevists in their turn have taken advantage of Mohammedan unrest to extend their interest to Persia and Afghanistan and up to the frontiers of India" . . . . "It will be fortunate if the new kingdom of Mesopotamia, towards the establishment of which we have spent so much in British lives and treasure, is able to maintain itself intact and to affirm its independent existence." . . . . "The perils in which the new movement in Asia Minor involve our own manifold interests in the East are sufficiently obvious in this country."

I can only say that it is a tragedy that this obviousness was not made apparent to the Government and *The Times* when the Turkish Treaty was under discussion. It is difficult to reconcile the policy now preached with the article which appeared in *The Times* of February 1920. However, if the *The Times* has been converted to the views I have so repeatedly (thanks to your generosity) expressed in *The Near East* I must not grumble. And having only justice and the welfare of our Empire at heart, it is poor consolation to me to write : "I told you so." Unfortunately, it by no means follows that a policy urged in 1920 will have the same efficacy if inaugurated *now*, with the Turks strengthened by the failure of the Greeks to reach Angora. It will certainly be much more difficult to persuade the Turks that we are actuated by a sense of the justice of their cause and not by fear of the consequences of a refusal. In fact, if our change of policy is to bring forth fruit, undoubtedly there must be a change of Government, or at all events the Prime Minister must make room for someone more in sympathy with Moslems in general and the Turks in particular. He cannot get away from all his speeches ! I am one of those who *believe* that Mr. Lloyd George won us the war, but I am quite *convinced* that he has nearly lost us the Peace, if it is only by the way this Near Eastern question has been muddled.

It is often said that there is no one to replace Mr. Lloyd George ; but what about Mr. Churchill ? His speech at Dundee seemed to indicate a grasp of the requirements of the present situation. With Mr. Lloyd George "retired hurt," Mr. Churchill's ability might yet save us.

I am etc.,

COLES PASHA.

Biarritz, October 1, 1921.

### THE GREEKS IN ANATOLIA.

*(To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir—I beg to submit herewith the following particulars concerning the restoration by the Greek Army Authorities of the Baghdad and Anatolian railways. This information should prove gratifying to British interests in those undertakings.

Athens, October 7, 1921.

The Press announce that the first train from Afion Karahissar arrived yesterday at Smyrna. Direct railway communication between Eskishehir Smyrna and Eskishehir-Afion Karahissar has been re-established.

An article appears in the *Katherimini* describing the rapid reconstruction of the railways of the occupied territories by the Greek Control.

It was in July last that the Greek Army occupied the line Ismid Eskishehir—Afion Karahissar, as far as Chai, the part of the Baghdad Railway occupied after the Armistice by the British, and then by Kemal. At the time of its occupation by the Greeks, all rolling stock had been taken away to Angora, every bridge destroyed, while a great number of locomotives and wagons had been abandoned and left in a very broken-down state at Eskishehir. In a word, the whole system south of Ismid was unworkable. In addition, the Kemalists had left no trace of accounts of their administration of the railway.

The Greek Railway Control, established by the army, retained all the former personnel, and set itself diligently to the work of restoration, relaying the rails, reconstructing the bridges, and repairing the locomotives and wagons, so that, in a short time, seventy kilometres of the branch line from Karakeuy to Ekishehir were open, and another stretch of equal length from Ekiskehir, Beylikshir towards Angora was workable for military transport. Meanwhile the line from Kutahia to Afion Karahissar had been also repaired. By September 2 the whole line was workable, while in the direction of Angora communication was re-established to the point of confluence of the Poursak and the Sangarios, and with rails brought from Salonika, the branch line Touloubounar to Afion Kaharissar connecting with the Smyrna-Cassaba line was reconstructed.

The interests of foreign capital have been assured, a representative of British stockbrokers who visited Ekiskehir expressed warm appreciation of the work accomplished. The control of the railways and military lines have now in working order 340 kilometres of the Anatolian and Baghdad railways, with 370 kilomteres more of the Smyrna-Touloubounar line. The cost of reconstruction has been estimated at 600,000 drachmae. The accounts of the Greek Control are so scrupulously kept that it will be possible to determine exactly the damage caused by the Turks and that by the Greeks, of the line beyond the Sangarios.

According to these estimates the Turks are accountable for two million pounds Turkish, the Greeks for from six to seven thousand drachmae only, without taking into the reckoning the rolling stock supplied by the Greek administration.

The article in the *Katherimini* also explains the measures adopted by the Greek authorities for the administration of the tithes, so as to safeguard the interests of foreign shareholders represented by the administration of the Ottoman Public Debt.

I am ,etc.,

A. RIZO RANGABE.

Greek Legation,
October 10.

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## JEWISH TALES FROM JERUSALEM.

By Estelle Blyth.

*These short Tales out of Jewry were among the many collected by an old friend, who was long a missionary to the Jews in Palestine. He had not one drop of Jewish blood in him, but he loved the Jews greatly, and gave the best years of his life to them. These stories were told to him on different occasions by Jews whom he visited, and he wrote them down afterwards. Some of them he passed on to my sister; she has given me her notes, from which these Jewish Tales may be retold.*

### The Passing of Abraham.

It is written in the Bible that Father Abraham lived to be an hundred and eighty and five years, and then he died, and was gathered to his fathers; but the manner of his death is not told us in the Holy Book. Nevertheless, it was known to the learned Rabbis of old, for to them everything was revealed by the power of the Almighty.

After this manner, then, was our Father Abraham gathered to his rest. Because he had pleased the Lord by walking uprightly, and by his exceeding faithfulness of heart in all things, the Lord sware unto him that he should not die until he himself desired the Lord to part his soul from his body. Now Abraham was young in mind and in heart, and his body was lusty and strong as a youth's.

*Mar Saba Monastery, Near Jerusalem.*

One day, as Abraham sat in the door of his tent, re-living in thought the long years of his life, there came to him an old and trembling man, whose eyes were so dim through age that he could not see the stones in his path but fell over them, and whose body was so weak that, being fallen, he could not raise himself out of the dust. Abraham's heart was filled with pity for him, and he ran and raised the ancient stranger from the earth, and led him to his tent, and placed him in his own seat, and called to the young men to set food and drink before him. The old man blessed him for his charity, and began to eat; but his withered hands trembled so greatly that the food fell from them into his lap, and when he raised the cup to his lips the wine ran down upon his beard.

Then said Abraham, pitying him "Alas, my brother, the years lie heavily upon thee, that thou dost tremble so, and art weak."

"The days of thy servant are an hundred and threescore and seventeen," mumbled the old man.

"What!" cried Abraham, "art you then but two years older than I?"

"Thou hast said," replied the other.

"And shall I, in the short pace of two more years, become even as thou?" asked Abraham, trembling, for he felt the cold winds of death blowing around him.

"Thou hast said," replied the stranger; and as he spoke, the cup fell from his hand to the ground, and the red wine ran out like blood, and the dust soaked it up, and it was gone.

Then Abraham rose from his seat, and stretched out his hands to heaven, and cried aloud: "Oh Lord of my hope, let not the joy of my life be swallowed up in trembling! Take me, I pray Thee, now, before the darkness settles on my eyes and weakness fetters my limbs."

As he spoke, the ancient stranger sprang to his feet and his disguise fell from him, and he stood up. And lo, he was stronger than Abraham and younger than a youth, for he was the Angel of the Lord, and in Him all Youth and Strength and Life are eternal. The Angel drew from Abraham's body his willing soul, and bore it upwards to the place of rest.

### Two Legends of Elijah.

We are told that Elijah loved to frequent the place of learning, and to listen to the Rabbis as they expounded the Divine Law. It so happened that once, even on the first day of the month, he came late, and the Rabbi enquired of him the cause of his lateness. Elijah answered: "I have to awaken Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, our Fathers, each one in succession, to wash the hands of each, and then to wait until each has ended his devotions and has fallen once more into sleep."

"Why do not our Fathers arise together?" asked the Rabbi, and Elijah made answer: "It is because the power of their united prayers would cause the Advent of Messias to take place before the time appointed."

"Are there amongst us here any such mighty men of prayer?" asked the Rabbi.

"Are not Rabbi Cheyah and his sons with us?" answered Elijah.

Upon hearing this, the Rabbi made haste to proclaim a solemn fast, and he caused Rabbi Cheyah and his sons to come down to keep it also. The Rabbi Cheyah and his sons offered up their prayers, and when they came to the words in the Eighteenth Benediction, "Thou causest the wind to blow," a mighty wind arose; and when they uttered the words: "Thou causest the rain to fall," the water fell from heaven in torrents. Before they could say: "Thou restorest life to the dead," the world was convulsed by a fearful earthquake. Then was the question asked in heaven: "By whose mouth has the secret been revealed?" And Elijah confessed that it was by his, and there was laid upon him the infliction of sixty lashes of fire. He then rushed amongst the congregation in the likeness of a fiery bear, and scattered them.

It is related of Rabbi Joshua ben Levi that one day he found Elijah standing before the entrance of the tomb of Rabbi Simon ben Yocha.

"Shall I enter into the world to come?" asked the Rabbi.

"That is as the Lord shall will," answered Elijah; and though the Rabbi saw no other person standing there, he heard most clearly the voice of another.

"When will Messias come?" asked the Rabbi.

"Go and ask thy question of Messias Himself," replied Elijah.

"Where is He, that I may find Him?" cried the Rabbi, with the cry of all the nations throughout all the ages.

"Thou shalt find Him this day at the entering-in to Rome."

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"Give me a sign by which I shall know Him," pleaded the Rabbi.

"Thou shalt find Him amongst the poor and the sick that ask for alms at the gates," answered Elijah, "and thus shalt thou know Him,—all the others change the wrappings round their sores at one time, but He changes them one by one, lest if the time appointed come and He be called whilst He is changing the cloths, He must stay to finish the work and so His coming shall be delayed."

So Rabbi Joshua ben Levi went to Rome, and there he found Messias amongst the poor and the sick and miserable, even as Elijah had said.

"Peace be unto Thee, my Rabbi and my Teacher," the Rabbi said.

"Peace be unto thee, thou son of Levi," Messias answered.

"When will the Master come?" asked the Rabbi. Messias answered him: "To-day."

Immediately the Rabbi was back at the cave, and there he found Elijah, to whom he told his story.

Then said Elijah: "In calling thee 'the son of Levi,' He gave thee His promise that thou shalt enter hereafter into the world to come."

By now the sun had set, and night was falling.

"Alas!" cried the Rabbi, "the day has passed and He has not come! Oh my father, has He then deceived me?"

"Nay," answered Elijah, "for He meant, 'To-day, if ye will hear His voice!'"

**The Sea Walls at Acre.**

## M. GAVRILOVITCH ON SERBIA.

The story of the struggles by which Serbia arose out of her subjection to the Turk was the theme of a lecture given by M. Gavrilovitch, Yugoslav Minister, on Thursday last at King's College, London. He said that after the fall of mediaeval Serbia the country was dismembered and distributed into a number of areas, in each of which ruled a Pasha, exercising absolute power. Each such pashalik was divided into *nahis* presided over by a kadi assisted by an executive officer; and these officials, not being paid by the Porte, paid themselves at the expense of the persons amenable to justice, whom they tried by the Koran, ignoring their language and their customs, and admitting none other than Mussulman evidence. The mass of the people remained Christian, professing the Orthodox Greek faith; and were chiefly occupied as tillers of the soil and exploiters of the woods, practising especially the breeding of swine. There were two military castes, both of Moslem creed. To the first of these belonged the Spahi, master of the village, which on condition of military service he held in fief from the Porte. The Spahi levied tithes and taxes from the villagers, and compelled them to all sorts of labour. The other military caste was that of the Janissaries, who garrisoned the towns. There was another privileged class, that of the Turks who lived in the towns, in whose hands were the industry and commerce of the country.

The lecturer told how the opressions of the Janissaries led at the very end of the eighteenth century to a revolt, which at first was looked upon kindly and even assisted by the Porte. Later, when success had emboldened the insurgents, their demands became greater, and the rebellion was directed against the Turkish Government. The lecturer detailed the various stages through which the movement passed, and the part played by the Great Powers who felt themselves chiefly concerned. Karageorge, he said, was the great leader of the movement; he was a colossus, quite illiterate, brave to recklessness, and subject to fits of blind temper. In October, 1813, Karageorge lost heart and fled to America, followed by many of his chiefs. Among the chiefs who did not fly was Milosh Obrenovitch, who rallied the people for another insurrection, and this in 1815 had a large measure of success—due to the intervention of Russia, whose hands had previously been tied by fear of Napoleon. Obrenovitch gained his ends by diplomacy and oriental lack of scruple rather than by fighting; he was the statesman as Karageorge had been the soldier of the movement. In 1830 Serbia became a semi-independent principality, with Obrenovitch as hereditary prince. The Berlin Treaty brought the country complete independence, and after the recent war the kingdom of Yugoslavia was set up, into which Serbia merged.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Pierre Loti, who is resting at Rochefort, is indisposed, and though not dangerously ill, is very weak.

From an anonymous Greek citizen, resident in Great Britain, the Greek Red Cross has received a donation of £1,000.

According to the Paris newspapers Ivan Mitrowan, Trotsky's confidential secretary, has been arrested at Belgrade.

A Bolshevist mission is reported to have arrived at Varna, where it is awaiting permission to proceed to Sofia.

Sofia Communists have lost a considerable number of seats to the Agrarian and Middle Class Parties in the municipal and communal by-elections.

Father Dunstan has been given the charge of the British R.C. Community in Alexandria, in lieu of Father Felix, who has come home.

A writer in the *Outlook* of October 1 states that 'Palestine is honeycombed with secret societies, the object of which is to prevent the further importation of Jews.'

The Colonial Office states that a further aeroplane attack was carried out in the Nasiriyeh area of Mesopotamia on September 30, against the section of the Beni Said tribe, which had adopted a defiant attitude. Rowanduz area is now quiet.

It is officially stated that, according to present arrangements, the *personnel* of the 5th Lancers, 21st Lancers, and 19th Hussars due for disbandment, will leave India in the Braemar Castle on October 15, while the *personnel* of the 20th Hussars, now with the Army of the Black Sea, but also due for disbandment, will embark on November 1 in the Bahia Castillo.

The Persian Legation in London, has received the following official communication from the Persian Foreign Office; Colonel Mohammad Taghi Khan, who for some time has been causing trouble in Khorassan, has been defeated, and killed in action, while his followers have surrendered to the Government troops.

The Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund has completed the transference of the Armenian orphans who were in its charge at Cyprus to permanent quarters on the outskirts of Constantinople. For aid in maintenance of its work at Constantinople, at Erivan (where 78 destitute orphans have recently been taken over), and elsewhere, the fund, whose offices are at 96, Victoria-street, S.W., makes a further appeal for help.

A new law has been promulgated in Khartoum, relating to those persons found in the street in a drunk and disorderly state. By this enactment the transgressor will be liable to arrest, and to a punishment of 7 days' imprisonment, together with a fine amounting to P. T. 100. A second offence within the space of six months will be punishable by 21 days' imprisonment and P.T.150 fine. A third offence will carry with it six months' imprisonment and P.T.300 fine.

## KING FAISAL'S CABINET.

It is officially announced that King Faisal having called on the Nakib of Baghdad, President of the Provincial Council of State in Irak, to form a new Cabinet, portfolios have been distributed as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| His Highness the Nakib, G.B.E. .. | Premier |
| Haji Ahmed Namji .. .. | Interior |
| Jafar Pasha al Askari .. .. | Defence |
| Sassoon Effendi Haskail .. .. | Finance |
| Naji Bey Ibn Yusuf al Suwaidi .. | Justice |
| Saiyid Muhammad Ali Effendiel Fathli | Wakfs |
| Abdul Latif Pasha Mandil .. .. | Commerce |
| Izzat Pasha .. .. .. .. | Public Works |
| Sheikh Abdul Karim Jazairi .. .. | Education |
| Dr. Hanna Khaiyat .. .. .. | Health |

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## A MODEL FRONTIER CAMPAIGN.

**"THE RAIDERS OF THE SARHAD" By Brigadier-General R. E. H. Dyer, C.B. (London, H. F. and G. Witherby. 15s. net.)**

In February 1916, Colonel R. E. H. Dyer received orders to "take charge of military operations in South-Eastern Persia." The world-war was then in full swing, and Persia swarmed with German emissaries, who sought access to India and Afghanistan, in order to carry on their poisonous propaganda. The northern routes thither were barred by long stretches of waterless desert, and the hostility of Shia Hazaras in Afghanistan. A more favourable field lay open to these vermin in the Sarhad, *lit* "Boundary," which is sandwiched between Persia and Baluchistan. It is a region of volcanic mountains and sparsely-cultivated valleys, inhabited by nomad tribes who gave allegiance neither to the British Government nor to the Shah. Owing to falsehoods disseminated by German spies, the whole of Sarhad was aflame, and on Colonel Dyer devolved the heavy task of restoring order. He lost no time in reaching Nushki, the terminus of a light railway running west from Quetta; and started thence by motor-car for the frontier post of Robat, which lay at a distance of 300 roadless miles. Here began a series of mishaps, each of which was surmounted by courage and good luck. The most serious was the loss of all Colonel Dyers' petrol, which escaped from the tank owing to a car accident. He was spared a tramp of 200 miles by finding a large quantity of the precious fluid derelict in a wayside rest house. Pursuing his journey after nightfall, he came within an ace of death at the hands of some friendly Irregulars, who mistook the car's lights for those of a German airship! Their Havildar, Idu by name, was highly intelligent, and had Sarhad politics at his fingers' ends. From him Colonel Dyer learnt that the debateable land was occupied by four clans, all fanatical Sunnis, inveterate raiders, and armed with repeating rifles of the latest type. A certain Jiand Khan was recognized as overlord, but his brother-chiefs, Halil and Juma, had to be reckoned with. By a wonderful stroke of luck Colonel Dyer lit upon a man who became his *alter ego* throughout the ensuing campaign.

On reaching Robat, he found to his dismay that the only force available for field operations consisted of 17 cavalrymen, nine trained foot soldiers, 65 raw levies, two mountain and as many machine guns, and 600 camels. But fortune favours the brave; Colonel Dyer resolved to take the field with this insignificant force against 6,000 odd tribesmen armed to the teeth. As a first step he telegraphed to Simla for local rank as Brigadier-General; it was promptly conferred, and Colonel Dyer found himself in possession of the smallest brigadier's command on record. Then propaganda engrossed the brand-new General's attention. In concert with the indispensable Idu, he started a rumour to the effect that a British army 5,000 strong was approaching; and his harmless, necessary motor-car was fabled to be a tank capable of spitting live shells. These 'shaves' found credence throughout the Sarhad, and the delusion was fostered by General Dyer's enormous camel-train. So, by dint of bluffing he induced Halil, Jiand and Juma to surrender themselves as prisoners. To disarm them was impossible, and for several weeks the little force was in hourly danger of being wiped out by the suspicious tribesmen. Nothing daunted, General Dyer took possession of Khwash, the Capital of the Sarhad; but was himself besieged therein by Jiand and Halil, who at last discovered that they had been victims of a huge practical joke. Rescued in the nick of time by a small cavalry force under Major Landon, Dyer had a few days' breathing space, which he utilized in blowing up the walls of Khwash, and replacing them with an entrenchment. But supplies running short, the General started with Major Sanders to take possession of a large stock of *bhusa* (fodder) stored in a village three-quarters of a mile from Khwash. Learning *en route* that it had been fired by one of Jiand's followers, the Europeans pushed forward with an escort of 15 cavalrymen. On arriving at the depot they found it occupied by at least ten times as many tribesmen. Their tiny force was soon surrounded by an angry crowd fingering loaded magazine rifles, Jiand and his evil genius, Nur Mohammad by name, being well in the foreground. What followed was perhaps the most thrilling episode in the campaign, and it must be described in General Dyer's words:—

> It was obvious that I had allowed myself to be caught in a trap; we all knew it, though not one man with me showed it by the quiver of an eyelid. I turned to the man whom Murad had brought forward and placed before me as the burner of the straw—"How dare you burn my Thusa, what reason had you, and who ordered you to do it?" Before the man, who was trembling like a leaf, had time to answer, Nur Mahommad sprang up, and shouted—"The country is ours, and everything in it. We will burn the Bhusa and anything else we like!" And he glared at Sanders and myself in a way which left no doubt as to his meaning." I told him angrily to sit down, as I was not talking to him. For answer he assumed a threatening attitude, and openly sneered at me for attempting to give orders which I could not enforce. I ordered a sepoy to arrest him. What followed all happened in a flash . . . The sepoy had scarcely moved a step, when every one of Jiand's men leapt to his feet and brought his rifle to the present. I must confess having acted automatically; indeed there was no time to think or do otherwise. I literally roared at them—"How dare you, you dogs? Sit down this instant!" I stretched out my hands towards Jiand, who was crouching and, in a paroxysm of rage, forced him to sit down by my side. "Sit down!" I roared again into the dark faces of the men surrounding us. Hesitation and doubt spread amongst that threatening crowd—and the bulk of them sat down! They were given no time to recover their poise; Sanders and the escort were at once ordered to disarm the men who remained standing. Like a flash my men darted forward, only too thankful to take action instead of waiting to be shot down; and in a twinkling had wrenched their rifles from the scowling brutes, who were hesitating whether to shoot or submit. They looked to their chief for a lead; but Jiand, that once invincible warrior, had lost his nerve, and now sat cowering, unable either to make a decision or dominate his own men. So whilst they stood, furtive and undecided, they were disarmed and left helpless. "Now," I shouted, turning to those men who had sat down, "get up and place your rifles against that wall there," pointing to the wall of the mud fort," and if there is the slightest sign of treachery I will shoot you down, like the dogs that you are!" Like a lot of beaten sheep they got up and obeyed; the danger was over before we had time to realise it.

Thus did General Dyer extricate himself from one of the tightest corners on record by methods which should be taken to heart by every frontier officer. It is needless to add that the "prisoners" soon escaped and raised the whole countryside against him. Receiving a welcome reinforcement of 300 Hazara levies, he started on an expedition to seize Jiand's enormous herd of sheep and goats, which had been sent for safety to a distant valley. Their owner, with Halil and 1,500 tribesmen also set out to intercept the British. In the battle that followed they were completely outmanoeuvred, and Dyer won a crushing victory; Halil himself biting the dust. The result of a brilliant eight months' campaign was that the whole Sarhad came to heel, and is now as peaceful as any frontier tract.

General Dyer's preface renders ample justice to the brave men who aided him in an apparently desperate enterprise, but is unduly reticent with regard to his own share in bringing it to a successful issue. It is devoutly to be hoped that his splendid qualities as a leader, and his intimate knowledge of frontier warfare will find scope in the Empire's service.

F.H.S.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Recollections." By Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart. (London: Cassell and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

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"Principles of Political Science." By R. N. Gilchrist, M.A (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 18s. net.)

"The Heart of the Desert." By Honoré Willsie. (London: Thornton Butterworth Ltd. 8s. net.)

"The Mysterious Mr. Pickering." By Philip Curtiss. (London: Thornton Butterworth Ltd. 8s. net.)

"Silver Ores." By H. B. Cronshaw, B.A., Ph.D., A.R.S.M. With two Diagrams and a Map. Monographs on Mineral Resources with Special Reference to the British Empire. Prepared under the Direction of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Imperial Institute with the Assistance of the Scientific and Technical Staff. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

"The Civilian's South India." By "Civilian." (London: John Lane. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Roumania in Light and Shadow." By Ethel Greening Pantazzi. Illustrated. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 30s. net.)

"Mogreb-el-Acksa: A Journey in Morocco." By R. B. Cunninghame Graham. (London: Duckworth and Co., 18s. net.)

## MUSICAL NOTES.

### English Song Again.

While the outer world mourns its Carusos, is stirred by its Chaliapins, and smothers in bouquets its Tettrazinis, the little band of faithful English singers still holds aloft to its little group of followers the high banner of English song. Among such singers one who matters very much is Mr. Steuart Wilson, a young tenor full of musical sincerity. That his voice is improving I am not sure; he has a beautiful *mezzo voce* and a most engaging *piano* tone, but there is still that lack of vibrant strength and of variety in tone-colour, inevitably tending to monotony, which bars his attaining to a position for which otherwise he is fully qualified. His recital at the Æolian Hall on October 4 was made up of six groups of English song, mostly new. Some of the things of which he gave a first performance were important:—for instance, John Ireland's "The Lent Lily," R. O. Morris's "Four Elizabethan Songs," and Vaughan Williams' "Since I from Love escaped am so fat." But others did not greatly count. The chief disappointment was Ireland's new cycle, "The Land of Lost Content." It is a set of six songs from Housman's "Shropshire Lad," and, with the exceptions of the first, "The Lent Lily," which, sung with rare beauty and insight, raised high hopes, and of the last, "Epilogue," in which poetry and philosophy were for the first time in the cycle really fused, it well merited Chesterton's description of it—"And the song of the cheerful Shropshire Lad I consider a perfectly horrid song." Three songs of Rebecca Clarke were curiously unsatisfactory, having neither the savour of the old nor the flavour of the new. All four of R. O. Morris's songs were excellent: here is a composer who can write with Elizabethan freedom of rhythm and with a poet's respect for the value of words. Of the four, Campion's "It fell on a Summer's day," though not the best, was the most popular; whether this fact was due to the delicious rhythm of the song (which, incidentally, the accompanist, Mr. Thornton Lofthouse, was a little slow in securing) or to the delightful naughtiness of the uncensored words I cannot say. Mr. Wilson's singing of four Lutenist songs was beautiful; though occasionally imperfect in detail and in intonation, he gave them with such easy reserve as bespoke an exquisite musical sense, making one hope more than ever that the progressive sincerity of his art will overcome the serious monotony of his interpretations.

### The Philharmonic String Quartet.

It would be interesting for the student of business psychology to discover why, when any series of concerts aims at the popularization of good music, they should be called "Pops." It is a vile word, reeking of middle-class complacency. However, there is no doubt that the Chelsea "Pops," a series of ten Chamber concerts to be given at the Chelsea Town Hall, do deserve all possible support. For in them the Philharmonic String Quartet hope to popularize the chamber works of the leading composers of to-day, and if any one can do this it is this Quartet. They are a very fine organisation, potentially better, I should say, than any similar body in the country. At present they have one drawback, the lack of individuality in the second violin; but the first violin, the viola particularly, and the 'cello are all excellent artists. At the first concert of their series on October 6, they played Hugo Wolf's long quartet in D minor, Beethoven's second Rasoumovsky, and Holbrooke's quintet for piano and strings (Diabolique). The first they played with superb unanimity, the unusual strictness of the *ensemble*, in the *langsam* movement in particular, compensating for a slight want of richness in tone. (Incidentally, I may be wrong in ascribing to them a thinness of tone—which seemed to me again apparent in the *adagio* of the Beethoven:—it may have been due to my position in the hall). The *allegro* and *allegretto* of the Beethoven they performed perfectly; in the third movement I have never heard the difficult rhythm better secured or the part-writing of the "Thème Russe" more deftly balanced. For the Holbrooke I moved farther back in the hall, and though the first movement was satisfactory enough, the sentimental slush of the slow movement, the facile insignificance of the "Valse diabolique," and some strange intonation on the part of the higher strings, made me think of retreating still further. However, as I have said, this is an excellent series of concerts, with a most worthy aim, and I hope to see it successful. The next concert, at which Mozart's heavenly quintet in G minor, and Goossens' "Fantasy" Quartet, are to be played, is on October 25.

### General News.

A recent report in a Sofia newspaper states that in view of the present economic crisis it has been decided, in the interest of Bulgarian artists, to forbid all performances by foreign musicians Such a step as this seems to me very regrettable, for although trade-unionism, with its protective measures, is an essential element in the economic side of music, this exclusive spirit can but react adversely upon Bulgarian musical life.

There is at present little definite news of the newly formed British National Opera Company, the association upon which the main hopes for a high standard of opera in this country are based. We know, however, that it has purchased the Beecham assets, and anyone who remembers how Sir Thomas Beecham staged such things as the Russian operas will be joyful at the prospect of seeing once more these operas in their magnificent setting. This company intends to begin its work at Covent Garden next January.

The Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, whose season at Covent Garden extends from October 17 to December 10, has issued its repertoire for the first four weeks. In addition to the stock operas—"Faust," "Tales of Hoffmann," "La Boheme," and so on—it is performing "Lohengrin," "The Mastersingers," and "The Rhinegold," among other things. The English public owes very much to the company, which has carried on with modest courage though great difficulties.

But perhaps the most attractive immediate prospect is Mozart at the "Old Vic." There is no need here to reiterate my admiration for the "Old Vic" productions, but I remember a performance there last season of "The Marriage of Figaro," which for pure team-work I have not seen excelled. They are doing "Figaro" again, as well as "Don Giovanni," besides a good many more frankly popular operas.

Of immediate interest to readers of this page are the pianoforte recitals to be given by Mr. Herbert Fryer at the Æolian Hall on October 19 and 26. Mr. Fryer, whom I remember chiefly as a Bach specialist, has recently returned from Ceylon, where I believe, his merits were quickly recognised.

On October 21, at the Wigmore Hall the Flonzaley String Quartet are to play, among other things, a quartet written by and dedicated to them by Enesco, the Roumanian composer. The work is still in M.S., but I believe it has already become popular in America and elsewhere.

Owing to another engagement I could not hear Santoliquido's "Il Profumo delle Oasi Sahariane" at the Queen's Hall on October 6, but I gather that it was not well received, some critics even denouncing it as Pseudo-Orientalism.

ANDANTE.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**

October 13 (New Style).
September 30 (Old Style).
Safar 11, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 11, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Persian Minister arrived in London last week from Paris.

Sir Adly Yeghen Pasha, the Egyptian Prime Minister, has returned to London from Paris.

The Rev. F. G. Waterbury has resigned the vicarage of St. James, Bath, in order to take up work in India.

General Sir Claud Jacob, Chief of the General Staff in India, and Lady Jacob have arrived in London.

The Queen of Roumania paid a visit on October 4 to H.M.S. Iron Duke, which was lying off Constantza.

M. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires of Roumania, has returned to London and resumed his duties.

Rear-Admiral Aubrey Smith, the new Chief of the British Naval Mission in Greece, has arrived at the Piraeus.

The Hon. Lady Lloyd has returned to 18, Wilton-crescent, where she will be staying until she leaves for Bombay on October 28.

Mme. Gavrilovitch, the wife of the Minister for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, returned to London last week from Belgrade.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia was well enough to lunch on October 6 with President Millerand, among other guests present being the Serbian Minister.

Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London last week from Bucharest.

It is understood that M. Gounaris, Prime Minister of Greece, expects to arrive in London towards the end of the month.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, arrived in Paris on October 8, to confer with King Alexander on the internal situation of Yugoslavia.

Sir Percy Loraine, Bt., (who kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Teheran) had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on October 10.

A meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League was held at King's College last week, when Mr. A. W. Gomme gave a lantern lecture on "The Scenery of Greece." Mr. W. Pember Reeves presided.

The Union of East and West will give a performance of the English version of an ancient classical Hindu play the "Malati and Madhava," by Bhavabhuti, at the Wigmore Hall on October 22.

The engagement is announced between Major N. S. Bostock, M.C., of Colombo, and Elizabeth, daughter of Fred. H. Pyman, of 82, Fitzjohn's Avenue, N.W.3. The marriage will take place in Ceylon next spring.

Bishop Dunn and party, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, arrived in Alexandria on September 20, from America *en route* for Jerusalem. They left for Palestine the following afternoon.

Mr. Wasey Sterry, C.B.E., the Legal Secretary in the Sudan Government, and Mrs. Sterry are returning to Khartoum. They sailed from Marseilles in the s.s. Caledonia on October 9.

The engagement is announced between Hugh Arbuthnot Inglis, Indian Police, son of William Arbuthnot Inglis, C.S.I., late of Kingsmills, Inverness, and Sylvia Stewart, daughter of Gilbert G. Blane, of Foliejon Park, Windsor, and Alltan Donn, Nairn.

To celebrate the third anniversary of the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, on Anglo-Czech service will be held on Sunday afternoon at 3.15 p.m., in Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, S.W.1. Appropriate Czech music will be rendered.

M. Venizelos, and Madame Venizelos, who came to London from Paris a few days ago, are now on a visit to Lord Cowdray in Scotland, and are later proceeding to the United States.

The engagement is announced of Gladys, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Dunk, of Ootacamund, S. India, late of South Godstone, Surrey, and Mr. E. Conran Smith, I.C.S., private secretary to H.E. Lord Willingdon, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., Governor of Madras.

The engagement is announced between John Reginald William Bennett, Indian Civil Service, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, of Elmore Back, Gloucester, and Margaret Winifred, fourth daughter of the Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Seabrook, of Brockworth Vicarage, Gloucester.

The marriage arranged between Captain C. E. Gray, I.A., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Butler Gray, of Chorley Hall, Bridgnorth, and Ruby Kathleen, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Baker, Constantinople, will take place in November.

An engagement is announced between Commander B. Hughes Hallett, Royal Indian Marines, second son of the late Colonel Wyndham Hughes Hallett, Indian Army, and the Hon. Frederica Somerset, second daughter of Lord and Lady Raglan, 24, Sloane Gardens. S.W.

The engagement is announced of Captain J. L. Maxwell. M.C., R.F.A., only son of the late Captain J. M. Maxwell, Royal West Kent Regiment, and Mrs. Maxwell, of Woodlands, Penn, Bucks, and Mercia Violet, only child of Lieutenant-Colonel L. M. Bell, late 16th Rajputs, and Mrs. Bell, of Northview, Kasauli, India.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, on Thursday, October 27, at 2.30, between Sir Lancelot Hare, K.C.S.O., C.I.E., and Marjorie Edith, eldest daughter of the late Captain Eustace Maudslay and of Mrs. Eustace Maudslay, Hollies, Streatley, Berks.

The marriage was celebrated on October 1, at Bombay between Captain J. D. MacKenzie, 1-41st Dogras, Indian Army, son of Mr. N. F. MacKenzie and Mrs. MacKenzie, Oxford, and Phyllis Mary, younger daughter of Professor Arthur Thompson, LLD., D.C.L., and Mrs. Thomson, Oxford.

The marriage of Captain Dmitri Papalexopoulo, C.M.G. of the Royal Hellenic Navy, and Miss Dorothy Elliadi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elia Elliadi, took place on October 6 at the Greek Church, Moscow-road, Bayswater. The Chief Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, officiated, assisted by Dr. Basdecas and Dr. Moscorvacus.

The marriage was celebrated on October 3, at Bath, between Captain Henry Noel Brown, 32nd Sikh Pioneers, only son of Mr. W. H. Brown J.P., and Mrs. Brown, of Acton, W., and Constance Mary, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Fox-Andrews, of Elmsleigh, Bath.

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The engagement is announced of Captain E. Horace Whitford-Hawkey, 16th Cavalry, Indian Army, only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. T. Whitord-Hawkey, of Bospolvans, St. Columb, to Marion Florence, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. L. Harvey, of Tredarvah, Penzance.

The engagement is announced between Captain F. Oliver St. John, D.S.O., M.C., the Royal Scots, eldest son of Sir. F. R. St. John, K.C.M.G., and Lady St. John (Villa Sunny, Bordighera), and Barbara, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dugald Ritchie (Resthome, Liss, Hants).

An engagement is announced between Mr. Cecil A. H. Harrison, eldest surviving son of the late Major William Harrison, X.I. Hussars, of West Hill, Cheshire, and the late Honourable Lady McDonnell, of Dalvers, and Miss Norah Bentley, eldest daughter of the late Captain Frederic Bentley, of Sara, Bengal, and Mrs. A. Seaton-Bentley.

The marriage between Major Hew Congreve Kennedy, of Kildrochat, Stranraer (late of Ceylon), only son of J. C. Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy, and Joyce Erene Menzies, daughter of the Rev. A. S. and Mrs. Menzies, of Basley-on-the-Hill, Rutland, took place at St. John's Church, Stranraer, on September 22. The Rev. A. Smyth officiated, assisted by the Rev. W. West.

The marriage was celebrated on October 6 at the Parish Church, Hampstead, by the Rev. Charles Stranack M.A., cousin of the bridegroom, Vicar of Wychbold, between Basil H. A. Stranack, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Stranack, of Southern India and Batheaston, and Kathleen V. Cleworth, of Middleton, Lancashire, and Mrs. Cleworth, 77, North Gate, Regent's Park.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Rangoon Cathedral, Burma, early in January, between Captain C. W. Stevens, 93rd Burma Infantry, only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, of Radlett, Herts, and Doris Mabel, daughter of the late Ernest H. Robinson and Mrs. H. M. Macnaughton-Jones, 63, Eaton Avenue, N.W.

The announcement is made of the engagement of Patrick Gardner, manager of the British Egyptian Cotton Company, Limited, Alexandria, second son of the late manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and Mary Clements Ambrose (Molly), eldest daughter of Dr. Thomas D. Ambrose and Mrs. Ambrose, of Floss Lawn, Dewsbury.

A marriage has been arranged between Major Edward S. J. Anderson, Indian Army, youngest son of the late General Sir Horace Anderson, K.C.B., Bombay Staff Corps, and the late Lady Anderson, of Fay Gate, Sussex, and Leila, niece and adopted daughter of George Bellamy Clifton, M.I.Mech.E., F.R.P.S., and Mrs. Clifton, of 3, Bardwell-road, Oxford.

An engagement is announced between Captain W. A. J. Pollock-Gore, 1st Battalion 128th Pioneers, Indian Army, eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. M. Pollock-Gore, late of the Royal Scots, and of Mrs. Pollock-Gore, Oaklands, Jersey, and Lynette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brigstocke, of Blaenpant-Cardiganshire, and Blaenpant, St. Saviour's Jersey.

The marriage was celebrated on October 4, at Wimborne, Minster, by the Rev. C. Bower, assisted by the Rev. A. L. Keith, Vicar of Wimbourne, between Kyrle Arthur Stewart, Lieut., R.F.A., attached Allied Police Commission, elder son of Colonel Herbert Chapman, C.B., and Mrs. Chapman, Tarrant Keynston House, Blandford, and Katherine Granville Martineau, daughter of the late Rev. John Lonsdale and Mrs Lonsdale, Further House, Wimbourne.

The engagement is announced between Lionel Westropp Jardine, Indian Civil Service, third son of the late Sir John Jardine, Bt., of Godalming, K.C.I.E., and of Lady Jardine, of Black Gates, Byfleet, and Marjorie Mildred, daughter of Major R. J. Woods, O.B.E., Indian Public Works Department (retired), and Mrs. Woods of Englewood, Englefield Green, Surrey, and granddaughter of the late General Sir Alexander Taylor, G.C.B., R.E.

The lecture programme of the Royal Asiatic Society for the coming session was opened on October 11 by Sir E. Denniscn Ross with a paper on "The Red Sea at the beginning of the 16th century." Professor A. D. Sayce will speak, an November 8 on "New Light from the East," and on December 13, Mr. Campbell Thompson will give a lantern lecture on "Modern Babylonia." In 1922 there will be lantern lectures by Mr. Grant Brown on "The People and Religion of Burma," by Mr. Lee Shuttleworth on "Some Peoples and Religions of the Punjab Himalayas"; and by Sir Percy Sikes on "The Achaemenian Dynasty."

## APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

El Lewa Cameron Pasha, Governor of the Fung Province, has retired from the service of the Sudan Government and has been placed on pension. He joined the Egyptian Army in 1899 and was transferred to the Sudan Government and appointed Senior Inspector in Sennar Province in 1905. He afterwards served at Governor of Mongalla, next as Governor of Kassala, and then of Sennar Province He holds the rank oi Brevet Lieut.Colonel in the British Army with seniority June, 3, 1919.

## OBITUARY

Mr. Malcolm Macgregor Hadow, of Assam, who was a member of the Indian Legislative Assembly, died in London on September 30.

Sir James John Digges La Touche, late of the Indian Civil Service, died last week at his house in Raglan-road, Dublin. He was appointed to the Indian Civil Service in 1865, and retired in January, 1907. During his service in India he served as Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, was appointed a member of the Viceroy's Council in 1897, and was Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh from 1901 until his retirement. Sir James, who was created a C.S.I. in 1896 and elevated to a K.C.S.I. five years afterwards, was a member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India from 1907 to 1914.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1921.


## EGYPT'S PROBLEM.

Egypt to-day has no need of blue-books to keep it before public notice, and there is, perhaps, some connexion between that fact and the studied colourlessness of the High Commissioner's Report for the year 1920, which has just been issued. Lord Allenby, it may well be supposed, would wish, in the interests of the Egyptians themselves, that a little less lime-light might be directed upon the country, and it is by no means inopportune to have emphasis laid upon aspects of Egypt's everyday existence that are apt to be overlooked by those who are concerned only with Egyptian politics. Economic considerations and the material prosperity of the country were certainly far from the thoughts of Zaghloul Pasha and his fellow-delegates in their discussions with Lord Milner's Mission. Although Adly Pasha's political acumen appreciates the importance of these matters, circumstances may tend to keep his present negotiations with the British Government in the rut worn by his short-sighted rival. It is, however, in Egypt that the lesson of this blue-book needs most of all to be taken to heart, and we should like to see definite measures adopted to interest Egyptians in subjects that are vital to their welfare. They have been taught too long to believe that in the attainment of 'independence' lies the sum total of all that statesmanship requires of their leaders. Zaghloul Pasha, indeed, would purposely keep them ignorant of any other aspect of self-government, in order to justify his sacrifice of the country's real interests to personal considerations. But while the Egyptian Prime Minister is engaged in England on the treaty negotiations, his colleagues in the Government might be educating public opinion to realization of what the British connexion has meant to Egypt and of the fact that much still remains to be done of immediate importance to the country's interests which can be carried through only with British good will and assistance. In other words let their message to the people be that, when once the principle of independence has been conceded by Great Britain, the question of degree, on which Zaghloul Pasha would fasten for his own ends, is not so important as the necessity of providing for the continuation of the measures on which the material prosperity of Egypt depends and which she cannot carry through without British aid.

It is an axiom of all agitations for self-government that it is better for a people to govern themselves badly than to be governed well by foreigners. The argument, no doubt, appeals strongly to those who count upon belonging to the governing class; whether it will carry the same weight with the governed through all the years of subsequent experience is another matter. A variety of circumstances helped to win support for the Nationalist campaign in Egypt; some of the more cogent, we should like to think, have already made room for more satisfactory conditions. Certain it is that the period of financial prosperity which lent colour to the Nationalist creed that Egypt was entitled to be out of leading strings and to be allowed to fend for herself has given place to a time of considerable anxiety for the bulk of the population. The experience of the world as a whole to-day suggests that Egypt is more likely to pull through with the status that close association with the British Empire will give her than if she is left entirely to her own devices. Some of her problems, as the High Commissioner's Report reminds us, are complicated by international considerations, and it is not to be expected that the confidence withheld by foreign countries from Egypt under British tutelage will be extended to her when independent. For twenty years the need has been felt for reforms in the registration of title to land, but international jealousy has been mainly responsible for delaying their introduction. Egypt suffers in consequence from an enormous amount of litigation due to the absence of any clear record as to ownership and boundaries. Under British guidance an up-to-date system of land registration is now ready to be introduced as a result of an exhaustive inquiry into the question. Will it be, we may wonder, as much to the interests to Zaghloul Pasha's lawyer clique and other town politicians as it is to the interests of the fellaheen that the new system should be enforced, and will it be carried into effect with equal thoroughness without the British stimulus? Again, the dependence of Egypt upon cotton makes the scientific regulation of the industry, with constant and competent research and agricultural application, a more urgent problem when so great an edifice has to be maintained upon this foundation. Can this and similar questions with which Lord Allenby's blue-book deals count on the same dispassionate and expert treatment under a régime of "independence" as they have had hitherto? To the Nationalists the point may seem of no moment; for those who form nine-tenths of Egypt's population such subjects may well prove a matter of life and death.

Apart, moreover, from what may be regarded by some as the theoretical side of administration, there are a number of very practical considerations with which the Government of Egypt, whatever the status of the country, will find itself immediately confronted. A heavy deficit on the financial year 1920-21 of £E14,000,000 has reduced the country's reserve to £E3,000,000, a lower figure than that at which the fund has stood at any time since 1908, and this amount may be reduced by a further £E2,000,000 if the estimate for 1921-22 be realized. This reduction, however, finds the country faced with heavy arrears of maintenance and renewals on railways and other public works left in Egypt, as elsewhere, as a legacy of the war. For a decade ahead, writes the Financial Adviser, special efforts will have to be made to bring these public undertakings back to a safer and economically more effective standard. The demands upon the public purse during this period that are not merely justifiable but requisite, he adds, appear on any present showing considerably to exceed the public revenues. Egypt's fiscal system will have to be recast so as to combine greater yield with more equitable incidence; but the process calls for "careful scientific inquiry initially, and the maintenance of regular and capable statistical investigation subsequently." It requires little reflexion to discover what misery may be awaiting the Egyptian people if its affairs should be lightly handed over to the crude manipulation of extremist office-seekers. The financial position of the country, the Financial Adviser assures us, is fundamentally healthy, and the state of the public finances is such as to give no cause for anxiety, if an adequate opportunity for readjustment and recuperation is allowed, and these finances are managed with prudence until accumulated liabilities are discharged. But there are grave dangers ahead, of which the present condition of many European countries is a sufficient warning. It would be thought that here is an adequate text for the Egyptian Cabinet in its efforts to counteract Zaghloul Pasha's agitation and to prepare the ground for the acceptance by the nation as a whole of any treaty which Adly Pasha may take back with him to Egypt.

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## MEMORIES OF NORTH PERSIA.

(*By Ernest Betts.*)

Not all the magnificence of Persia, not all its loveliness in snow and sun and changing light, not all its quinces, pomegranates, melons and honey, to say nothing (or very little) of its pastries and omelettes, could atone for the absence of a good English drink at Kazian by the Caspian Sea nearly three years ago, when the whole world was chattering and incredulous at the prospect of an Armistice. For Kazian, twin brother to the little port of Enzeli opposite, where the Western finger of Murdab Bay nearly touches it, had nothing convivial to offer us. The Armistice made no difference to Kazian. In this extremity, we celebrated the peace with buns from an itinerant baker outside our billet, and considered like philosophers the distant revelries of Piccadilly.

At that time the quays and jetties were blocked with a pageant of ships waiting to proceed to Baku, where the Turkish Commandant was showing his independence by declining to surrender. The crews of these ships—Armenians, Persians, and Russians—slouched about hopelessly; unsightly, but picturesque; the women wrapped in shawls, ill and nervous-looking, did the same. In many places hawkers sold bread and cakes, sitting all day in the cold and the slush, unmindful of anything but their trade. Caviare, which had been so plentiful at Resht, was here, at the very source of its supply, unobtainable. The famous fisheries had long ago come to a standstill, and the only way to obtain similar delicacies was to walk out to sea along the Mole, where Persians caught Caspian trout while you waited, and offered it, twitching and dying, at a kran a head. You slung two or three of these over your shoulder—you could not carry more—with the strong suspicion of the white man in the East that you had paid too much for them. A roaring wind blew across from the sea, making your foothold on the Mole a precarious thing, and giving the fish hope that in a moment you might fall in. There was a tremendous tuning-up of sirens in the bay, but this might be attributed to the customary oriental fuss about nothing, or perhaps it was a shipload of Armenian refugees brought by the now discredited Bicherakhov from the Caucasus.

Outside the British hospital, on the 'front,' it pours with rain and all the feeble lights of the place seem to waver and spit uncertainly. It is icily cold. For you, there were at least a good fire, blankets, buns, and an occasional whisky-and-water to remind you of civilisation; and perhaps with the sun at its brightest, the fishing-nets jumping with their catch, and oil in abundance to prosper the seamen, life was merry enough in Kazian. . . . It was a dirge in 1918.

Resht, a vigorous town of 60,000 inhabitants, about 22 miles inland, is a very different spectacle. It has a quite European superiority. You enter Resht under an obligation to wear clean boots and a respectable hat—a singular compliment to almost any Persian bazaar. As long ago as the 14th century, Mustawfi, the Moslem geographer, described it as famous for its silk and cotton, and even now it is as celebrated for these as for its pastry-cooks and cinema. It lies at sea-level beneath the shadow of the huge Elburz mountains. The Great Khorasan road from Kazvin, a town lying some 150 miles to the south, leads into Resht by way of an ancient stone bridge, the Pul-i-Sangîn, beneath whose sharp, not to say alarming apex, frisking like a puppy, runs the Wakhsh river. The river is the great laundry of Resht, and its rocks and boulders resound daily to the smack and slap of beaten clothes. It is quite the most beautiful spot on the outskirts of Resht, though the whole scene for miles about has something young, green and spacious to commend it.

Resht cannot be much less in extent than the eleven miles of bazaars in Hamadan, though it is certainly more European, more Russian, both in its manner and aspect. It has tasty attractions in food and drink. You need never eat stale bread here, for it is baked before your eyes, and the execrable Persian tobacco, very little, if at all, better than nothing, is machine-cut in as open a fashion.

Most of the goods for sale are from Russia; there is the usual heavy sprinkling of Constantinople watches and Manchester cottons. Throughout the main street there is a constant cracking of whips from seemingly tipsy gharry drivers, and the long painful drone of beggars, cripples and hawkers. There is no sanitation to speak of, and the general dirt and litter everywhere proclaim a people as careless of appearances as of health.

During the festival of Mohurram, Resht in common with other Persian towns, is a scene of the greatest stir and colour. Nearly all the shops are closed, and the Englishman is well out of the way on these occasions. His intrusion is viewed as an offence; but as the entire town is monopolised by a series of religious pageants, he is hard put to it to escape.

During one of these festivals, I remember seeing a long procession of worshippers passing through the streets like Crusaders, their children dressed in the most elaborate disguises, the men mounted, and wearing coats of mail. They carried lances like so many mediaeval knights, and, as Gibbon says, would soon be "abandoning their souls to the religious phrenzy of sorrow and indignation." The procession moved with the greatest solemnity, the children as deeply wrapt in its significance as their elders. To a Westerner their cries, chants and lamentations, and the injuries they inflicted on themselves and their little ones, at the moment when their grief reaches its climax, seemed to reflect what was most sinister and least admirable in the Mohammedan character. To the inhabitants, nothing could be more obnoxious than the presence of white men during the month of Mohurram, though on other days of the week his money and his protection are welcome enough. After ten days the position readjusts itself, and Mohammedan and Christian smile again on each other, or utter the usual affronts as soon as it is safe to do so.

Entertainment in Resht can be found in two ways, either of which is certain to become monotonous after a time. There is the cinema aforesaid, to which only a desperate lack of occupation would impel one, (on the principle of any port in a storm), and there are the dances organised by the Armenians to relieve their starving compatriots. These are well supported and recklessly hilarious. Nobody knows exactly when they begin or when they end, nor how or when the money collected is administered. But why consider formalities? The real thing is the variety entertainment which is part of them, and this is carried through with tremendous spirit and "éclat." There are folk songs, minstrel songs, drinking songs, national songs, and songs to the balalaika. There are wild dances in which everyone joins indiscriminately, rushing up and down the room in a sort of enjoyable panic.

To the foreigner this jollity is something like home. It goes with admirable zest and pace. But nearly always some sad song, sadder than any we know, piercing heart and memory far more keenly, intervenes to cast its shadow over the revels, and you say to yourself, with lofty conclusiveness: "This is the East!"

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Afterwards you emerge into an atmosphere as soft, as blue, as warm as a summer night in the Mediterranean. The incessant chatter and mumble of the bazaar are over, but the driver of your gharry, enemy to this silence, addresses the weirdest noises to his half-dead hacks, mournfully aiming to encourage them. "Br-r-r-r-r!" he cries, to a sound like a lift descending. At the Stone Bridge the old man's curses and halloes become tempestuous, as vainly he attempts the rise. From this point you are obliged to walk, adding your more refined curses to those of the driver.

In a few hours it will be dawn again, and the shadowy mountains to the south of Resht will slowly outline themselves, in unearthly blue, then in pink, then in gold, then in grey, till the whole ridge is rimmed with light, and you stand perfectly still, wondering whether England has anything so fair to show as this old Persian garden slowly awakening beneath the Rising Sun.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

### The Allies and Turkey.

In the *Daily Telegraph* of October 4 Lieut.-Colonel Repington writes upon the political aspects of the Greek Campaign. He begins his article with an examination of the differences in the policies pursued respectively by England, France, and Italy. Whereas England in some measure supports the Greeks, both France and Italy stand for the revision of the Treaty of Sèvres in favour of Turkey. But the situation, already desperate a year ago, has since been changed by two facts:—(1) On July 21 the full strength of the Greeks met that of the Kemalists and overcame it, and (2) the Turkish Nationalists allied themselves on March 16, with the Soviet Government, which aims at the Bolshevisation of the East. And the article concludes with a consideration of the widely-held view that Nationalist Turkey may be made to act as a barrier against Russia.:—"It is no good flogging a dead horse. The Turkish Nationalists are not a barrier against Bolshevism, but its ally. Until they are finally suppressed they will continue to spread disorder far and wide in the territories of all the Allies peopled by Mohammedans, and they form a valuable ally for the Reds in the Eastern propaganda of the latter. May we not assume that the French see this all now as clearly as we see it? The furtherance of French interests in the Near East can no more be secured by truckling to the Nationalists than our freedom from Turkish propaganda in Palestine, Irak, and the States round India can be secured by professing neutrality towards a race who continue to harm us as much as they can and ally themselves with a de facto Government which has openly set out to Bolshevise the East. Another new fact to consider is the disappearance of Count Sforza from the scene. He has been a force in modern Europe and a great advocate of moderation and pacification. We can frankly regret him and still retain an opinion that his Turkish policy, partly due to his residence at Constantinople and friendship with Kemal, was a mistaken one. It has certainly brought Italy no advantage, and if a change of course is facilitated by a change of Foreign Ministers, then, perhaps, the temporary eclipse of Count Sforza will permit this particular bent of his policy to be changed.

"We have all learnt something by our experience this year. We have had proof that the little Greek people are a fighting race and a live force in politics. We have seen that Turkish Nationalism and Bolshevism are allied and that we cannot trust either. Most of all must we have seen that nothing can be done without unity in the ranks of the Allies, and from such conclusions to a fresh Allied meeting and a change of course is but a step. We are not likely to find the Greeks rebels to a pacification if we cease this puerile folly of boycotting their chosen ruler and take into account in a settlement the sacrifices which the Greeks have made in a common cause. As for Kemal and his Turks, they deserve no benefits at our hands, but if we propose to settle with them, we must cease to be Laodicean and remember that nothing can be done in this part of the world without force and the will to use it in case of need."

### Syria.

In the French Supplement of *The Times* of October 4, there was an instructive article upon French policy in Syria and upon the administration of the new States. The article begins with a statement of the interests that for so long have bound Syria to France:—

The reasons underlying France's desire to fulfil in Syria the task which has to be assumed there by some Western Power are not always thoroughly understood abroad, especially in England, because they spring more particularly from tradition, and the traditions of a nation are, as is the whole of its intimate life, less comprehensible to others than are its purely material interests. Every Frenchman of any culture knows that men of his nation have been the chief agents of modern education in Syria; that when massacres occurred in the Lebanon his country was naturally prompted to restore order there. And in later times this inheritance of history and culture was reinforced by a preponderant economic activity: with a single exception, all the railways in Syria were French undertakings, and the same applied to a very large number of the foreign enterprises which contributed to the development of the country. This economic influence strengthened the intellectual influence and the hold of the French language, which every educated Syrian speaks almost as well as his native tongue, and which some 40,000 Syrian children were studying in the schools of Syria when the war broke out. Yet this intellectual and economic penetration was unaccompanied by any desire for political domination; its very success tended to confine it to the spheres in which that success had been gained.

Before the war, it proceeds, the majority of Frenchmen were Turcophil and opposed to the partition of the Ottoman Empire. But "in 1915 the dismemberment of Turkey seemed to be inevitable." Moreover—

Russia had designs on Constantinople and the north-eastern portions of Turkey, which were bound to lead to a partition. Moreover, the subject races, particularly the Arabic-speaking peoples, wished to be released from the Turkish yoke. So France had to recognize the necessity of making sure of a portion, under new conditions, in order to avoid being ousted altogether. She knew that her culture was being opposed in, and in cases gradually eliminated from, the countries detached from the Ottoman Empire. She must, therefore, save whatever could be saved. Thus France, agreeing to the partition of Turkey, not as an improvement but as a necessity, was, like England and Russia, a party to the Agreement of May, 1916, which prepared the way for the division of the Ottoman Empire into spheres of influence.

It then details the agreements made in 1916, and sketches the movement of French troops in the East up to the appointment of General Gouraud as High Commissioner.

As for the French policy in Syria, it was still based on the principles through which French influence had prospered in the Ottoman Empire: its trend was towards avoiding direct action as far as possible, by confining French activities to the supervision of native Governments. The Government which the French found, at any rate in the interior, certainly did not simplify the task of setting up such a *régime*: its opposition and its intrigues, even in the zone occupied by French troops, caused a further delay of several months in the initiation of a regular administration in the Syrian areas of which France was to supervise the organization. The Emir Feisal refused to work with the French, but at first he did not meet with any hostility in Paris. At the beginning he appeared to the French as an ally, not as an adversary, and was accepted by them as a possibility. In the spring of 1919 M. Clemenceau proposed a very liberal agreement to him, but without success, and another attempt to come to an arrangement was made in January, 1920. The Damascus Government was too weak-willed, too inconsistent: it was carried away by the anti-French and anti-foreign sentiments which it had itself let loose—doubtless in the belief that it was strengthening itself—and its intrigues culminated in July, 1920, in the clash in which it was swept away. The question of organizing Syria on a new basis then arose, and the Syrian States of Aleppo, Damascus, and the Alawite were created. It was intended that they should become a federation, into which the Lebanon should be free to enter if it chose, and this federation was proclaimed by General Gouraud last June.

And after showing the amount of freedom which the French system will allow to the individual States, the article concludes:—

Already the system set up a year ago has begun to work smoothly in all parts which have not been disturbed by those extraneous outbreaks of which France has much reason to complain in Syria. It may be expected to develop and to lead gradually towards the emancipation of the political minor of which France has become the guardian and which has been so badly educated for public life under Turkish rule. Nothing will be done from the French side to delay the natural development of the political system given to the Syrian States. France will be perfectly satisfied to see them able, later, to stand alone and offering such an opening for her culture and commerce as was formerly provided by the Ottoman Empire. She has no other

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designs in the East, which is outside what might be called the area of her Imperial policy—North-West Africa; on the other hand, she has always been unable to see any other means of assuring the maintenance of her influence than participation in the mandate policy in Syria. Such are the motives of France's activity in the East so soon after a victory which cost too much for her to contemplate as one of its results the complete abandonment of a country so deeply impregnated with her influence.

## Mohammedans and Turks.

Under the above heading the *Westminster Gazette* of October 4 comments on the difficulties now being experienced with our Mohammedan fellow-subjects, and particularly it expresses the embarrassment in which the Viceroy of India is placed by the present uncertainty of the Western policy towards the Moslem world.

When the war ended we had a resonable case to put before the Mohammedan world. The Turks had sided with our enemies in Europe and declared war upon us. The fact that Mohammedans considered the headship of their religion to be vested in the person of the Sultan could not fairly be pleaded to defend him from the legitimate consequences of defeat, though it was a good reason for making as moderate a use of victory as the circumstances permitted. A treaty which left him his capital, under guarantees for the freedom of the Straits, which gave him such territory as was necessary for securing it against attack, which gave him compensation for the loss of his European territory in a firm guarantee that Asia Minor would be secure to him, and which finally saved the Armenians from further oppression, would probably have been regarded even by Mohammedans as a fair settlement. The Treaty of Sèvres, unfortunately, went far beyond these simple objects, and has finally been wrecked upon King Constantine's ambitions. Of all the disservices that that monarch has rendered to us, none has quite equalled his march into Asia Minor. It has rekindled Mohammedan passion at a moment when it seemed to be dying down, and reduced us to a position in which our only apology is a mortifying confession of helplessness. The military people who predicted disaster for the Greeks, but judged that there was nothing for it but to stand aside and let them learn their lesson, overlooked these inevitable results of our masterly inactivity.

We must awaken from this lethargy, if we are to keep our position in the East. It is not fair to the Viceroy or to any other administrators who have the handling of Eastern problems that they should be left in the position of having perpetually to make feeble explanations and apologies, while the long-overdue settlement is held up by the timidity, procrastination, and mutual differences of the Western Governments. We do not take an alarmist view of the Moplah rising, which has little connexion with the legitimate discontent of intelligent Mohammedans, and has probably had even a salutary effect in awakening some extremists to the consequences of kindling fanaticism among primitive people. Both Hindus and Mohammedans have a lesson to learn from this event, and we hope they will learn it. But we shall be profoundly mistaken if we suppose that the suppression of the Moplah rising will end Mohammedan unrest, if we are still without an intelligent Turkish policy. The solicitude for the Turk of the Indian Moslem, and still more of the Egyptian and Arab, whom he grievously oppressed, may seem to us outlandish and fantastic. The claim of the Sultan to the Caliphate may even be, as some Western scholars assert, an historical illusion. It is as useless for a Christian to argue about the Caliphate with a Mohammedan as for a Protestant to argue about the Papacy with a Roman Catholic. We must accept the fact that the vast majority of Mohammedans do believe the Sultan of Turkey to be the Head of their religion, and that they attach enormous importance to the guardianship of the holy places which were in the territory of the Turkish Empire. We must also realise that the downfall of the Turkish Empire is regarded by an immense number of Mohammedans as a reverse for themselves. While that Empire lasted, they might quarrel with it, fight it, endeavour to throw off its yoke; but when it goes they feel suddenly a loss of status. The great Mohammedan Power, the Trustee of their religion, which stood in the gate of Europe, and argued on equal terms with the great European Powers, passes from the scene and leaves them lesser men, scattered and divided, uniquely at the mercy of the enemies of their faith. So there arises a sudden feeling of community in disaster, a religious impulse passing all through Asia and North Africa bidding them hold together and guard the faith against the enemy from without. This is what we mean when we speak of Mohammedan unrest, and if we are to deal with it wisely we must study its psychology and its spiritual meaning.

## British Prestige in the East.

The recently reported decision of the British Government to exchange fifty-one Turks interned at Malta for seventeen British subjects detained in Anatolia has caused much surprise, and in puzzlement *The Times* of October 6, asks:—

Is our diplomacy in the Near East, with its long experience of the ways of the Oriental mind, now so helpless that it cannot rescue a few British subjects from the depths of Anatolia without seriously diminishing British prestige? The British subjects now held by the Kemalists are deserving of all possible sympathy and help. But they themselves would be the last to desire that the power of the British Empire to uphold and assert its claims and just rights in Turkey should be sacrificed in their interests. They would certainly not desire that the criminals who brutally maltreated our officers and men in Northern Mesopotamia and Anatolia should be allowed to return home unpunished to join in new and definite aggression against the British Empire, whose unintelligible clemency will be regarded as a sign of weakness. The decision to hand over the war criminals to Mustapha Kemal is a plain surrender of prestige.

And it proceeds to comment upon the "extraordinary negligence" with which the question of these Turkish war criminals has been treated:—

The offenders should have been tried long ago, when evidence was abundant, the memory of their crimes still fresh, and when the fear of the British Name wae still living in Turkey. But in idle procrastination the advantages were frittered away. The Kemalist movement developed in Anatolia, and British subjects fell into the Nationalists' hands to be used for bargaining over the Malta prieoners. The Bekir Sami agreement was repudiated. A number of Turkish prisoners broke their parole and escaped from Malta, and have now been received in triumph in Angora. The British Government have been flouted consistently; and their reply now is meekly to send the remainder of the notorious offenders home. There is vague talk of their being tried at some later date; after the conclusion of a peace that is not yet visible on the horizon. Such talk is illusory. The criminals will come home with honour, and there will be no more reckless agitators, no more violent opponents of any real peace with Great Britain than the men who have discovered by their own astonishing experience that they may brutally maltreat and massacre Englishmen with impunity. Our dawdling, hesitating, ambiguous Near Eastern policy has involved us in no greater humiliation than this. Our prestige is evaporating in the futility of our counsels. Throughout the East our assertion of rights, and not mere force of arms, has hitherto been our strength. If by such a pitiful surrender we abandon this weapon, how shall we cope with the growing dangers? The decision, which obviously does not emanate from the men on the spot, who know all the risks, but from some purblind authority here, must be reversed. British interests, British dignity and honour in the Near East, must not be sacrificed to the conveniences of Whitehall.

**Articles to Note.**

"Peace and the Baghdad Railway," by Damon; and "The Dead Sea and a Biblical Prophecy: A Project for Zionism," by A. J. Liversedge, in the *Fortnightly Review* (October).

"Sir Richard Burton as I knew him," by Dr. F. Grenfell Baker in the *Cornhill* (October.)

"Lord Kitchener," by Lieut-General Sir Henry M. Lawson, K.C.B., in the *Nineteenth Century*, (October).

"Rifle Thieves of Irak," by Brigadier-General H. H. Austin, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.; and "In Camp in a Ceylon Jungle," in *Blackwood's* (October).

"War and Peace at the Dardanelles: An Impression." By Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.P., in the *Army Quarterly* (October).

"Palestine in Revival," by Professor Patrick Geddes; and "The Bolshevist Menace in the Middle East," by Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah, in the *Contemporary Review* (October).


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# THE CARAVANSERAI

*Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day.*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*

—OMAR KHAYYAM—

The crowning of Faisal as King of Irak must surely have been the proudest day Baghdad has known for many a century. Since that fatal day in 1277, when Hulagu the Tartar sacked it and put its inhabitants to the sword, the city has been but a sorry shadow of its former splendid self; though its fall certainly cannot be compared with that of Babylon, its neighbour to the West. The latter, an incomparably greater and more famous city, has been for centuries little more than an assemblage of vast rubbish heaps; whereas Baghdad has never fallen below the rank of a city, as cities go in that region, and has been in effect what it now becomes in name also, the capital of Irak el Arabi. Its people, too, have never forgotten entirely its great past. Indeed, how could they, with so many reminders of those palmy days constantly under their eyes, in the form of the older mosques, the city walls and gates, and the specimens of ancient tiling still to be found in parts of the bazaars and elsewhere? They must, therefore, have been stirred deeply by the events of the post-war period, and especially by those of the past few weeks. For even if some of them would have preferred some other King to Faisal, it is not to be doubted that all of them would prefer a ruler of their own race to one of any other race; and King Faisal comes of a stock that must appeal to all of them. So, though, there may be here and there, citizens of Baghdad or of Basrah who would have preferred Seyyid Talib or some other candidate, they must all have regarded the day on which King Faisal was crowned as the dawn of a new era for Baghdad and for Irak as a whole.

Judging by letters that have reached me, and by pictures of the Coronation ceremony that I have seen, it seems to me, however, that King Faisal might have been given a much better 'send off.' It is hard to say just what was lacking; but I rather suspect that the thing would have gone off better if it had been run on less modern lines. Baghdad has been, and still is at heart, a very conservative city; and I fancy that the real Baghdadis—the people who are going to count in the future—would have preferred something more truly Oriental in character. King Faisal, for instance, might have been well advised to wear the true Arab costume; and, though it would undoubtedly have shut out the view slightly, a canopy of some kind would surely have taken away the 'skimpy' appearance of the dais and thereby have added greatly to the effect. Above all, if confidence is to be placed in a letter written by a spectator, the anti-climax depicted in the passage reproduced below should have been avoided.

The writer of the letter referred to, after describing the ceremony and the departure of King Faisal, escorted by cavalry who do not seem to have presented an imposing appearance, goes on to say that a local official appeared on the dais, "accompanied by a dirty half-naked coolie who was to remove King Faisal's throne." The said throne is described as "looking rather well in front," and not unlike one used by a certain other Sovereign, but—"when the coolie proceeded to remove it, which he did by the simple method of turning it upside down and placing it on his head, we were greeted with "D—'s White Label" written in red all over the bottom of the throne. So King Faisal's throne was constructed of old whisky packing cases . . . . !!" That was enough to shock not only Pussyfoot Johnson but anyone with a sense of humour. Or so it seems to me.

The Baghdadis use old whisky cases so freely in their carpentry that I do not suppose for one moment that they would see anything incongruous in such an incident; but I do think they would have liked a little more pomp and circumstance about the whole ceremony. Of course, King Faisal was not responsible for the arrangements; and in any case he is big enough, I hope, to make his new subjects proud of him very quickly. Moreover the level-headed members of the British Colony seem to think well of him and of his chances of "making good." As one of them wrote to me just before the Coronation: 'Faisal has made a very good impression, and all that he says in public and private is just what it should be." That, from one who is the old days had no very high opinion of the Arab, is a pretty good testimonial. May his Majesty reign long and successfully and bring back to Irak some of the prosperity and fame that it boasted before the coming of the Tartars.

I am intrigued by a cutting sent me by a correspondent in Yugoslavia. It is clipped from the *Jutarnji List*, a Zagreb daily, and it runs:—

Prispio

Amerik. Mixer Mr. Yo Club Bar Pleas trey Mixer Jos Special Mixed drings. 36040.

My correspondent informs me that "prispio means arrived," and leaves it at that. I suspect that the advertisement—for I gather that it *is* an advertisement, from the number attached to it—is one that would appeal to thirsty souls rather than to ardent teetotallers; but who—or what—in the name of goodness is "Mr. Yo Club?" I fancy I know what a 'Bar' is. But the rest of the inscription has me down. I feel like starting a Competition on my own account—open to *all* readers, and not merely to Lady Readers Abroad—with prizes for the correct solution.

**Corsair.**

A Belgrade telegram says that the Albanian Government, having concentrated troops along the frontier, Yugoslavia is obliged to send reinforcements to the frontier to be ready for all eventualities.


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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**Export Credits.**

While there has been no definite statement on the question, it may, I think, be taken for granted that the Government's proposals to meet the problem of unemployment will include the development of the export credits scheme. That will obviously mean greater demands on the resources of the banks, whose extended operations will require to be guaranteed by the Government as in the case of the present scheme. Within limitations, and provided it is carefully drawn up, an improved scheme should go far towards enabling British trade to surmount this exceedingly critical period. But it cannot do everything. As has been pointed out before in these columns, a remedy for the adverse exchanges is not everything; what is essential for the re-establishment of the *status quo* is progress in reconstruction in the countries which have been most seriously affected by the war. An export credits scheme can do little more than help us to dispose of our goods. We want to create a position in which export credits schemes are no longer required. To do that we must be prepared to make credits for reconstruction, and to take steps in other ways to give direct help to the countries concerned.

**Cheaper Postage.**

No one concerned with commerce can fail to support the pleas that are being put forward in the Press for cheaper postal rates. It has been stated that the recent returns of the Post Office have been very favourable, and the impression has been given that after due consideration some concessions may be expected by the public. But why should there be any delay? The postal service takes a high place among the accessories to the development of trade, and surely at a time like the present when increased commercial activity is above all things essential, it is desirable that it should be made as accessible to the public as possible. The only reason for hesitation is the fear that the return to pre-war conditions might involve financial loss, but in the circumstances who would venture to deny that the experiment would be worth while even if it resulted in a loss for a period of years? Some losses are simply investments. This would be a case in point, and, as suggested in a letter in a contemporary, a really bold stroke in the direction of a reduction of the rates might justly be calculated to have indirectly a most beneficial effect on the unemployment question.

**Yugoslavia and Salonika.**

Details are given by our Zagreb Correspondent this week of the arrangements that are to be made by the Greek authorities in connection with the project for a free zone for Yugoslavia at Salonika. The programme is framed on pretentious lines, and it is estimated that ten years will be required to carry it through. As our Correspondent points out, the project is an urgent necessity for Yugoslavia, and it is to be hoped, as he says, that "a working scheme will be adopted long before the completion of this ambitious programme." But given that that is the case, it is not to be expected that the facilities provided at Salonika, however adequate they may prove to be, can really satisfy Yugoslavia's needs. The country's ultimate requirements can only be met by the possession of a satisfactory port of its own.

**Exchange Banks' Rates.**

If my correspondent whose criticisms of the rates of the Exchange Banks I quoted in these columns last week had delayed communicating with me for a few hours, his remarks would have been somewhat modified, for very shortly afterwards circulars were issued by the banks in question announcing the reduction of the rate to seven per cent. So far as it goes this must be considered satisfactory, but it does not nearly meet the position outlined by my correspondent. But probably it is merely a first step in the downward movement.

**The Cotton Freights Controversy.**

The dispute between the United States Shipping Board and the Liverpool Conference Lines has taken an awkward turn, and latest developments would appear to suggest that the hope that better counsels would prevail and an amicable settlement be reached will not be realised. The circumstances in which the dispute arose have been dealt with at length in these columns, and as the facts will be fresh in the minds of readers it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate the details regarding the award of the contract for the shipment of cotton from Egypt to the United Kingdom and America. The principal grievance of the Americans was apparently the fact that they had not been successful in tendering for shipment to the United States, and this the Conference Lines endeavoured to meet in a most generous spirit by suggesting that the Shipping Board should share in direct shipments from Alexandria to the United States.

**Failure of Negotiations.**

This offer, it might have been imagined, would have led to a settlement. Possibly it would have done so, but unfortunately while the negotiations were in progress various charges were made against the Conference

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Lines in Alexandria, and the application of the Jones Act was threatened. Negotiations were subsequently resumed with the United States Shipping Board's representative in London ; the question of the use of improper methods was discussed, and it was assumed that the charges had been dropped. Anyway various proposals were considered, and ultimately the matter came down to the question of whether a two or three years' agreement should be made. At this point, however, when a settlement seemed in sight, the negotiations were broken off as the result of instructions from Washington.

**America's Bid for Trade.**

The reason for the non-acceptance of the Conference Lines' offer is dealt with in a long statement issued by the Vice-President of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, in which it is declared that it was not agreed to because there was no assurance that it would have meant 50 per cent. of the cotton, since contracts existed between the British Lines and the cotton shippers. It is further urged that the insurance question, the fact that the financial arrangements in connection with the handling of the cotton crop are under British control, and other factors made it improbable that America would obtain a fair share of the trade. Both suggestions are obviously unjustified, and the attitude of the Shipping Board to the Conference Lines' offer is clearly open to the interpretation that America is bent on obtaining a share of the trade at all costs.

**A Freight War.**

The Americans, it now appears, are going to enforce their point of view by introducing a freight war, for it is stated that pending an agreement the vessels of the Shipping Board will be instructed to accept cargo to and from Egypt at 10s. per ton below the prices quoted by the British Lines. The serious nature of this step will readily be grasped. The Conference Lines represent private British enterprise ; the Shipping Board is a State institution. Our shipping firms are to be confronted therefore, with what is in plain terms national competition. I do not doubt the ability of our lines to render a good account of themselves even in such adverse conditions, but it is greatly to be regretted that a position should have arisen in which rivalry of this character is possible between the United Kingdom and America.

**America's Viewpoint.**

Apart from the immediate issues at stake the cotton freights controversy is of importance as an indication of the trend of America's feeling regarding maritime affairs. The idea is apparently widely held on the other side of the Atlantic that the maritime nations do not desire to see the development of a great United States mercantile marine. Hence the view that it is justifiable to use measures such as that just decided upon in order to attain the desired end. That other countries have no such wish need scarcely be emphasised ; there is room and to spare for the shipping enterprise of the United States if conducted on proper lines. But the road to the development of their mercantile marine is not by the displacing of the existing business of the shipping of other countries, but by the development of trade—a distinction with a very great difference.

## EXCHANGE BANKS' RATES.

(*To the Editor of "The Near East."*)

Sir,—The remarks of your correspondent in your issue of October 6 are apposite. In most export transactions there are three parties interested—the merchant shipper, the Exchange Bank, and the dealer in India. The last named fails to meet his obligations, and demands assistance on account of the severe drop in values and heavy exchange depreciation. To get bills cleared the merchant has been obliged to grant allowances amounting in certain instances to as much as 33 1-3 per cent. of the original value. Failures on this side have been numerous and many firms have seen their reserves swept away, and indeed are experiencing difficulty in carrying on. Meanwhile the banks continue to wax fat, and apparently consider that they have done all that they should in granting some extensions of time for the provision of margins, allowances etc.

It does not seem unreasonable to suggest that some part of the great losses that are being experienced in the Indian trade should fall on the banks, which have prospered so exceedingly well during the lean as well as in the fat years, and are continuing to pay substantial dividends to their fortunate shareholders, while the merchant, whose *capital* in many cases provided the bank revenue in the shape of heavy interest and other charges, must needs feel that he has been left to shoulder a burden which should in equity have been shared by all who hoped to profit by the business, had things not gone wrong. Your obedient servant

COMMISSION MERCHANT,

London, October 7.

## INDIAN DELEGATES FOR GENEVA.

The Indian Government representatives at the forthcoming International Labour Conference at Geneva are Mr. A. C. Chatterjee, I.C.S., Secretary of the Industries and Commerce Department, and Mr. J. N. Gupta, I.C.S., a Commissioner in Bengal. Their advisers are Mr. G. F. Paddison, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner, Madras ; Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. G. Hutchinson, I.M.S., Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India ; Mr. A. G. Clow, I.C.S., Controller of the Labour Bureau at Simla ; and Miss G. M. Broughton, Adviser of the Bureau. The employers' representatives were recommended by the provisional committee of the newly formed Federation of Indian Industries. The delegate is Mr. N. B. Saklatwala, of Messrs. Tata Sons, Limited, Bombay, and the advisers are Mr. J. K. Mehta, secretary of the Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Bombay ; Mr. A. W. Dods, of Messrs. Burn and Co., ; Mr. H. Waddington, United Planters' Association, Southern India ; and Mr. A. U. Crowe, late of the Assam Frontier Tea Company. The nominations of the workers' representatives were made on the recommendation of the standing committee of the All India Trade Union Congress. The delegate is Mr. N. M. Joshi, who held the same position at the Washington Conference, and the adviser is Mr. B. P. Wadia, who has come into prominence in the last two years as an active promoter of trade unionism in India.

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, September 27.*

**Control of Cotton Seed.**

In a previous letter an explanation was given of the Government's scheme for the control of cotton seed in Egypt. It may be remembered that the Government wishes to place the responsibility for the purity of the seed upon certain private individuals in the industry fitted to undertake the task. An experienced agriculturist has now published details of an alternative scheme, in which he proposes that the Government should ensure the success of the scheme by instituting a special department for the work. His suggestions, if adopted, undoubtedly would ensure the purity of the seed, but in a much more cumbersome way than the method proposed by the Government, as it would entail additional staff and accommodation and, further, if for any reason the Government organisation suddenly broke down, the cotton-growers would be left without seed. It is understood that the Government is according serious consideration to his suggested alternative, but it is not believed that the original proposal will be abandoned in favour of another which will merely guarantee the same results with greater expense and trouble to the Government.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, September 28.*

**The Financial Crisis.**

In my last letter I reported that the chief banks had framed a programme to be adopted by the State for the purpose of improving the Roumanian rate of exchange. The Prime Minister has since invited the representatives of the banks to a conference at the Ministry of Finance. It was first established that the main cause of the depreciation of the leu is due to the non-payment of the coupons of the national debt abroad. As a remedy the bankers suggested that the State should contract an external loan in foreign currency. On this occasion the Premier informed them that the negotiations for the loan of 40 million francs in Switzerland might probably fail owing to the terms demanded by the Swiss being too exacting; but he has since been offered a loan of three million pounds at an interest of 8 per cent., redeemable in 5 years, for the payment of the coupons. At a later meeting, it was suggested that imports should either be prohibited or if admitted free the duty taxes, especially on luxury goods, should be very high. Nothing definite has yet been decided, but further meetings are to follow.

Merchants are waiting anxiously for the result of these conferences, for with payments in foreign currency coming due and the leu at the present rate of exchange (450 lei to the £) something will have to be decided very speedily, otherwise many old established and sound firms will have their bills protested and their credit abroad ruined. In commercial circles it is suggested that instead of a moratorium foreign creditors should be met with acceptances payable in two to three years and endorsed by a syndicate of bankers and merchants, thereby making these acceptances more easily negotiable for the creditors abroad. A solution of this kind would be satisfactory to both parties and particularly to British firms, who could thus take advantage of the Export Credits Scheme. If this should fail, it is further suggested that a reasonable rate of exchange should be legally enforced.

**The Bucharest Fair.**

The Bucharest Fair is an "eye opener" to every visitor and not least to the majority of Roumanians themselves who did not know that such a large variety of goods could be manufactured in their own country. It would not be an exaggeration to say that if Roumania's industries were developed and properly supported by the State in time to come the country could become almost self-contained. There is no doubt that the new provinces have increased considerably the industrial capacity of Roumania. In walking through the different pavilions, very artistically designed, one is struck by the numerous exhibits of various kinds of raw and manufactured products, ranging from cereals, petroleum, coal, iron, gold etc. to electro-motors, hydraulic presses, motor-cars, aeroplanes, railway coaches and locomotives, woollen and cotton articles of all descriptions, everything in the leather line, soaps of all qualities, etc., not to mention the famous Roumanian pottery articles, carpets and embroidered dresses, etc.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, October 2.*

**Revenue Figures.**

The official returns show the following revenue for the financial year 1920-21; State monopolies, 318,445,389 dinars, octroi duties, 349,491,867, direct taxation, 317,530,872 and customs duties, 786,312,718 dinars, making a total of 1,771,780,840 dinars.

**The Internal Loan.**

The subscriptions list to the internal loan of 500 million dinars is closed, and the official figures for Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina are now published. The estimates for Serbia (old frontiers) are 75 millions, but nearly 76 millions have so far been handed in, and returns are still awaited from eleven banks and 79 finance offices, so probably the figure for Serbia will amount to about 90 millions, which is very satisfactory. Bosnia and Herzegovina have so far reported the subscription of nearly 23 millions.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October 2.*

**House Construction in Sofia.**

The building trade is one of the few trades, if, indeed, it is not the only one, that is really flourishing in Bulgaria to-day. With the object of encouraging house construction, the present Government has decreed that any person building a house shall be free to live in it himself, no matter what is its size, and that in addition no taxes need be paid by the owner for ten years. The result of this legislation has been to produce great activity among Bulgarian, Italian, and German builders.

The total number of dwelling houses in Sofia at the end of 1920 was 25,000, but during the first nine months of 1921, no fewer than 805 licences were issued for the construction of new buildings and annexes, having an area of more than 27 square metres, whilst 870 licences were issued to build houses possessing an area less than 27 metres. These figures show an increase of 205 and 170 respectively over the figures for 1912 which previously held the record for construction. It also must not be forgotten that to the 675 houses the construction of which has been begun this year must be added two or three hundred other houses which have been built in the suburbs of Sofia without a licence having been obtained. It is estimated that 2,000 is a figure which comprises all new buildings and this constitutes 8 per cent. of the houses existing in 1920. Other matters which call for comment are the number of second third, and even fourth stories that are being added to bungalows. This work is not difficult to accomplish as the average Bulgarian house is low and flat. Then during the last few months, the construction has been begun in the centre of the town of several large buildings which will serve as offices for commercial and industrial

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companies. The rapidity with which the building is being carried out is somewhat remarkable. The Sofia workmen know no eight hours day and they work even on Sundays. A German firm is importing "ready made" houses which have only to be put up, but so far these somewhat flimsy erections have not found favour as the winter here is too severe for such a class of house to be popular.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, September 20.*

### The Carob Trade.

One of the leading papers has a very strong and outspoken article respecting the position of the carob producing villagers, who are in a depressed state, and on the relations existing between them and the exporting merchants. Severe comments are made regarding the latter. The villagers are nearly all, if not all, more or less heavily indebted to them, and are practically their "serfs." They are consequently obliged to sell their produce at a price, and generally at a time, that suits their merchant or *mastori*. The latter has been buying at 14s. or 15s. the kantar (180 okes), and according to present prices himself obtains 21s. the kantar. Late advance sales have been most unfair to the villager. The demand for carobs in England is such that prices, it is considered, will continue to rise. But the merchants in their haste to obtain immediate profits, give no thought to the unfortunate producer. They should, says the writer, be satisfied with a profit of 2s. a kantar, and allow the villager 18s. or 19s. in the present time of hardship. It would be to the advantage of the merchant as well as the producer if more consideration were given to the actual cultivators in the present crisis. It is to be feared that the reasoning will make but little impression upon the class referred to. No real relief will be possible until the peasantry can shake off the fetters of the moneylender. The root of the evil lies much deeper. It is an old story. What is now urged might have been written at any time during the last 40 years, —or 40 centuries? In Cyprus hopes have been periodically raised that agricultural banks would be established on such terms as would enable all thrifty and deserving peasants to emerge from their serfdom. But the time is not yet, and the evil still goes on.

Two steamers are being loaded with carobs at Limassol and others have been chartered for this and other ports. There has been a sharp rise in prices, and merchants have disposed of a considerable part of this year's crop at 21s. the kantar (£4 13s. 4d. the ton).

### Market Prices.

The following are the present prices of some articles: Carobs, local price 17s. 6d. and upwards per kantar, wine, £3 to £3 5s. per load (128 okes), olive oil, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 9d. per litre; grapes, 1½d. per lb.; wheat, 8s. 6d. to 9s. per bushel; barley, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per bushel; vetches, 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per bushel; sugar, 4½d. per lb.; coffee, 9d. per lb.; rice, 2d. to 3½d. per lb.; onions, ¾d. per lb.; potatoes, ¾d. to 1½d. per lb.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)*

**Greece.**

Telephone Installation.—The Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Athens has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade a copy of a notice of adjudication for the supply of a new Telephone Installation at Athens which is to take place on November 14 next. The installation is to be of the central battery type and of an approximate capacity of 5,000 local lines, 40 inter-urban lines, and at least 50 special lines connecting Athens with the Piraeus. (D.O.T.).

## EGYPTIAN CONSOLIDATED LANDS.

The report of the Egyptian Consolidated Lands, Limited, for the year ended June 30 states that the past financial year witnessed a very heavy fall in the price of cotton, with the result that the market in agricultural land in Egypt suffered severely and practically no sales of land on the Kom-el-Akhdar Estates were completed. The area of the estate remaining unsold at June 30 last was 1,386 feddans. The work of reclaiming 400 feddans, referred to in the last report, is progressing satisfactorily and this land should be ready for sale within the next few months Of the Rodah Island property, 513 square metres were sold during the year at an average price of £E1.125 per square metre. The area held at June 30 last was 110,092 square metres, exclusive of roads. Arrangements have recently been made by the company with the Egyptian Government for the latter to take over the roads on the company's property on the island. The principal sum due to the Mortgage Company of Egypt, and secured by a mortgage on the properties, has been reduced during the year by £10,000 to £70,000.

## ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA.

The report of the Alliance Bank of Simla to June 30 last, presented at the meeting held at Simla on August 30, states that, including Rs.3,13,931 brought in, the balance of profit for year, after contributing to staff provident fund, rebating current bills writing down investments, and providing for bad and doubtful debts is Rs.15,49,423. Interim dividends at rate of £4 per cent. per annum, free of tax, on ordinary, and at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of tax, on preference shares, were paid for December half-year and absorbed Rs.4,06,531, leaving Rs.11,42,892. Directors now propose a dividend for June half-year at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of tax on preference, Rs.1,61,737; further distribution on ordinary at rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 3 per cent., both free of tax, Rs.3,50,000; reserve against depreciation of Government paper and other investments, Rs.2,00,000; staff pension fund, Rs.1,00,000; carried forward, Rs.3,31,154. The preference share capital was increased during the year from Rs.53,51,800 to Rs.53,81,500.

During the year Mr. W. Muir Masson has left the board upon his retirement to England. Mr. R. G. H. Boulton and Mr. W. W. Boulton have also resigned their positions as directors. They have decided to establish an Indian branch of their London finance and issue house, and in these circumstances it was mutually agreed that it would be to the interest of both parties for a separation of directorates to be effected. They still retain their shareholding in this bank.


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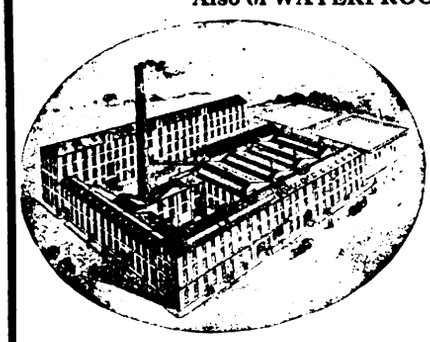

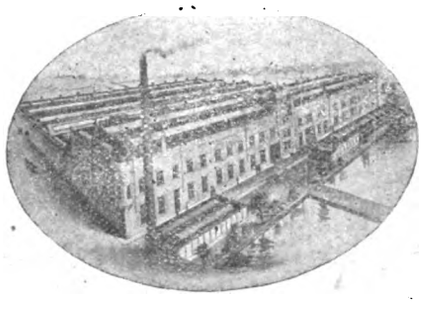

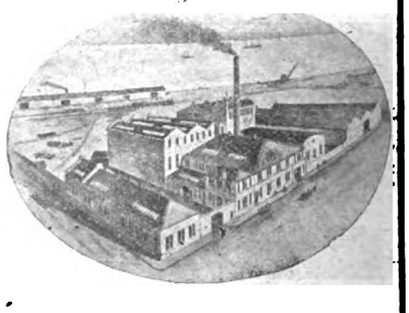

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## SUMMERS AND SIND.

To those who are in any way interested in the great Sukkur irrigation project of Sind the name of Dr. Thomas Summers, C.I.E., needs no introduction. A Coopers Hill engineer of the 1877 batch, he has been remarkable throughout his life for the intensity of fervour he has always thrown into any occupation he happened for the moment to be engaged. *Quid brevi fortes jaculamur aevo multa?* asked Horace; but it was useless to ask Dr. Summers that. It was his nature, and he could not help it. So it came to be that he was a distinguished student at the College on the Green; on his furloughs from India he sought academical degrees and acquired, among others, the D.Sc.; he was just as enthusiastic in his sports, he was a great football player, an athlete, a big-game shot; and when, possibly by reason of his gluttony for work and games, he overtaxed his vigorous constitution, and the doctors said that he could not live, he refused to die. He recovered, and not only recovered, but continued to display a vitality which was the envy of men of his age. In that second lease of life, which he had secured by virtue of his dogged determination, the Robri canal became an obsession. It was the child, so to speak, of his old age, and all the more passionately loved because it was a stricken child. It was not till he had twenty-seven years, and arduous years, of Indian service behind him that he visited the Punjab to inspect the great perennial canals of that province, and he returned to Sind imbued with the idea of improving the inundation canals with which he was familiar. In his programme he set the needs of the tract of country on the left bank of the Indus south of Sukkur first, and devoting all his enthusiasm to the scheme he evolved the project that will always be associated with his name. It was completed in 1910, and in the following year Dr. Summers had perforce to retire. He retired in good odour, for the Bombay Government Resolution of the time said that the supply channel to feed the Robri tract should be called the "Summers" Channel "to perpetuate the memory of the excellent work done in Sind by Dr. Thomas Summers, M.Inst. C.E." With that well-deserved compliment it was no doubt thought that Dr. Summers was officially dead. But so far from being dead, he was very much alive. In fact in the past decade he has been much more in the public eye than he ever was in the course of his long Indian service; and the latest phase of his activities is the forcible lecture he delivered before the East India Association in July in order to protest against the last Sukkur scheme, known as the project of 1920.

There have been many large Indian irrigation projects which have passed through great vicissitudes; but, generally speaking, it may be said that the delays, however unfortunate in themselves, have led to improvements in the end. No one can say that the Sukkur project has been unduly hurried, it was spoken about by Colonel Scott of the Bombay Engineers in 1847, Lieutenant Fife of the same Corps proposed a Robri canal ten years later, and yet in 1921 no estimate submitted to the Secretary of State for India for sanction has ever been so mercilessly criticised. It is unnecessary, however, to dip too deep into ancient history, and the case can best be explained by a reference to three projects which are the outstanding features of the controversy. The first is the project prepared by Dr. Summers himself. It provided for a great canal to take off from the Indus at the Sukkur gorge, and it did not include the construction of a barrage. The gorge is a natural weir, and Dr. Summers was of opinion that his canal would be able to derive its supplies from the river without such assistance. But he was in no way opposed to the barrage, he only held that it should follow the canal if and when it was required, and he was quite prepared to agree that it should be a definite item in the programme provided that it was constructed at a time to synchronise with the *completion* of the whole scheme. Dr. Summers' project went, however, no further than the Government of Bombay, for at that time an alarm was raised that the withdrawals of water from the tributaries of the Indus in the Panjab would ruin Sind. It was a cry of wolf, wolf, when there was no wolf, and exhaustive examination has since conclusively proved that the action of the Punjab canals has had no adverse effect on the Indus at Sukkur. But the outcry led to the belief that the barrage was of immediate necessity, and the next project, that of 1912, provided for a barrage to be begun simultaneously with the canal, and this programme of execution led to its undoing. Dr. Summers protested against it, and possibly on account of his protests the Secretary of State appointed a committee of experts to examine the scheme. The committee reviewed it very thoroughly, and apart from other criticisms came to the decision that it would not fulfil the definition of a productive public work. It was accordingly rejected; and it was unfortunate that the misconception regarding the action of the Punjab canals should have arisen, or the project would probably have been framed in a different way, and no objection would have been taken to it. The Secretary of State, however, refused to sanction it, and it was followed by the project estimate of 1920, which professed, it is believed, to avoid the defects of the estimate of 1912, but which adhered to the same programme of construction in the matter of the barrage, and, therefore, failed to meet with Dr. Summers' approval.

At the Caxton Hall meeting, he explained that if the 1912 project had been under-estimated in cost, the project of 1920 contained more serious errors in the same direction; he said that while the revenue forecasts of 1912 were prepared on safe and cautious lines, those of 1920 were visionary and impossible of fulfilment; he referred to many other details, but his main conclusion was that in the case of a work of such magnitude, dealing with an immense river like the Indus which has never yet been harnessed, there should be a fresh committee of experts to examine and report on the proposals before they are allowed to be carried into effect. With this recommendation it is difficult to quarrel. It does not commit the Government to either the views of Dr. Summers or those of the responsible engineers in India, and it is only right that a work calculated to cost some eighteen millions sterling, which provides for controlling for the first time a dangerous river, should receive the scrutiny of the very best advisers obtainable before it is too late. The Irrigation Comission of 1903 pointed out the difficulties in preparing a remunerative scheme from the Indus at Sukkur; those difficulties obtain at the present time, in fact they are considerably enhanced by the enormous increase in the rates of labour and material in consequence of the war. The Government, it is true, might take the view that if a productive project is impossible, it is still desirable that in the interests of Sind the project should proceed. Such a view would be reasonable; but even so, it must also be desirable not to waste money or to run risks. Lord Lamington, who was in the chair at the East India Association meeting, announced that the 1920 project had received the acceptance of the Secretary of State in Council subject to certain financial restrictions. But the controversy still rages, and there seems to be no valid reason why it should not be set at rest in the way that Dr. Summers has advocated. The latest project has been adversely criticised by engineers of standing, quite apart from Dr. Summers' own views, and investigation in competent hands is indicated to save India from what might conceivably prove to be an expensive and irretrievable mistake.

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**There is a demand** in Yugoslavia for cotton piece goods of all kinds and practically all such commodities must be imported.

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The Roumanian Legation in London reports that the exportation of gold from the mines of Transylvania and Roumania has been authorised by the Roumanian Government for a period of one month, provided the parties interested make a deposit in lei for an equivalent sum at the Roumanian Customs, or at one of the Roumanian Legations abroad.

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## THE POSITION IN EGYPT.

### Outlook more Promising.

With the appearance of the "Reports of His Majesty's High Commissioner on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of Egypt and the Sudan for 1920 "we have for the first time since 1914 the Blue Book with which we were familiar in pre-war days, that of last year being, it will be remembered, largely of the nature of a survey as a period of six years had to be covered. In general the Blue Books on Egypt and the Sudan have been replete with interest, and the present volume is no exception, the period under review having been one in which exceptional conditions obtained in the financial and economic domain, calling for the constant attention of the authorities, and necessitating numerous special measures to enable the country to tide over an undoubtedly critical time.

It would be difficult to visualise a sharper contrast than that which exists between the Egypt of 1919-20 and of 1920-21. The former period saw the country at the zenith of her post-war prosperity as a result of the unprecedented demand for cotton which resulted in f.g.f. Sakellaridis being quoted at Alexandria in February, 1920, at 187 dollars per kantar. That was the culminating point, and before the period closed much of the increase in the price of cotton had disappeared, the economic outlook in general was giving cause for anxiety, and there was evidently ground for fearing that Egypt was destined to endure a long period of depression the effect of which would be to exhaust the reserves accumulated through the war-time prosperity.

Developments more than justified this view. After August cotton fell with increasing rapidity, finally reaching approximately the pre-war level. This decline had a variety of obvious and extremely unfortunate effects. For the agricultural population. it meant the reduction of profits to next to nothing, and the utilisation of reserves in meeting the high rents and the cost of subsistence. This naturally gave rise to widespread dissatisfaction, and pressure was brought to bear on the Government to exercise intervention. The measures adopted were the subject of the following comment by the Financial Adviser in his Note on the Budget:— "Although it has avoided the worst features of the wholesale schemes of speculative cotton purchase urged upon it, Government, in so far as it has erred, has erred in the direction of engaging public funds and credit upon palliatives, which it is to be earnestly hoped have played their part in alleviating popular distress and tension; but which, it should be unambiguously recorded, cannot be justly defended on any other grounds, particularly at a time when the financial resources of Government themselves demand an almost parsimonious husbandry, any departure from which must inevitably be paid for by the taxpayer sooner or later." A second result was a great decrease in purchasing power making the local market a negligible quantity for imports. Large orders had, however, been placed in Manchester at the end of 1919 and the commencement of 1920, and deliveries of goods during the year were on a very large scale. In the middle of the year local buyers began to show a tendency to hold aloof, because of the growing restriction of credits and also on account of the belief that prices were coming down, and goods began to accumulate in the warehouses, and it was not long before a state of unprecedented congestion obtained.

Finally there is the effect on the country's finances to be considered. The budget estimates for 1920-21 balanced exactly as to revenue and expenditure at £E40,271,000. In consequence of the "slump" in cotton, however, the revenue was below the estimate, while the expenditure on the other hand greatly exceeded expectations, necessitating the depletion of the reserve funds, which are now estimated to stand at only £E3,042,866 or rather less than before the war. For the current year the estimates allow for a deficit of £E1,981,000. How far this will be borne out will depend entirely on economic developments during the next few months. If conditions obtain approximating to those of the previous year then the deficit might well be considerable in which case the authorities would be confronted with a very awkward situation. Happily, however, there is no reason for anticipating that that will be the case, for indications at the moment suggest very plainly that the period of depression is nearing its its end. The price of cotton has risen sharply, and though there have been fluctuations the general tone of the market and reports from authoritative sources point to the probability of the continuance of an upward tendency. Any marked advance will, needless to say, have a great effect on the general position, which will also be modified for the better by the tourist season, which, it is believed, will be most successful. It may be pointed out, *en passant*, that concurrently with the revival of the cotton market, the general trade outlook in Egypt has undergone a great improvement. For some time now goods have been going into consumption at a much greater rate so that the congestion should soon be a thing of the past, and then given favourable economic developments British traders should have their opportunity.

One other feature of the Egyptian section of the report must be briefly touched on in conclusion (the Sudan section will be the subject of a separate article) and that is the survey of cotton cultivation during the year. It is pointed out that last year's crop was finally estimated at 6,035,000 kantars, but "it is doubtful . . whether the actual yield for 1920 will ever be known with any accuracy, owing to the fact that only a small proportion of the crop has been ginned, and a large quantity will most certainly be stored and carried over to next year." The statistics of distribution of varieties of cotton show that Sakellaridis was grown on 1,270,481 feddans or 69.51 per cent., Ashmuni being second with 283,906 feddans or 15.53 per cent., and Zagora, which is quoted for the first time as a separate variety, third with 145,171 feddans or 7.94 per cent. It is to be noted that there is a slight decrease in the cultivation of Sakellaridis and a substantial one in the case of Ashmuni. Representations were made last year "regarding the risks to which the cotton industry has been exposed through the appearance of a new variety of cotton, known by the name of Pelion." Enquiries that were made indicated, it is stated, that there was little likelihood that this variety would be extensively grown.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

**Commercial Motors.**

The Commercial Vehicle Exhibition at Olympia, which I had the opportunity of visiting before its opening, promises to surpass itself this year.

One of the most representative stands I visited was that of the Commer Cars, Luton. As one of the oldest firms in the industry their exhibits were worth close inspection.

The exhibits fully maintained the standard which one naturally associates with this Luton firm, and consisted of a range of four Commer Cars, three being goods chassis with carrying capacities of two, four and five tons, the other being a coach for seating 30 passengers. The new five-ton chassis is one of the most powerful and well designed I have seen, and is built to carry a five ton net load in addition to the body and equipment, which weigh a further one ton. The gear box is of the four speed type, and the advantages of the greater reduction obtained by the lower speed will be obvious to all those who are used to handling commercial vehicles, or who, like myself, clattered a milk lorry along the Uxbridge Road and up all sorts of little hills in Bucks during the first post-war railway strike. The gears, by the way, are operated by side lever through a gate change quadrant. Foot and hand brakes are fitted, each being sufficiently strong to hold the vehicle, fully loaded, on a steep decline. A Claudel-Hobson carburettor and a high tension magneto are standard fitments of these cars, which are also equipped, as standard, with hollow spoke cast steel wheels.

The gear box mentioned is of a unique type, and will appeal to all engineers by reason of its strength and comparative simplicity. It consists of main shaft, lay shaft, and reverse shaft running parallel with each other, and to this extent the lines of the conventional sliding gear are followed. Instead, however, of the usual and often unsatisfactory method of sliding the gear teeth into one another, all gear changes are obtained by means of dog clutches cut from solid steel, and it is the successful application of this principle which gives the gear box so many valuable advantages.

**A Handsome Charabanc.**

The Commer coach shewn is strikingly finished in nickel silver fittings, and is luxuriously upholstered It is built to accommodate 30 passengers, and runs on interchangeable disc wheels shod in giant pneumatic tyres. I regard it as a typical example of the high standard of comfort which has now been reached in connection with the motor coach, and from a close inspection it was evident that comfort, safety, and good appearance had received special attention.

Speaking technically of this coach, the engine is a 4-cylinder, and of 120 m.m. bore by 140 m.m. stroke. The cylinders are cast in pairs, and as in all other of this firm's models are carried on two cross members and three point suspended. The Thomas patent four-speed gear box is fitted, The final drive is by overtype worm working in phospher bronze wheel, mounted in removable section of main axle casing for quick inspection and replacement. The propeller shaft is enclosed in a steel tube bolted at one end to back axle. This tube is provided at its forward end with a spherical enlargement, and acts as a combined radius and torque stay.

The brakework is designed to give an exceptionally wide margin of safety. The foot brake acts on a large drum on the main shaft, while the hand brake operates shoes expanding internally in steel drums mounted on rear wheels. All brake drums are of large diameter giving an unusually generous area of braking surface.

**Original Features.**

Another exhibit worthy of extended notice was that of Straker-Squire, Ltd., who are concentrating upon one model of commercial chassis known as the "A" type which has a carrying capacity up to five tons. Although produced in one model only the chassis is adapted to suit particular requirements. Different gear ratios, for instance, are provided for passenger and goods carrying use, and the springing arrangements are varied according to the working conditions and the loads to be carried.

The chassis simply bristles with original features, and is of unusually solid design throughout. The four cylinder engine, which measures 4½ inch bore and 6½ inch stroke is of the overhead valve type, and interesting points in this latter connection are the method of mounting the rocker arms and the means of adjustment. The crankshaft, mounted on two large roller bearings, is 3 inches in diameter, and all wearing parts are of correspondingly large dimensions. The gudgeon pins are fitted to the small ends of the connecting rods, and run in bushes pressed into the piston bosses. Lubrication is positive, oil being forced through the drilled crankshaft by a plunger pump situated behind the camshaft. There are many interesting points about the lubrication system such as the method of squirting oil from nozzles in the crankcase into scoops integral with the crank webs, which have oilways running to the big end bearings. Thermo syphon cooling is used, the flow being assisted by an impeller driven from the fan spindle. An impulse starter is fitted to the magneto, which renders starting up a matter of extreme simplicity, and at 1000 revolutious per minute the engine develops 54 brake horse power.

The main feature of the chassis is a single disc clutch which conveys the drive to a four speed gear box, and it is worthy of note that, owing to the manner in which the engine and gear box are mounted on their supporting sub-frame, there is no need for universal joints between these units. Splines on the primary shaft of the gear-box engage in castellations in the clutch centre. The change speed mechanism is totally enclosed, and works in oil, the gate being carried on the gearbox itself. Transmission is by a tubular shaft, which has a Star type universal joint at either end, and the final drive is through an overhead worm. Both brakes operate on rear wheel drums of large diameter, and as on all other features throughout the chassis a very simple system of adjustment is provided. It may be mentioned in passing that the brake mechanism is fitted with oil-less bushes which require no attention whatever.


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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Coffee.—The market has been unsteady. Costa Rica has gained 8s. at 130s.; and Indian at 100s. has dropped 10s. Nairobi at 106s. is 2s. up; while Jamaica at 140s. is unchanged. Futures are:—December, 50s. 3d.; March, 51s.; May, 52s.; and July, 52s. 6d.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair demand at unchanged rates. White Mauritius at 47s. has shed 1s., while Czecho-Slovakian at 23s. 6d. is unchanged. Other transactions include West Indian crystallized at 40s. to 46s.; white Java at 49s., and beet sugar at 18s. 9d. which is 2s. 3d. down.

Oilseeds.—All prices are weaker. Indian linseed at 16s. is eighteenpence down, while La Plata has shed 10½d. at 16s. 3d. Rapeseed is lower with Toria 9d. down at 19s. 9d.; bold Ferozepore, 3d. down at 18s.; and brown Cawnpore, 1s. down at 19s. Cottonseed has been weak with Indian 1s. 4½d. lower at 10s., while Egyptian black is 9d. down at 14s.

Seed Oils.—Unsteadiness has prevailed. Linseed oil is 6d. down at 31s. Cotton oil is steadier with refined common edible 3s. up at 57s.; Egyptian crude unchanged at 48s., and the deodorized variety 1s. down at 62s.

Oilcakes.—The market has been dull. Linseed cake is 10s. down at 310s.; while London-made cottonseed cake has shed a like amount at 200s. Arachis cake at 310s. is unchanged.

## EXPORT OF ROUMANIAN GRAIN.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Bucharest, September* 28.

The State, having monopolized half of the grain stocks of the country, partly for home consumption and partly for export, has now closed a contract with a syndicate of Roumanian bankers recently formed into a company under the name of "Sindex," for looking after the financing of the sale of the grain available for export. This contract only refers to oats, maize, barley, and beans. The quantity of 6,000 waggons sold to the Italian Company "Granaria" has to be deducted from the available quantity. The Sindex Company will sell abroad up to 50,000 waggons, for the account of the State against a commission of 2½ per cent, and for any further quantity at 2 per cent. All expenses f.o.b. as well as freight and insurance will be borne by the State. The sale will be made at the best price obtainable, while the foreign currency (preferable sterling, dollars, French francs and Italian liras) resulting from the sale will be placed at the disposal of the Government. The syndicate guarantees the payments of the goods delivered, thereby exempting the State from all risks.

The syndicate will further open a credit for the State of 500 million lei, to be used only for the purchase of the grain from the farmers, which amount will be refunded from the sales effected abroad. The state will pay for this loan an interest of 1 per cent. above the Banca Nationala rate, with a minimum of 7 per cent. plus a three monthly commission of ¼ per cent. The prices paid to the farmers are those fixed by the State. The whole organisation of taking delivery, selling, shipping, and making and collecting payments will be carried out by the syndicate. For shipment Roumanian boats must be preferred.

## ROUMANIA'S MAIZE CROP.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Bucharest, September* 28.

According to the statistical data of the Ministry of Agriculture the gathering of the maize crop is almost terminated, and can be estimated at an average of 14 hectolitres per hectare. Thanks to the last rains the autumn ploughing and sowing are progressing satisfactorily.

The Roumanian-Swiss Convention, which has recently been signed, stipulates that out of the credit of 40,000,000 francs accorded to Roumania in exchange for deliveries of cheese 24,000,000 francs are to be used for the purchase of Swiss goods, orders for which the Roumanian Government will place with Swiss producers.

## SATISFACTORY CROP PROSPECTS IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following communiqué:—

In India during September, rain was sufficient nearly everywhere and was generally well distributed. In part of the North West Frontier Province, Upper Burma, Baluchistan, Southern Bombay, and Madras Deccan, the crops are suffering from insufficient rain. Much damage has been caused by floods in the Saran District of Bihar. In Malabar, owing to Moplah outrages, the harvest may be lost and the second crop may not be sown. In three Deccan districts of Madras last year's crop failure seems likely to be repeated and famine relief operations are extending in this tract.

These local exceptions, however, do not detract materially from the crop prospects of the country as a whole, which are most satisfactory. In the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and the Central Provinces, crops are excellent, while elsewhere, with the exceptions mentioned above, they are good. At least a normal autumn harvest is expected. Prospects of wheat sowings are good, except in the North West Frontier Province, where more rain is needed. The price of rice has fallen appreciably in most provinces, but food grains generally are still extremely dear, and cheap grain shops have been opened in part of Northern India.

## DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date October 4:—

Currants.—It is very difficult to say anything about the market during the closing weeks of the past month, because there is little to relate. If there was any feature at all, it was the excessive desire of holders to unload their small remaining stock before the arrival of new, with the natural sequence of forcing values down. Closing prices on arrival of new fruit:—Pyrgos and Amalias, 42s. to 44s.; Patras, 52s. to 56s.; Zante, 45s. to 62s.; Gulf and Panariti, 55s. to 65s.; Vostizza, 65s. to 75s.

New Fruit.—The first supply came to hand by the Phrygia, only about 800 tons of her cargo being available for the Brokers' Counters. Samples of these were on view towards the end of last month. Quality so far seen is disappointing, a large proportion being small and thin, and little interest was evinced, only a few parcels changing hands. Pyrgos, 52s.; Zante, 65s. to 68s. (few specialities up to 72s.); Patras, 65s. to 68s.; Gulf, 62s. to 68s.; Vostizza, 70s. to 82s. The Bosnian with a further 1,200 tons is discharging and it is hoped that with a better selection more interest will be in evidence, as the opening has proved the most discouraging ever experienced. No further steamer is reported as having left Greece, so it looks as if we should be short of supplies in the near future.

Valencia Raisins.—The vines were so ruined by drought and other causes that the quality harvested is the smallest known for many years, and latterly heavy rains have further reduced the stocks available, damage being suffered by fruit while in the process of drying. Samples of first arrivals ex-Kamir, Phrygia, and Seahound (the total being very small) are on the market. Demand keeps slow, and progress most difficult. ½ boxes, 125s. to 132s.; ¼ boxes, 130s. to 140.

Sultanas.—The Luque's cargo of 50,000 boxes opened the market. For some time past it was known the the old stocks were exhausted and that the new fruits would consequently come to a market bare of supplies. Nevertheless when the above named steamer's fruit came on offer it was found necessary to accept lower rates than the parity of forward business transacted on overland samples, if any progress was to be made. Sellers decided to meet buyers and a number of parcels changed hands at 10s. per cwt. reduction. The interesting feature is that, although demand is slow and no weight is moving, steady progress on a small scale is possible, buyers giving repeat orders as soon as they dispose of their purchases.

Figs.—The first arrival of skeleton cases of good quality, was quickly disposed of—large boxes selling at 140s. to 150s. Small boxes up to 155s. Loucoums 160s. to 180s.; pulled, 95s. to 110s. Further supplies ex-Malatian are discharging.

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## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 17 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amounted to 78,215 bags compared with 39,665 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 68,215 bags as against 37,165 bags for the same period last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 10,000 bags as compared with 2,500 bags for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to date came to 47,511 loads, as against 54,562 loads for last year. The total estimated sales were 46,511 loads as compared with 54,562 loads, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 1,000 loads.

Shipments.—Sultanas and figs are being loaded on the following steamers :—S.s. Antigone for London and Bristol ; s.s. Gourko for London and Hull ; s.s. Trentino for Liverpool and Glasgow ; s.s. Stork for London ; s.s. Jason for Amsterdam; and s.s. Wheelingmold for New York.

Markets.—Market for sultanas opened firm and sales of the week totalled about 3,000 tons. Prices in local currency are advancing, but the upward tendency of foreign exchanges, accompanied by sharp and sensational fluctuations, has entirely counteracted any advance in foreign equivalents. In view of political uncertainties, it is more than probable that exchanges will continue to fluctuate widely and business is becoming to a great extent a gamble on exchange rates. A steady business is doing in figs, and all arrivals continue to be absorbed with ease. In both articles there are still large forward engagements to be covered and demand will continue active throughout the month.

For the week ended September 24, Messrs. C. J. Giraud report :

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 95,960 bags, as against 51,875 bags for 1920. The estimated sales total 85,960 bags, compared with 47,875 bags for last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 10,000 bags against 4,000 bags.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 72,679 loads as against 78,554. The sales are 71,544 loads as against 78,554. The sales are 71,544 loads as against 78,554 loads, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 1,000 loads.

Shipments.—Sultanas and Figs are being loaded on the following steamers :—S.s. Malvolio for Australia ; s.s. Antigone for London and Bristol ; s.s. Gourko for London and Hull ; s.s. Stork for London ; s.s. Jason for Amsterdam ; and s.s. Stella for Amsterdam.

Markets.—Prices for both sultanas and figs showed little change in local currency over the week. Demand still continues its activity owing to the engagements still outstanding for September. Exchanges have fluctuated within narrower limits, but the general tendency has been downwards marking a decline of about 4 per cent. on the preceeding week and proportionately increasing the sterling cost of fruit. Arrivals of sultanas are showing some reduction but supplies of figs have been maintained owing to the requirements of the packing establishments which will be closing down in the course of October.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon : (Continental), 160s. cwt. ; (Canadian), 115s. cwt. ; (American), 102s. 6d. cwt. ; butter : (Danish), 226s. cwt. ; (Australian), 180s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 205s. cwt. ; cheese (Canadian), 103s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 97s. cwt. ; lard 85s. cwt. ; eggs : (Danish), 28s. 6d. per 120 ; (Styrian) 17s. 6d. ; per 120 ; chillies, 155s. cwt. ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3½d. lb. cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 87s. cwt. ; coffee : (Costa Rica) 146s. 6d. cwt. ; (East India), 140s. cwt. ; (Central American), 120s. cwt. ; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt. ; (Mocha longberry), 113s. 6d. cwt. ; (Santos superior), 65s. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 49s. 9d. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb. ; pepper : (Singapore black), 4d. lb. ; (Muntok white), 9d. lb. ; pimento, 2½d. lb. ; raisins (Valencias), 137s. 6d. cwt. ; sultanas (Smyrna), 126s. cwt. ; currants : (Vostizza), 79s. 6d. cwt. ; (Amalias), 61s. cwt. ; sugar : (Tate's cubes), 57s. 9d. cwt. ; (Lyle's granulated), 52s. 1½d. cwt. ; (Mauritius crystals), 47s. 9d. cwt. ; (West India Crystallized), 43s. 3d. cwt. ; (centrifugal), 17s. 9d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1¼d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour, 17s. 3d. cwt. ; rice : (Rangoon No. 2), 22s. 6d. cwt. ; (bran Rangoon), £8 12s. 6d. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 1½d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb. ; tea : (Indian, common to good common), 10½d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 5d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb. ; Ceylon (common to good common), 10½d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 5d. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb. ; Java (common to good common), 7d. lb. ; wheat : (English white), 57s. 6d. qr. ; (La Plata ex-ship), 82s. qr. ; (Australian) 72s. 9d. qr. ; barley (malting), 72s. 6d. qr. ; barley (feeding). 39s. 9d. qr. ; oats (English), 31s. qr. ; oats (La Plata), 25s. 9d, qr. ; maize (mixed American), 37s. 3d. qr. ; maize (La Plata) 34s. qr. ; flour, 53s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton ; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton ; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £68 8s. 3d. ton ; copper (electro), £73 10s. ton ; gold bars, 111s. 2d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 125s. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 150s. ton ; galvanized sheets (24G), £19 5s. ton ; lead (soft foreign) £22 16s. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit ; molybdenite, 40s. unit ; nickel, £190 ton ; platinum, 365s. oz. ; plumbago, £20 ton ; quicksilver, £9 10s. bottle ; silver bars, 43d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 11s. 3d. ton ; tin (standard), £156 12s. 6d. ton ; wolfram, 13s. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton ; tin plates (20 x 14), 21s. 6d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 66s. cwt. ; oxalic, 8½d. lb. ; citric 2s. 4½d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 5½d. lb. ; ammonia (sulphate), £13 7s. 6d. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £31 5s. ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 5¼d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent), £16 10s. ton ; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 128s. 9d. cwt. ; Potassium : Bi-chromate, 9d. lb. ; chlorate, 5d. lb. ; caustic, £30 10s. ton ; nitrate, £53 ton ; permanganate, 11¾d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.), £17 ton ; Sodium; Crystals, 141s. 3d. ton ; bi-carbonate, £12 5s. ton ; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 5s. ton ; chlorate, 4d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 10s. ton ; hyposulphate, £2 12s. 6d. ton ; prussiate, 7d. lb. ; nitrate, £17 12s. 6d. ton ; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton ; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent), £110 ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 10½d. lb. ; quinine, 4s. 0½d. oz. ; red lead, £39 15s. ton ; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton ; white ground lead, £53 2s. 6d. ton ; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron, 117s. 6d. ton

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and under, 10¾d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 10¾d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 10¾d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 10¼d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 8,3-8d. lb. ; (second), 90 lbs and up, 9,3-8d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 9,3-8d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs. 9,3-8d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 9d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 8¼d. lb Cows (first), 70lbs. and up, 8¾d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 8¼d. lb. (second), 60 lbs. and up, 7d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6¾d. lb. Bulls (first), 6,1-8d. lb. ; (second), 4,3-8d. lb. ; Kips (first) 6,7-8d. lb. ; (second), 6,1-8d. lb. ; (third), 4d. lb.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 13.20d. lb. ; cotton (Egyptian Sakel), 26.60d. lb. ; Oilseeds : Linseed (La Plata), £16 ton ; rape (Toria), £20 5s. ton ; soya beans, £15 5s. ton ; palm kernals, £21 15s. ton ; sesame seed (China), £33 ton ; Oils : Linseed, £33 2s. 6d. ton ; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton ; palm £42 ton ; rape (crude), £54 10s. ton ; soya, £44 10s. ton ; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; fuel oil (ex tank), £3 15s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon), £53 ton ; cotton (crude), £46 11s. 6d. ton ; Rubber : Plantation No. 1 crepe, 9d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 9d. lb. ; fine hard Para, 1s. 1d. lb.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 3 :—

Season.—September 26.—Monsoon active in Burma and North East India. September 27—Break in Arabian Sea monsoon. September 28—Weak except in Burma and to the south of Peninsula. September 29—Withdrew from North-West India. September 30 to October 2.—Fairly heavy rain in Punjab and round head of Bay.

Crops.—September 30—Punjab—unchanged. Central Provinces—Rice and cotton good to excellent. Sesamum very good. Bengal—Winter paddy normal. Jute fair. Sugarcane good. Bombay—Cotton and Sesamum good. Groundnut excellent. Assam—Sugarcane and cotton normal broadcast. Winter rice poor. Tea and transplanted rice good.

Markets.—Bombay cotton market September 29—quiet, but steady. Oomras. Rs. 515 December-January. Cotton arrivals September 1 to 23, 110,000 bales as compared with 38,000 bales in same period last year. Government of Bombay have published Bombay Cotton Contracts Control War Provisions Repeal Act, 1921, which repeals as from November 15, next the Act of 1919, which constituted the Cotton Contracts Board. Surplus assets of Board will be applied by Government of Bombay for the benefit of cotton trade in city of Bombay. In Bombay piece-goods market hopeful tendency continues and up-country buyers more in evidence. Demand in staple styles more encouraging, and rupee rates better. In some cases local goods moving fairly. Calcutta jute, September 30—Drop in rates to Rs. 62 for old crop firsts and Rs. 52 for old crop lightnings. Gunnies quiet but steady. Same rate for T.N. shellac as last week, viz., Rs. 142. At the tea sale on September 27 quality good. Price 3 pies lower, for medium leaf grades from 6 to 8 annas. Dusts slightly lower. Other grades unchanged. 223,885 packages sold to date at average price of 8 annas 11 pies per lb. On September 30 Rangoon rice market excited over end of September settlement owing to rumours of weakness in Calcutta and Bombay, also of anticipated Government action. Price, special rice, Rs. 632½. Paddy arrivals dimishing. Price quoted. Rs. 265. No change in Bank Rates.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## YUGOSLAVIA'S TRADE OUTLOOK.

### The Salonika Project.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Zagreb, October 2.*

A press message from Salonika states that the Greek authorities are now arranging to carry out the scheme by which Yugoslavia will have its own free zone for the transit of merchandise through that port. The Governor of Macedonia, M. Alexandropoulos, has decided to proceed without delay to obtain the necessary site. As soon as that is done the construction of the necessary docks, wharves, warehouses, offices, and other buildings, for which a period of ten years is allowed, will be at once begun. The project is an urgent necessity for Yugoslavia, and it is to be hoped that a working scheme will be adopted long before the completion of this ambitious programme, for the kingdom, in spite of its long seaboard, in spite of its population of about 13 millions, in spite of its great natural resources, in spite of Serbia's successful wars for eight years, one of the main objects of which was an outlet to the sea, is still at the mercy of two foreign maritime states for the free ingress and egress of merchandise. Both these States have vast coast lines, a seafaring population, and numerous ports of their own, and have no interest in the interior behind Salonika and Fiume.

There have been a good many complaints about delays at Salonika, shortage of rolling stock, and difficulties put in the way by Greek officials. The Greek authorities have now informed the Government that all obstacles have been removed which were interfering with goods in transit, and that they will in future endeavour to give every possible facility.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 27).

*Anchor Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Malia for Calcutta (Manchester November 5) ; s.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 5) ; s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 19).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 26).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Broughton for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna. Constantza, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 15) ; s.s, Lord Harrington for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 28).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan MacNair for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 19) ; s.s. Clan MacNaughton for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 20).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk and Batoum (Glasgow, November 3) ; s.s. Pavia for Genoa, Leghorn, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Liverpool, November 10).

*Ellerman Line.*—s.s. City of Oxford for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, October 22).

*Ellerman "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 15) ; s.s. City of Harvard for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, October 22) ; s.s. City of Brisbane for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 26).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of Palermo for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, October 15) ; s.s. Melford Hall for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, October 31).

*Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenluce for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, October 20) ; s.s. Glenogle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, November 3).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Diplomat for Calcutta (Liverpool, October 14) ; s.s. Dramatist for Calcutta (Liverpool, November 1).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Bhamo for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 19).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 22) ; s.s. Peruviana for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, November 5).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Sitra for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Piraeus, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, October 15) ; s.s. Amarna for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, October 15).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, October 22).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Kaisar-I-Hind for Bombay (London October 14) ; s.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, October 21) ; s.s. Kalyan for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 21) ; s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 14) ; s.s. Neuralia for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 21) ; s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 28) ; s.s. Merkara for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 4) ; s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 11.)


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**MASSILIA, JANUARY 20,**

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A provisional trade agreement is being negotiated between Greece and Czecho-Slovakia.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the 10 days ended September 10, amounted to £E10,067 making the total for the year £E149,328. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E14,564 and £E200,665 respectively.

## AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

118. Well known Sports Goods House with factory in India, wish to appoint Agents in Near and Middle East where not at present represented.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Aleppo, September 7.

The crop of cereals is reported to be good, Prices have fallen by about 10 per cent. Prices of Manchester goods, which find a large opening in this market, have improved of late.

There is practically no export of the products of this region, with the exception of pistachio nuts and apricot kernels which are in great demand notably for America.

The prices of the principal products of the district (in Piastres Syrian per kilogramme) are:—Wool, washed, extra, 37; raw wool, 24; cotton, 18 to 20; yellow wax, 78; apricot kernels, 9; pistachio nuts—(white shells) 729, (red shells) 27; butter 80.

Adana.

The report for August states:—The great heat that has been experienced during the month has damaged the cotton, and the forecasts of the crop do not appear to bear out the total of bales previously anticipated. The crop of cereals so far as it has been raised is short. Orders have come from Marseilles for about 1,000 tons.

The local administration, owing to the deplorable position of agriculturists, who had to undergo great losses during the events of July, 1920, and who in consequence are unable to proceed with the development of the land, and fearing lest the shortage of the crop of cereals should be repeated in the 1921-22 season, has invited the various banking houses such as the Banque Agricole, the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and the Banque Francaise de Syrie to ask their head offices to grant credits of about £T750,000 to the agriculturists. But it does not appear that the prospect will be agreed to by the said banking administrations.

The recovery in the price of cotton has relieved the market, and merchants are looking forward hopefully to the end of the crisis which has lasted for more than a year. This market possesses a stock of approximately 20,000 bales of cotton. The quotation at the commencement of the month was Ps. 135-150, and is now Ps. 180—200 with a strong tendency to rise.

Orders are arriving from all parts. Merchants are freeing their goods which have been held as security by the banks, and are selling them almost without a profit. The financial stringency from which the market has been suffering appears to be undergoing an improvement. The banks are showing more confidence in their advances in view of their increased security as a result of the rise of cotton.

The Banque Francaise de Syrie, of Mersina, is contemplating the construction of large warehouses in the proximity of the customs for the direct reception of goods in their passage through the customs. A special customs staff would have to be installed to deal with the valuation of the duties. A large piece of land beside the sea has been purchased by the bank from the Efkafs for the sum of £T2,000.

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The annual general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank will be held at Winchester House, E.C, on November 3.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

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SALONICA. SMYRNA. TUNIS.
(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

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Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Tone Generally Dull.

*( From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday.

Almost the only bright feature of the week has been provided by the gilt-edged market, and in general the tone has been very dull. Hopes had been entertained that the Bank rate would be lowered, and this further disappointment added somewhat to the general depression.

Among gilt-edged securities Consols are ¼ up at 48 7-8. War Loan Fives are 89 3-8, a rise of ½, while Fundings are ¼ up at 72 1-8. In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 69, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are the same at 66 and 69 respectively. The India 7 per cent. Loan is ¼ up at 103¼.

A tendency to weakness has prevailed in the Industrial group. There has been a considerable amount of liquidation in various directions, and generally speaking, prices have moved towards lower levels. Iron and steel shares have been dull. Shipping shares have also been weak, P. and O. Deferred being 15 down at 350. Furness Withy have shed 9d. at 24s. 3d., while Cunards have dropped a similar amount at 18s.

**Oils Weak.**

Oils have been exceptionally dull, with Mexican Eagles again providing the outstanding weakness. Much selling of these shares has been going on during the week, and they now stand at 3½, a fall of 23-32 on the week. Anglo-Egyptians are 3-32 down at 1 1-8, while Roumanian Consolidated have shed 9d. at 9s. Steaua Romana are 1s. 9d. lower at 8s. 9d., while Phoenix are 3d. down at 8s. 3d. Burmahs are 5-8 down at 4 7-8.

Bank shares have been fairly firm. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are 53 xd, while the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are 55 xd. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 7 7-8 but National Bank of Egypts are 1-8 down at 19 7-8. Bank of Athens are 2 3-8, while Ionians are 3¼.

There is little fresh to report as regards Rubbers. The raw commodity now seems to be fairly firm at a fraction above 9d., but the shares are still very weak, though it would not take much buying to make some remarkable changes in prices.

**Greeks Dull.**

Greek shares have displayed weakness. The 5 per cent 1884 Loan is 2 down at 39. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is unchanged at 5, while the five per cent Funding Loan remains at 39, but the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 1 down at 39.

Land shares have been firm. Beheras are unchanged at 11, while Behera Prefs are the same at 3¼. Egyptian Delta Lands are 1½ lower at 9s. 1½d., but Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1½d. up at 1s. 3d. New Egyptians are 6d. up at 26s., but Sudan Plantations are 1-8 down at 3 1-16. Union Foncieres are 1-16 up at 3 1-16.

## OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

**Dacia Romano Petroleum.**

The report of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate Ltd. states that the company's development programme has been retarded by the lack of transport facilities, the improvement in this respect being much slower than was generally anticipated. Chiciura Well No. 1 and Baicoi Well No. 1, the two wells which were partially restored after their destruction by the British Commission, yielded during the year 3,030 tons of oil, production having been restricted by defects at the Power Station which supplies the oilfields with electric current, involving a stoppage of several weeks. A further four weeks stoppage at Chiciura No. 1 Well was caused by a landslide which necessitated repairing the derrick. The difficulty of getting materials through to the new well sites from the Port of Galatz rendered it impossible to start drilling operations until early this year. Baicoi Well No. 2 was commenced in January, and Moreni Well No. 1 at the end of March: both wells are on the verge of completion, and new wells are being commenced at Moreni and Chiciura. The big labour strike in Roumania, which lasted for five months, suspended progress for that period, and the contractors were further delayed by the great difficulties of transport. The Factory has just been completed, and the plant and machinery is now being tested. It is anticipated the refinery will be operating by the end of October. The whole of the work in connection with both buildings and plant has been carried out in a most satisfactory manner, and the company will now possess a freehold refinery equipped with the most up-to-date plant and capable of refining over 200 tons of oil daily. Roumanian exchange has throughout the year been subject to wide fluctation and the sum of £4,767 3d. 5d. has been written off the Profit and Loss Account for depreciation of Lei, leaving a profit of £104 15s. 4d., which added to the balance £234 os. 6d. brought forward from last account makes a total of £338 15s. 10d., which the Directors recommend should be carried forward. While progress has been retarded by the unavoidable causes above referred to, the directors are satisfied that the company is now about to enter the profit earning stage.

**The Empire's Oilfields.**

A new volume, dealing with petroleum. in the series of Monographs on the Mineral Resources of the Empire, issued under the direction of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Imperial Institute, has just been published by Mr. John Murray. (Price 5s. This monograph has been prepared jointly with H.M. Petroleum Department with the assistance of Mr. H. B. Cronshaw, N.A., Ph.D., A.R.S.M. The world's output of petroleum during the last fifteen years has increased from 35 millions tons to upwards of 90 million tons. The first chapter describes the characteristics of petroleum, the geological distribution of oil in the chief oilfields, the causes which have affected the transference or migration of oil, drilling for oil and the methods of refining it. and the uses of petroleum products. In the second chapter the deposits of the British Empire are described, especially those of India, Egypt, Ontario, and Trinidad. The third and last chapter deals with the petroleum of foreign countries, more particularly Poland Roumania, Russia (Ural-Caspian region), Georgia (the Caucasus) Dutch East Indies, Japan, Persia, Mexico, the United States Argentina (Comodora Rivadavia) and Peru. Statistical tables give imports, exports, and production, and the chapter concludes with a map showing the principal petroleum deposits of the world and a list of the chief publications on petroleum.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on September 23 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 19-32 ; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7½ ; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½ ; Associated Cotton Ginners, £27-32 ; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56½ ; Behera Ord., £E 10¾ ; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75 ; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16 ; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100 ; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 55 ; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 30 ; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £15-16 ; Consolidated Land, Pt., 6; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 840 A Credit Foncier Act; Fr 643 Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 334½ Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110 ex. ; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 81½; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 108; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 26s. 9d. ; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4,5-32 ex. ; Filature Nationale d'Egypte. £12⅛ ; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5,½ ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s. ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2 9-16 ; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £5 ½-16 ; Kom Ombo Ste., Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex. ; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37: Lots Turc., Fr., 35 ; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270 Nungovich Hotels, £7-3-32 ; Ramleh Railways, £3 3-16 ; Sal and Soda, Pt., 35s. 3d. ; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr.,48 ; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 60 ; Union Fonciere d'Egypte £3,1-16 ; Egypt Hotels, £2 7-32 ; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 7-8.

## THE GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to July 31, 1921 (new style January 14 to August 13, 1921).

| | Monopolies, tobacco stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery. | Piraeus Customs. |
|---|---|---|
| | Drachmai. | Drachmai. |
| Gross receipts. July, 1921.... | 5,893,253.67 | 6,074,712.35 |
| Do. do. do. 1920 .... | 5,222,312.71 | 4,102,654.65 |
| Estimated receipts for 7 months (Law of Control) ..... | 16,858,333.33 | 6,241,666.67 |
| Actual receipts for 7 months, 1921 ..... | 39,498,349.04 | 31,768,977.15 |
| Actual receipts for 7 months, 1920 ..... | 36,232,582.00 | 34,074,508.70 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 7 months 1921 | x22640,015.71 | x25,527,310.48 |
| 1920 | x19374,248.67 | x27,832,842.03 |

NOTE.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49,1-5 per cent' is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

The products of the sales of Naxos emery have been paid in paper drachmai since August, 1920. In the case of the Piraeus Customs, the receipts in gold are included in the above statement at par.

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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester, Saturday.*

In connnection with this market the most notable event during the past week has been the opening by the King of the reconstructed and enlarged Manchester Royal Exchange. Great interest was taken in the ceremony, and Lancashire traders are justly proud of their new market place. There is no doubt that the increased accommodation will be very welcome, as for several years business has been carried on under severe difficulties owing to the congested state of the boards. The market as a whole during the week has presented a more cheerful appearance. The easier tendency displayed in raw cotton circles towards the close has somewhat checked enterprise, but on the whole the undercurrent of demand remains healthy. With regard to the outlets of the Near East there has been less activity, in cloth and to some extent the falling off in the turnover may be accounted for by the Jewish holidays at the beginning of the week. Buying in Egyptian yarns has been very patchy. Here and there, however, fair contracts have been arranged, and on the whole Bolton firms are more favourably situated than a little time ago. The cloth enquiry for India has tended to broaden, but there is no doubt that the Ghandi agitation to boycott Lancashire goods is seriously harassing developments. More favourable bids have been received, and some fair lines have been booked in light fabrics for Madras and Karachi. Grey shirtings and mulls have been in better request for Calcutta. There has been a better inquiry about for Chinas, and quite an encouraging turnover has taken place in grey and white shirtings, sheetings and fancies, orders being reported for Shanghai and Hong Kong. It remains to be seen, however, whether the revival of demand will be maintained. South American advices have read more cheerfully, and some minor transactions in a variety of fabrics have been registered. Many merchant houses are not in a position at the moment to adopt a policy of enterprise, but it is quite evident dealers abroad are more disposed to replenish supplies if satisfactory terms can be arranged.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 6 :—

The past week began in a very satisfactory manner, a good demand for Egyptian cotton being again in evidence. The outlook all round seemed brighter, and spinners appeared to be gaining in confidence. Report from Manchester were consistently good, and denoted a distinct broadening of trade. Then came the American condition estimate of 42 per cent., and this gave speculators and others furiously to think. Although at first all markets showed considerable resistance to the selling pressure which naturally accrued, the germ of a big reaction had been sown, and during the last two days of the week a big drop has taken place. This reaction came at a most unfortunate time, and it has had the effect for the moment of somewhat checking spinners' buying enthusiasm. The result was immediately noticeable here in Liverpool, where a marked diminution in the daily sales occurred.

We are of the opinion, however, that this set-back is only of a temporary nature, and that the "shake-out" of the last few days in the futures market will merely induce towards a healthier state of things, and that confidence amongst our spinner friends will soon be restored. Already, in fact, signs are not wanting that this has commenced. Crop reports from Egypt indicate that considerable damage has been sustained, and Alexandria is apparently finding no difficulty in marketing the balance of her old crop, between the Continent and America—not to speak of Lancashire. A telegram from Alexandria received to-day, from a trustworthy source, reads as follows :—'Large demand for Uppers. Fear probable scarcity." There is only a poor selection of Uppers in Liverpool at the present time.

The spot demand here during the week has been mainly for Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair and upwards, but Tokar and Sudan cottons have again received a considerable amount of attention. The bulk of this latter business, we believe, has been done for shipment to America. Brown, Uppers and White cottons have been comparatively neglected. Total sales 4,200 bales (includes 1,550 Sudan). Quotations have fluctuated considerably, but on balance Sakellaridis is unchanged, with the exception of Extra Fine, which is ¼d. dearer. Brown and Uppers are ¾d. lower on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 28.25d.

## AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The following was the position of the bank's encashments on August 31 ( the figures in brackets representing the corresponding totals for 1920 ) :—Existing Loans : Short term Loans, £E59,940 ( £E13,424 ) ; Special loans with the direct guarantee of the Egyptian Government £E40 832 ; Category "B" £E3,527,894 ( £E3,469,904 ) Total, £E3,628,666 ( £E3,483,328 ) ; Matured Loan instalments : Due, £E25,557 ( £E24,976 ), falling due £E604,186 (547,519)total, £E629,743 ( £E572,519 ). Perceptions : Outstanding on January 31 £E172,700 ( £E83724 ), Balance, £E136.648 ( £E ( £E50,949 ), Encashed £E36,112 (£E32,775 ) ; Matured Loan instalments: Encashed £E14,324 ( £E15,912 ) ; Total encashments of instalments due £E 50,436 ( £E48,687 ).

## EXPERIMENTAL COTTON STATION FOR SYRIA.

H.M. Consul General at Beyrout states that according to a recent issue of *Reveil* the French High Commissioner has decided to establish an experimental station for cotton culture in the Akkar plain, E.N.E. of Tripoli, on crown land placed at his disposal by the Governor of the Greater Lebanon. This station will deal especially with questions concerning cotton cultivation, but it will also concern itself with matters affecting agriculture in general and cattle breeding. The construction of the necessary buildings and the installation of the station will be begun at once, and it is hoped that it will eventually become an important factor in the agricultural life of Syria.

The Consul adds that the idea is on the right lines, and it is to be hoped that it will be duly carried out. Syria is pre-eminently an agricultural country, and it is important that its agriculture should be developed in every way possible in order to stimulate exports and to reduce the at present highly unfavourable balance of trade. Cotton growing has undoubtedly possibilities, and although the prospects of Syria were affected severely by the war there seems no reason when conditions become normal, why the favourable predictions made before the war should not be fulfilled.

Reuter's Bucharest Correspondent in a message dated October 4 states that a party of British, French, and Belgian financiers has arrived at Ploesti for the inauguration of an oil refinery. At a banquet Colonel Frank Hilder, M.P., and Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., emphasised the importance for the Allies of co-operation with Roumania.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange. | Latest. Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 3-8 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £ .. | 25.22½ | 91.50 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 220-240 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 22.43 | 465-469 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.5½-1.5⅝ |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 53.25-53.40 |
| Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 430-448 |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.5½-1.5⅝ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 670-690 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £..... | 42.86 2-3 | 3.72-3.73 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 52.95 52.45 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 350-355 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 94.00-95.00 |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ .... | 25.22½ | 506-550 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 51 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 7,200-7,400 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 17,000-20,000 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

GERMAN MARKS OVER 400 TO THE £
Has the Depreciation of the German Mark come to an end.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION.—Exclusive information on the present position of GERMAN MARKS and an indication as to the future price movements. (Highest last year, 353—lowest, 147), together with CABLE INFORMATION FROM OUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE NOW IN FRANKFURT A-MAINE can be obtained free of charge by Investors writing to the :—
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Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London S.W 1.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 545—Vol XX. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Spirit of Nationalism.*

In denouncing the spirit of nationalism as the main source of all the sufferings and mischiefs which the peoples of Europe are now enduring Lord Hugh Cecil has sacrificed logic for an epigram. He was so far conscious of the weakness of this thesis as to admit that there was much truth in the contention that it is rather hatred of other nations than the love of one's own that is now ruining Europe, and he could not deny that nationalism under due discipline is a beneficent force. If he had probed deeper into his subject, he might have found that it was more accurate to say that at the root of the evil was violence to the spirit of nationalism, aided by the political instability of Governments as a result of the stress of war. As far as South-Eastern Europe is concerned, it is noticeable that surprisingly little rancour between the different peoples remains after the war, although it may suit Governments and sections of the Press to misrepresent the situation. The peoples are weary of strife and want to settle down to the work of reconstruction, but the politicians are inclined to harp on the nationalist string for their own ends, to cover up injustice in the peace settlement for which they may be responsible, or for the imagined effect abroad. If the violence done by the Allies to the principle of nationality could be remedied, there would be a better chance of peace in the Near East. But the move must come from outside, for no Near Eastern Government feels itself strong enough to prospose any concession in the interest of good relations with its neighbours, for fear that it may give a handle to its political opponents.

### *Greece and the Entente.*

The Greek Prime Minister, having received a vote of confidence from the Chamber, has left Athens with M. Baltazzi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on a visit to the Entente capitals in order to lay the Greeek case once more before the French and British Governments. It is well that a personal exchange of views should take place, as the situation is too delicate to be dealt with by formal despatches. M. Gounaris has shown by his speeches that both Govermnent and people are still living in pre-war days. They recall, naturally enough, their five centuries of oppression under Turkish rule, and think of themselves as still striving "for their liberation." But liberation and conquest are not synonymous. The territory now occupied by the Greek army has a population of about three million, the Prime Minister declared in the Chamber, instead of the one million in the zone accorded to Greece by the Treaty of Sèvres. But even the one million were far from being all Greeks; a very much smaller proportion of the additional two million will be. All this territory, therefore, must be evacuated. The post-war spirit requires that a fresh start should be made; that Asia Minor, which is predominantly Turkish, should remain under Turkish jurisdiction, in order that even Turks should be given a chance to respond to the new order of things. If they fail under these favourable conditions, it will then be time to consider the problem of coercing them into better ways.

### *The Problem of Smyrna.*

Smyrna, in view of its anomalous position, calls for separate treatment, of a nature that will do justice to the capital and enterprise that have built it up. It must not be cut off from its source of supplies, which is the whole of Asia Minor, by a customs tariff, nor must it alienate the Turkish labour on which it depends, by imposing on it a wholly alien jurisdiction. An automonous régime is the obvious solution. But Greece is entitled to assurances that she shall never suffer again from the Turkey of the past, which is the only Turkey she knows. These assurances must be given her by the Allies, and at the first symptom of the old Adam reappearing in Asia Minor, there must be swift and effective action on the part of all the Allied Powers. The policy of sending a boy on a man's errand has done harm to Greece, has achieved no solution, and has thrown the whole East into a ferment. It cannot be continued any longer, and the very first to gain from a change of policy will be Greece herself. We can only hope in her own interests that the whole nation will realize that acquiescence in the Allies' decision—the only decision possible—is no reflexion on the administration of M. Gounaris and his colleagues.

### *A Welcome Change in Cyprus.*

Reports from Cyprus indicate that the growing number of islanders are becoming weary of the agitators who are continually talking as if union with Greece were the one thing needed to convert Cyprus into an earthly Paradise. Into the merits or demerits of the 'union' question we do not intend to enter at the present time: the British Government has announced its decision, and Cypriots who really wish their island well will surely

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be wise to recognise the fact, and make the best of the situation as it is. Fortunately, as our Cyprus Correspondent's letter published this week shows, that opinion seems to be gaining ground in the island; and it is beginning to be recognised that those members of the Legislative Council who have held aloof from its meetings in order to mark their disapproval of present conditions, are thereby doing Cyprus a real dis-service. The island is admittedly backward in many respects, and if it is to go ahead and attain the position to which its natural advantages entitle it, it will require the ungrudging service of all its inhabitants. In any case it is hard to see what good the absentee members of the Council hope to achieve by their conduct. Certainly they will not force the hand of the British Government by such a childish display. On the other hand, if they use their influence and abilities in practical fashion for the betterment of the island, they will show themselves good friends of their fellow-islanders. In the meantime it is satisfactory to note the change of public opinion to a more healthy direction.

### *The Egyptian Delegation.*

The negotiations between Lord Curzon and the Egyptian Delegation were resumed last week, and conversations have since been actively carried on. It is even possible—though not very probable—that by the time these lines appear in print the Delegation will have had its promised interview with the Prime Minister, and it is generally hoped that an end of the discussions is almost within sight. At the same time, it is generally recognized here that it would be the height of folly to attempt to hasten that end at the risk of reaching merely a partly satisfactory agreement, when a delay might bring about one entirely satisfactory; and that section of the public which follows the negotiations at all, is content to 'wait and see' how they shape. In Egypt there is—naturally, no doubt—a good deal less patience and a great deal more anxiety, and some of the native newspapers appear to be inclined to draw very sweeping inferences from very insignificant premises. Adly Pasha has sent a message to the Egyptian nation, appealing for unity in working for the general interest; and has received a telegram from eight hundred notables expressing their support of the Delegation.

### *The Situation in Egypt.*

The situation in Egypt itself is improving, inasmuch as the unreasoning enthusiasm for Zaghloul Pasha shows signs of diminishing, at least in Upper Egypt. It became necessary for Zaghloul to abandon the idea of taking his guests, the Labour Members of the British Parliament, to Assiout and other centres; and not only had the British visitors to deny themselves the pleasure of meeting the citizens of Assiout, but Zaghloul himself, on arriving there met with such a mixed reception that he gave up the idea of landing. Assiout, in fact, seems solid for Adly Pasha and the Official Delegation, and Egypt south of Cairo is apparently inclining towards the same opinion. Zaghloul Pasha has abandoned a part of his programme of visits; and it would probably be his wisest course to give up the tour altogether. It would be interesting to know what Mr. Lunn and his companions think of this latest development. But that wish is not likely to be gratified. The Labour Members before their departure from Egypt said just what was expected of them, and they will probably repeat it —at greater length—on the first opportunity after their arrival at home. But they will surely find it impossible to maintain now that Zaghloul represents all Egypt.

### *Two Strong Men of Persia*

News from Persia continues to be somewhat scrappy and unsatisfactory. According to an Allahabad report, the Sardar Sipah, having disposed of Mohammed Taghi Khan, is now bent on tackling Kuchik Khan. This is rightly described as a more difficult task; and though a Cossack force was last week reported to be advancing against the redoubtable Jangali leader, that does not necessarily imply that he has reached the end of his tether. If the Sardar Sipah is the one strong man of the Government, as we suspect, Kuchik Khan has been described by Western observers as one of the strongest and 'straightest' men in Persia; and Sir Percy Sykes in his 'History of Persia,' gives a favourable account of his character, if not of his policy. He has certainly shown himself a skilful leader, with a power of impressing himself upon his followers, and it looks as if the struggle between him and the Minister for War may be a stiff one. How soon we may expect to receive any trustworthy report of it, we cannot guess

### *The Latest Cabinet.*

In view of his past actions, it is not easy to understand, precisely what Kuchik Khan's designs are. It is possible, of course, that he is playing for his own hand pure and simple; but we are not inclined to accept that view. Has he definitely abandoned his Bolshevist Allies? If not, since they are, nominally, on good terms with the Teheran Government, how does it come about that he is making trouble for that Government? It almost looks as if he may see farther than the Sardar Sipah. But until more light is shed on the problem it seems hopeless to try to straighten out the tangle, and we can only wait on events. Meanwhile we learn from an official message received in London last week that the latest Persian Cabinet is almost identical with its predecessor. With so many changes, at such short intervals, it is a little difficult to keep track of these things; but unless our memory misleads us, the only new Ministers are those of Education (Amir Aalam) and of Public Works (Naib es-Sultanah); and while Persia is in its present condition neither is likely to find his position a very serious one.

### *Fashions and Politics.*

October is one of the several months which have been designated successively by Mr. Gandhi for the disappearance of British rule from India, but the most recent news discloses no signs of such a re-adjustment, and lately the cables have been more concerned with sartorial eccentricities than with matters of such grave import. People in this country are not excited by the progressive denudation of Mr. Gandhi's person, and, so far as they notice the subject at all, are inclined to think that the saint would be better employed in shedding the scales from his eyes than the coat from his back; but a clear distinction must be drawn between the example set by him and the precept enunciated simultaneously by another active politician, that people who cannot buy clothes should cover their nakedness with leaves. One is inevitably reminded of the experience of an earlier philanthropist, who pointed out that people too poor to buy food could eat grass; the persistence of British rule will presumably prevent a recurrence of the fate of that gentleman, who, it will be remembered, was hung from a lantern with his mouth stuffed with grass; but for

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sheer, callous inhumanity it is not easy to choose between the two.

### *The Afghan Negotiations.*

Secret diplomacy may be going out of fashion in the West, but it is still very much the rule in the interior of Asia, and little definite news has been allowed to reach the public, whether in this country or in India, regarding the important negotiations which have been for so many months in progress in Kabul. Some observers, however, are inclined to draw favourable inferences from the recent statement that the return of the British Mission is being delayed by the number of questions which crop up at the last moment, for this statement is taken to imply that something like common ground must have been reached on matters of principle, and seeing that a complete breakdown over the fundamentals has been frequently prophesied, and more than once asserted as an actual fact, any indication that the negotiations are concerned with details may fairly be regarded as encouraging. The future may have an unpleasant surprise in store, but at the moment it seems permissible to hope that we are within reach of a reasonable adjustment of the most anxious question in the foreign policy of India.

### *Mount Everest.*

Perhaps when the time comes for the story to be told, it may be found that the experience of the Kabul Mission has borne some analogy to that of Colonel Bury's expedition round the back of Mount Everest. In the latter case there is happily nothing to prevent prompt publicity, and the world has been allowed to read the tale of disappointment following disappointment, until almost at the last moment the clouds have broken, and a practicable route has been discovered. The great mountain has not yet been conquered, nor indeed was a conquest expected this year, but the pioneers have reached a height of 23,000 feet, and are satisfied that the last vertical mile or so is practicable, so that, if all goes well, some of them should have been on the summit by this time next year. A pleasant feature of the expedition's reports has been the testimony to the cordial assistance given by the local officials and the population generally, but we confess we should like to know what the ordinary Tibetan really thinks of the whole business.

### *The Indian Legislature.*

As we commented recently on certain lapses on the part of the Indian legislature, it is only fair to say that the fuller accounts of the proceedings brought by the mail indicate that, these lapses apart, the high standard reached in the opening session has been maintained, or even raised. The Council of State in particular is developing business-like habits, and getting through its work with despatch. The Assembly, the larger body, still finds a difficulty in regulating the flow of eloquence, and on one recent occasion has managed to block a motion which it was particularly anxious to discuss, but such matters may be expected to right themselves as time goes on. As regards the tone of the debates, the Assembly scored a veritable triumph in discussing the thorny question of racial distinctions in the law-courts. The special privileges, if they are privileges, of Europeans and Americans accused of crime have been the subject of rhetorical fireworks for forty years or so, but on this occasion they were discussed with a degree of moderation and good sense which does the utmost credit to both sides. In the end a committee was appointed to consider methods, but Europeans and Americans of criminal proclivities may take it that their "privileges in India" are dead.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Afternoon.*

**Parliament Re-Opens.**

Parliament re-opens to-morrow, but with a programme rather different from what was anticipated. When the official mind, last summer, was arguing against "an autumn session" but admitted that there would have to be "sittings in the autumn,"—a distinction without a difference to the non-officialised intellect—the idea was that by October the Irish negotiations would be over, and that the House of Commons could then discuss the upshot of the negotiations between Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. de Valera. But Mr. de Valera, like the moon last night, is in temporary eclipse, and his lieutenants have hardly got beyond the preliminaries of conversation at Downing Street. On the other hand, the unemployment question has come more to the fore; and the Commons therefore will hear less of Ireland and more of industry than was expected.

**Government and Unemployment.**

It is understood that on Wednesday the Prime Minister is to make a statement on the unemployment position and such means as have been agreed upon to remedy it. A good deal has been written in the Press lately as to the wonderful recommendations of the Government's experts, and some of the Coalition papers have been so enthusiastic as to the stupendous plans conceived in the mighty brains of these advisers that they unwillingly convey the impression that unemployment is almost a blessing in disguise, since it enables us to see by what great intellects we are governed. Unluckily it is not so easy to make this particular desert blossom like the rose and there has been a significant silence as to the details of remedial measures, which is mainly due to the impossibility of constructing a satisfactory scheme. It is easy enough to manufacture goods, and so give everybody temporary employment; the difficulty is to sell them. For the past two years the Government has been disposing of war surplus stores; it would seem to be absurd to set about the accumulation of another surplus, which would simply embarrass the markets worse than ever.

The foreign exchanges are the root of the whole problem, and those can only be stabilised by a general cancellation of war debts. That has been realised in this country for some time, but it is not yet understood in the United States, where the unemployment position is worse than it is here, although they hold most of the liquid wealth of Europe in their banks.

As is well known, we are only too anxious to cancel the Allied debts to us, which are practically equal to our debt to America; during the latter part of the war, we were merely the guarantor to Washington of France, Italy, and Belgium. A cancellation of that kind would do more to revive international trade all round than any amount of State-supported industry; it would be a natural, not an artificial restoration of health. There is some hope that Washington may yet see this point but there is a good deal of popular objection in America to "letting England off"—although we were only the channel through which the war loans passed, not the actual recipients.

**The Washington Conference.**

It is hoped in many quarters that the preliminary steps towards the discussion of this whole matter of Allied (and ex-enemy) finance may be discussed at Washington unofficially next month. The Conference called by the American Government is specially summoned to discuss peace in the Pacific and disarmament. It would be unfair to say that people here do not expect

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any results from such a programme ; but our hopes are not so buoyant as those of the Americans. The fact is that we have seen so many conferences of a more or less cognate character already, and we recognise that they are more inclined to conceal radical divergences under a formula of good words and pious resolutions than to remove real difficulties.

The American conference begins with this advantage over its predecessors, that everybody, in Western Europe at least, is tired of war, and is therefore ready to discuss disarmament, but this is merely a psychological condition due to fatigue. And it must frankly be recognised that the chief parties to the conference, America and Japan, have not the same reason to be tired of war as Britain and France, while the introduction of the Chinese problem is not unlikely to ruffle tempers on both sides of the Pacific.

It is hoped, however, that good may result from the conference, and also that unofficially the question of finance, which is international, may be conveniently discussed between the Governments at Washington. It is now increasingly probable that Mr. Lloyd George will soon cross the Atlantic, if the Irish negotiations run smoothly—and so far there has been no *contretemps* at Downing Street—and it is known that President Harding has expressed a strong desire that he should attend. The opportunity is one not to be missed, for American observers are of opinion that the Republican Government will hold power for eight years in America, and that President Harding, although intellectually less dominating than his predecessor, is more of a practical statesman than President Wilson. As the Coalition Government is likely to hold office here for some years, a cordial understanding between London and Washington would not be likely to be upset by electoral accidents on either side of the Atlantic.

**The Church Congress.**

The Birmingham meeting of the Church has been a great popular success, and a boon to the newspapers, whom it has provided with much good "copy" It has practically ignored theology, and concentrated on social questions, and more particularly on sex and matrimony, the sins of society, the ethics of betting, and women's clothes—or the absence of them. All these topics are of perennial interest to the clergy, and it was with a sense of awe that the assembled curates heard a Dean confess that he had once lost half-a-crown on a horse.

A great medical man told the Church that it was all wrong on the question of sex, and there was some debate as to the admission of women to holy orders. One of the speakers drew a dreadful picture of the consequences of female ordination, by pointing out that if it were once admitted, we might have a female Archbishop of York, who might decide to marry the Archbishop of Canterbury. The imagination boggles at the idea of such a union. But perhaps the female parsons would decide to remain celibates as a matter of policy.

**A New Coalition.**

There has been some talk in political circles of a new coalition, between Lord Grey and the 'Wee Frees' on the one side, and Lord Robert Cecil and the Young Tories on the other. But oil and vinegar, although excellent in combination, do not by themselves make a salad, and the lettuce is still to seek in this dish. Apparently that was felt by the leaders concerned, for after a push by Lord Grey and a letter defining his position from Lord Robert Cecil, the upshot is that the two bodies agree to co-operate in opposition, but not in Government. In other words they will coalesce in destruction, but not in construction—a singularly futile form of politics. Sheet lightning of this kind will not disturb Downing Street for an instant, and the political atmosphere remains calm.

**The New County Hall.**

The new London County Hall, the official home of the L.C.C. is now nearing completion. Begun before the war, and stopped in the early part of the war, it will rank as the most splendid building erected in the metropolis since the Houses of Parliament were built. Standing on the south side of Westminster Bridge, its massive architecture even now challenges that of Parliament. It has already used 3,000 tons of steelwork ; 19,000 square yards of oak flooring, and over 3,000 steel casements. There will be more than 300 telephones, 800 radiators, and 3 passenger lifts. Some of the offices are already occupied, but the whole building will not be actually finished until the new year. But it is no longer possible to reproach the greatest municipal Corporation in the world with being more meanly housed than a second-rate provincial city.

**The Week's Books.**

Sir Ian Hamilton is a little alarming in his new book, "The Soul and Body of an Army" (Arnold). He remarks that we do not yet know what war is, and "the half-knowledge gained from experience during the war may tend to become more dangerous than the pre-war no-knowledge which still holds good as regards the Navy." In the next war "we want smaller, more compact, more mobile, more highly machined formations each sufficient unto itself, capable of bringing the last word of science and skill to bear upon areas containing less skilled, less powerfully armed peoples. "We must have one Defence Minister, who will dominate and co-ordinate sea, air, and land, and all that therein fight." He does not believe in trench warfare. "Outwardly the battle of the future will resemble battles which took place before the birth of Christ rather than those fields of sinister desolation and solitude where we have suffered. The area of the conflict, the use of tanks and motors as the pivot of the forces where formerly elephants and war chariots manoeuvred, will have more affinity to 500 B.C. than to A.D. 1917." I omit the more rhetorical passages.

"Sir Edward Cook, a Biography," by J. Saxon Mills, (Constable) is not only an interesting study of a great journalist, but is full of good stories, of which one will suffice. When Cook was editor of the *Daily News*, that paper was bought by Mr. Lloyd George, acting for the syndicate R. Lehmann, Cadbury, Leon, and others. In Cook's diary is the following : "Dined with Hudson at the Continental. He was very nice. Said he had people on hand who would readily have bought the *Daily News* for the other side and at a much better price. Said he was surprised at their getting money from Cadbury. He (Hudson) had always failed. Cadbury used to say 'Liberalism is too high and sacred a thing for money. But I will pray with you. Probably Mr. Lloyd George had prayed."

By way of contrast, I may mention "Essays and Addresses on the Philosophy of Religion" (J. M. Dent), by that eminent authority, Baron F. von Hugel. "Everything beautiful, true, and good, of whatever degree or kind, is indeed included within Christian theism ; a certainty as rock-firm as it is rich and elastic, a certainty groped after and confirmed by all that is virile, pure, humble, truthful, tender, self-immolating, and deeply joyous in the depths of man's longings and attempts."

Another of the ever-popular series of personal sketches, which Mr. E. T. Raymond made the fashion, has come out in "Pillars of the State" (Nisbet) by Mr. H. Sidebotham, of the *Manchester Guardian* and *The Times*. The style may be judged from the verdict on Mr. Lloyd George : "At once an explosive of party union and a builder of flying bridges between incompatibles. In fact, he is a born Coalitionist. An incomparable actor, a spell-binder, a perfect conductor of electrical discharge, a crowd-compeller, and master of mass-psychology, but not a builder of stately argument nor a sculptor in words of ideals of such mental and moral beauty that all who hear must forsake everything else and follow him."

To these I may add "Rudyard Ripling's Verse ; Inclusive Edition 1885-1918" (Hodder and Stoughton). This is one of the books it is not necessary to review.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, October 4.*

**The Visiting M.P.'s.**

Politically, there is comparatively little to chronicle this week, but what there is has caused, locally at least, some sensation. During the past few days the visiting Members of Parliament have been shepherded about the country at express speed by Zaghloul Pasha and his lieutenants. At the latter end of last week the party went to Port Said, returned to Cairo for a banquet at Shepheard's Hotel, left early the next morning for Mansourah, called at Tanta on the return journey, and arrived in Cairo on Saturday. They are now making preparations to visit Upper Egypt, and they will make a few other hurried trips before embarking for England on October 7. As most of the reports of the trips have been highly coloured, it is impossible to gauge from the newspaper accounts exactly what happened at the various towns visited, but I have learned from unimpeachable sources that the peregrinations were not such grand triumphal tours as Zaghloul expected them to be. Just why Zaghloul chose to take the visitors to Port Said is not apparent, as the town is not typical of Egypt; but, as was expected, Port Said did not rise to a man to welcome the visitors. The inhabitants did betray a certain amount of interest in the presence of the notables, but they signally refrained from any explicit declaration that they loved Zaghloul Pasha and would not be content with anyone else to secure for them their political independence.

**A Bad Blunder.**

Of most significance to the British community, however, was the strange action of Zaghloul Pasha in deliberately excluding the representatives of the British Press, local and Home—with the exception of *The Times* and Reuter's Agency—from the banquet given to the Parliamentary visitors on Thursday evening. A representative of the *Egyptian Gazette* was actually given verbal invitations to attend by two of Zaghloul's lieutenants; but when he entered the hall at the conclusion of the dinner to report the speeches, he was given a polite hint to leave. In thus turning away from the voices of his guests the British community in Egypt, Zaghloul committed a tactical error which has reacted upon his "British Delegation." The British community has been awakened to betray a sudden and vivid interest in the position of the visitors, and some pointed questions are being asked in the Press regarding the source of money for the visitors' expenses and how much is being thus expended. By that gratuitous slap in the face Zaghloul has alienated whatever sympathy may hitherto have been accorded to his misguided visitors by the local British community.

Throughout their visit Zaghloul appears to have followed an utterly mistaken policy. If he had had any real desire for his guests to obtain independent knowledge of the true state of affairs in this country, he would have refrained from having them ceaselessly guarded; he would have allowed them to see whomsoever they pleased, instead of only the persons it pleased him to have them see; he would have allowed them to visit where they liked, instead of selecting their itinerary and arranging in advance for artificial demonstrations. Instead of an independent mission of inquiry, the visitors have become agents of Zaghloul, and whether they embody their impressions and opinions in a report, or whether they ventilate them in Parliament, they cannot fail to injure their host. If their opinions imply that Zaghloul is the elect of the Egyptians, it will cause such ridicule that the reaction must weaken Zaghloul and strengthen Adly; if, on the other hand, they prove so ungrateful as to imply that Zaghloul commands merely a section of the Egyptian people, it will be a disastrous blow at the prestige of the Pasha. That they will declare that the Egyptians deserve and are fit for independence is a foregone conclusion, since they have reiterated that opinion here; but they will have an arduous task to prove their assertion, since they have neither knowledge of the whole situation nor the essential familiarity with the questions of foreign politics involved.

**An Election!**

A few days ago an election was held in one of the provinces, and the scenes on that occasion are rather ominous in view of the possible advent of a general election in the country. The Omda of the district had been dismissed, and his rival, who—as always in such circumstances in the Orient—was his personal enemy, was appointed as his successor. The original Omda, feeling that he had been the victim of injustice, lodged a complaint; and the Ministry of Interior, being unable to dismiss his complaint, decreed that an election should test the issue. Into the district, where there are only 800 voters, 150 police were sent—about one policeman to every five voters. The voting began at 8 a.m. and finished about 6 p.m. As the majority of the electors were illiterate, the system adopted was that the voter went into the booth, gave his name, and upon his right to vote being established, he declared that he voted for one or other of the candidates. At 8 o'clock in the morning votes were saleable at 5 piastres (1s.) each; at 5.30 p.m. they were fetching as high as L.E.10 per man. Assuredly the party with the longest purse will win the next election.

**The Coming Season.**

During and since the war, Egypt has had winter seasons of sorts. But for at least six weeks during the coming season—from the first week in February until the third week in March—no less than five big 'cruises' are due to arrive at intervals of seven to eight days. At a very conservative estimate, 5,000 tourists will pass through Egypt during these six weeks. Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son originally had arranged one big cruise de luxe in the Caronia, but the demand for accommodation has been so heavy that it has been necessary to arrange another. The American Express Company, Clark's, and Messrs. Raymond and Whitcomb have arranged one each. People who desire to visit this fascinating country, but who have not booked accommodation to date, would be well advised to do so in the near future. Accommodation is available for booking from now until the first week in February, 1922, but inquiries are coming in by each mail, and it is apparent that during the winter months a steady stream of visitors will be flowing through from Alexandria to Cairo and the Pyramids, Luxor, Thebes, Karnak, and the other places of renown in this wonderful Valley of the Nile. All the tourist companies are making thoughtful arrangements to ensure that the visitor shall be comfortable and interested and those fortunate enough to be able to make the trip will never regret it.

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*Cairo, October 7.*

**The M.P.s' Departure.**

To-day the Liberal-Labour Mission embark at Alexandria for England, after a hurried rush from Alexandria to Cairo, from Cairo to Port Said and back, and from the capital to Mansourah for a two-days' stay. They have been in the country for 24 days. Let Mr. Swan tell the story, as he told it to an interviewer on Wednesday evening, at a function offered by Cairo Zaghloulites under the name of 'Cairo's Professional Men': "We have come to Egypt as guests, to see and hear for ourselves concerning the state of affairs in Egypt. We had been told stories of oppression here under martial law. We have seen; we have heard. We are convinced that the overwhelming majority of Egyptians feverishly desire emancipation; we are also convinced that the vast majority of Egyptians regard Saad Pasha Zaghloul as their national leader. We are convinced that the present system of Government of Egypt is unsatisfactory; and in our report, which is to be published at the proper time and place, we intend to suggest a practicable solution, which we believe will be acceptable to every fair-minded man and woman." "Do you think it will be acceptable to the Egyptians?" pressed the interviewer. "I think it will be acceptable to all fair-minded people!"

**British Community's View.**

So much for the visitors' viewpoint. Last Monday about 30 members of the British community in Cairo met the Parliamentarians and delivered the following opinions:—(1) As about 80 per cent. of the Egyptians are wholly ignorant of the Egyptian question, it cannot be said that the bulk of the Egyptians intelligently desire complete independence; (2) Saad Pasha Zaghloul, in the opinion of those present, did lead a large majority of the Egyptians, but as his supporters consisted chiefly of the aforesaid ignorant mass, he led them instead of following a policy devised or desired by them; and (3) those present were inclined to agree to the acceptance, in principle, of the Egyptians' claim to independence, but were of the opinion that the Egyptians should not be left to govern themselves until they were fit to do so, and that this time had not yet arrived. Therefore, the best interests of Egypt would be served by withholding autonomy until such time as the inherent responsibilities could be safely shouldered by the Egyptian people as a whole. This must not be construed as a direct and representative expression of the feelings of the British community, as those who met the Parliamentarians did so entirely informally and unofficially. Nevertheless, there is not apparently much variance between the opinions expressed and those of the British community.


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Zaghloul's attitude is not quite so easy to define, because he has not stated his views with the same clarity as the people just mentioned. But from the evidence available it seems that he is not altogether satisfied with the results of the tour of the visitors and himself. There have been too many signs of resentment among the Egyptians at what they consider the unwarranted intrusion of Members of the British Parliament into their internal affairs, and though Zaghloul has not actually disclaimed further connexion with them, his excuse for putting off further tours—the sudden and slight illness of his wife's sister—is so transparently weak that one at once looks for a further reason. It is highly significant that the decision to abandon the visit to Assiout synchronised with the publication by the native Press of the monster protest against the visit, signed by practically all the leading notables of the province. The reason thus became apparent. Zaghloul and his advisers had no wish to jeopardise the favourable impression presumably created in the minds of his guests—particularly at Mansourah—by courting a counter-demonstration at Assiout.

**The Result?**

It is difficult also to describe the result of the visit, for the simple reason that, beyond a certain negative one—the revivalist tour on behalf of Zaghloul has not been such a huge success as was anticipated—there has been no tangible result. There were two possible results which would have been of interest: first, that the Members should have found unquestionable instances of the alleged coercion on the part of the authorities to force the public to declare its confidence in the Cabinet; second, that the visit might have applied the match to the dry powder about the country by facilitating a clash between the respective bodies of supporters of the Cabinet and Zaghloul. If the Members have found the authorities to be the deep-dyed villians of the piece, as represented to them in London, they have maintained a singular silence about their discovery. It now seems as if their only duty is to go back and write their report; and, as already pointed out, if it describes Zaghloul as the real national leader, the consequent ridicule of their mentality will react in favour of Adly, while if they honestly declare that Zaghloul merely leads a section of the natives—and the ignorant section at that—Zaghloul will stand disgraced before all who have heard his egotistical claims to be the elect of the whole. It does seem as if Zaghloul has spent money to help Adly. Perhaps that is also why he is anxious for the visitors to return.

## SUDAN.

*Khartoum, September 29.*

**The Political Situation.**

It is of interest to note that in spite of the efforts of the Nationalist party to enlist the sympathies of their Sudan brethren in obtaining the freedom of Egypt, the Governor of the Red Sea Province has lately received a round robin signed by twenty seven of the leading Sheikhs and Nazirs of the Amarar, Hadendoa and Beni Amer Arabs, protesting against the distribution of seditious literature in their districts and expressing their full confidence and satisfaction in their present Government. They demand that they shall come under the direct control of the British Government, and state that they will strongly resist any attempt at governing by Egyptian officials, whom they associate with false imprisonment and the bastinado. It would be a good object lesson to the various impassioned contributors to the Egyptian Arabic publications, were they to make an extensive tour of the Sudan and view local conditions and the varied and virile characteristics of the natives of the country. There is very little doubt that they would return in a more humble frame of mind, and deeply disappointed at the lack of enthusiasm shown for their aspirations.

There has been an attempt to make capital out of the recent regrettable incident in Southern Darfur, resulting

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in the death of Mr. McNeill and Captain Chown and other civilians. It should be borne in mind that it is not so very long ago that Darfur was a savage and unruly country despotically governed by a brutal and tyrannical Sultan, imbued with the idea that his subjects existed simply and solely for his good and possibly for the good of the Palace favourites. It is only natural that the present peaceful rule would be most unpalatable to a Sheikh of the old régime, who, brought up to seize upon any article or commodity that took his fancy, suddenly found that he was expected to suffer the supreme indignity of having to pay for his requirements and even to work in order to obtain a sufficiency to live on. However, his deluded followers have paid heavily for their adherence, some 600 having been killed and an unknown number wounded. This severe punishment has heen absolutely necessary to safeguard the lives of other Political Officers and Government servants stationed in outlying stations in the newly conquered province, and it should prove a deterrent of any similar outbursts in the future. There is no doubt that the rising was of a purely local nature, entirely uninfluenced by events in Egypt, and it should prove an interesting study to see what the Egyptian native papers say on the subject.

**A Shilluk Dance.**

H.R.H. the Duke of Sodermanland has recently passed through Khartoum on his return from an extended tour through the Dark Continent. On his arrival at Kalakal in August a special dance was got up in his honour, in which over 1,000 Shilluk warriors took part. This extraordinarily interesting event was duly filmed, and the thousand metres of exposures should prove a great attraction when displayed.

Mr. N. R. Udal, Assistant Director of Education, visited El Obeid on August 23, and gave a series of cinema exhibitions on the three following evenings, which were much appreciated.

Abdel Aziz Bey, the Khalifa of Berber, and Sheikh Mudassar Ibrahim have recently returned from the Pilgrimage, and received a warm welcome from their various adherents.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, October 12.*

**A Combined Opposition at Last.**

M. Stoyan Protitch has paid an important visit to Zagreb, where he has been in conference with the various Croat leaders. No announcement has been made under his authority, but the *Jutarnji List*, which seems to be very well informed on this movement, states that he has completed his negotiations with the Croat bloc, who will form a combined opposition, in which even Stjepan Raditch will join. M. Protitch denies that it is his intention to split the Radical party, and he evidently hopes to win over his former colleagues to support his scheme for a revision of the Constitution, which is the main plank in his programme. Practically all Croats are profoundly dissatisfied with the Pashitch Constitution, which is too centralised, and concentrates too much power in the hands of the Cabinet. They resent the abolition of the historic office of *Ban*, and, although they are duly represented at Belgrade, they complain that they had more autonomy even under the Magyars. M. Protitch's draft constitution allows them a peculiar position, for he agrees with the Narodny Club that it is yet premature to force into one mould the provinces which have grown up in such different circumstances. There is no doubt that many thoughtful Serbs view his movement with considerable sympathy. One good effect of his action will be participation of the Croat parties in Yugoslav parliamentary life, for it will be remembered that they dissociated themselves from the passage of the Constitution. It is probably the Democratic Party which will suffer most, but the chief point for foreigners to remember is that the question of separation is not raised and has not been raised, and it is inconceivable that it should ever be raised, except by the Hapsburgite Frankovists and the frankly hostile Magyars, who, together with the Italians, have spared no effort to exaggerate in the eyes of Europe the political squabbles, and to paint as a movement for separation what the Croats themselves describe as a purely internal administrative question.

**Eugen Kvaternik's Jubilee.**

The national heroes of the Croats are Zrinsky and Frankopani, the tercentenary of whose martyrdom has recently been celebrated. The jubilee of the death of another and more real national hero has just been celebrated. Eugen Kvaternik took an active part in the troublesome days of 1848. The next twenty years were hard days for patriotic Croats, and the national movement began to develop vigorously. The most active patriot was Kvaternik, who labelled traitor to his country any Croat who would dare to negotiate with either Vienna or Budapest. But the forces of reaction were still too strong, and Kvaternik was driven to the last resort of the patriot—plots and revolution. But his attempt to become a Croatian Garibaldi failed and he paid for his idealism with his life. On October 8, 1871, he called upon his countrymen to throw off the "Shvabo-Magjarski" yoke, and raised the standard of revolt at Rakovica. But the movement was premature, the Frontier Guards crushed the rebellion in a couple of days, and Kvaternik and his devoted little band were annihilated, the leader falling beneath a shower of bullets on the 10th.

**Bolshevist Leader's Wealth.**

The leader of the Serbian Communists, of whom mention has often been made in earlier letters, has been in Moscow several months, where it appears that he has arranged to get himself appointed Chief Commissary for Yugoslavia in the event of a successful Bolshevist revolution. He has now turned up in Vienna, together with Iliya Milkitch, a member of the executive committee of the Third International. Both were arrested by the Austrian police, but were set at liberty again shortly afterwards. They had in their possession a quantity of foreign money, 17,000 dollars, 5,000 pounds sterling, 5,000 dinars and several thousand marks, evidently intended for the party funds. The dollars and pounds represent a very considerable sum in local currency at to-day's low rate of exchange.

**The Linguistic Ability of the Serbs.**

The Yugoslavs have a reputation for being good linguists, and, as a matter of fact, there are very few who do not know at least one language perfectly besides their own: the Slovenes always know either German or Italian or both; the Croats know German; the men of the coastlands know Italian as a rule, and often enough German too; in Serbia, German is widely known, especially among the commercial classes, but Roumanian is fairly extensively known in the north-east corner, where there is a large colony of Vlach *emigrés*; along the south-western frontier, almost all Serbs know Albanian, and Turkish, which is well known, too, of course in Macedonia. In the Voivodina, Serb, German, Magyar and Roumanian are commonly known; professional men must be competent to conduct their business in the first three languages. Still, it is of course force of circumstances that has compelled this extensive knowledge of languages as in the case of all "small peoples," but whether they have any talent more than any other people is a matter of opinion. A Zagreb paper claims a record for a Professor Fanjo Burian, of Bakar, who is reported to speak over fifty languages, with all their dialects, and to know the history and philology of each. This is certainly an exaggeration. Still more so, when it is claimed that he can pass for a native in each. One is tempted to ask: who is the judge? To the non-linguist, a facility for languages often appears little short of miraculous, just as does a lightning-calculator to the non-mathematical mind. And a *really* bilingual man is a much greater rarity than generally supposed. Professor Burian is compared to the famous Cardinal Mezzofanti, and exactly the same claim is made for him, down to the very number of dialects. No doubt the learned professor

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is a very erudite philologist, who would probably be the last to claim fifty languages for himself, at least to any degree of perfection, and moreover, good linguists are usually poor philologists and *vice versa*. Probably he would be as unwilling to claim the Cardinal's reputed half century as the character which Napoleon is said to have given the Italian linguist "voila un homme qui a beaucoup de paroles mais très peu d'esprit."

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, October* 6

### An Alternative Government.

It is no longer a secret that negotiations are now taking place between the Liberals and the Transylvanian National Party under M. Maniu, the Bessarabians under M. Inculetz, and the Bukovinians under M. Nistor for the purpose of forming a political combine strong enough to take over the reins of Government, should General Averescu's party have to resign. The Opposition expects this event even before the reopening of Parliament. Among the leaders of the new provinces there is complete understanding, their interests being identical; but to come to terms with the Liberals is not proving such an easy proposition. The Liberals, being one of the oldest and best organized political parties, have hitherto been accustomed to dictate terms, and now they find themselves compelled to negotiate on an equal footing, and will probably have even to make concessions in order to procure the support of their future collaborators. One of the hardest conditions demanded by the representatives of the new provinces is that the Liberals should confine their political influence and activities to the Old Kingdom, leaving the administration of the new provinces entirely in the hands of the respective leaders. Another condition that will be hard to agree upon is the allotting of the different portfolios, both sides claiming for themselves the most important ones, such as the Ministry of Interior, Foreign Affairs, and so on. Despite these obstacles, the chances are that this coalition will materialize, owing to the eagerness of all sections to come to power as soon as possible; which could be achieved only by collaboration in one form or another. At the same time, the Opposition is still carrying on its campaign against the Government, by means of the Press and of meetings throughout the country.

The Government, although affecting to ignore this campaign, is fully aware of its critical situation, and is trying its hardest to win over the Peasants' Party, which has not joined its former friends of the late Federation owing to its bitter antagonism towards the Liberals.

### General News.

It is reported that Queen Sophie of Greece intends to come to Bucharest, possibly at the same time as Professor Luros, who was called to attend to Princess Helen.

The Queen of Roumania, accompanied by Princess Ileana and her niece, the Grand Duchess Chira of Russia, left for Constantza last Sunday to visit Prince George (King George's third son), on board the British Cruiser, Iron Duke.

Admiral John de Robeck during his stay here was received in audience by the Queen of Roumania, and before his departure was entertained at a dinner given by the War Office at the Cercul Militar. Among the fifty guests present were: General Averescu, the Premier; General Rashcanu, Minister of War; Sir H. Dering, British Minister; Colonel Duncan, British Military Attaché, and a number of superior Officers of the Roumanian Army and Navy, besides the British Naval Officers who accompanied Sir J. de Robeck.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October* 9.

### The Imprisonment of Colonel Nicoloff.

Three weeks ago I referred to the case of Colonel Nicoloff. It will be remembered that this officer of Reserve was put into prison at the end of August on the charge of having traded illicitly during the war. On October 7 the charge preferred against him was communicated to the Colonel. He is accused of having accorded too many privileges to the English prisoners of war under his care and having had English notes in his possession which he exchanged for other moneys, and also of having brought some English money back from Salonika at the time of the Armistice.

Everything thus seems to point to the correctness of his friends' views, who always held that he had been imprisoned because of his relations with the British. In fact Colonel Nicoloff's principal crime seems to lie in his having accorded fair and just treatment to the British officers who were prisoners of war in the camp which he commanded.

It has now been learnt that he has been put in solitary confinement and is not allowed to see anyone or receive any letters. This harsh treatment seems to signify that the authorities are determined to frustrate any attempt on the part of his numerous English and American friends to get into touch with him. The matter has created a great sensation here and it is making the English Colony come to the conclusion that Bulgarian Army circles are very badly disposed towards England. Diplomatic representation is, of course, not possible, owing to Colonel Nicoloff's being a Bulgarian subject; so for the moment all that can be done is to watch closely further developments, and trust that the efforts being made on behalf of the Colonel by his numerous friends and acquaintances will meet with a success.

### Dismissal of Surplus Employees.

Action has at last been taken by the Government with regard to the large surplus staff that was being maintained in one of the Departments of the Foreign Office. The Department in question had twice as many employees as were required, and on the first of October sixteen employees, consisting of half the actual staff, were dismissed. M. Radouloff, Minister of Justice, who was recently acting as Minister of Foreign Affairs, is responsible for this decrease in the number of employees, and it seems a pity that he was not left to carry on his work at the Foreign Office, for M. Dashkaloff, who succeeded him, besides being Minister of Commerce, is the Bulgarian representative on the Reparations Commission and must find it very difficult to fulfil the duties of the three posts.

M. Radouloff, besides being popular, is considered to be one of the most capable Ministers in the Cabinet, and his moderate and far-sighted views are daily winning him new adherents. In addition to the dismissal of the Foreign Office employees, he has been instrumental in bringing about the enforced retirement of 63 persons either belonging to or attached to the Legations abroad. The total amount of public money thus saved will amount to about two million levas; and as a certain number of the persons concerned only spoke Bulgarian their dismissal will not be a great loss. When one considers that at the present moment Bulgaria is keeping up only fourteen Legations, one wonders how she is able to spare 63 officials, as this means an average of more than four per Legation, and we are forced to the conclusion that there must have been unnecessarily large staffs at each Legation.

### Diplomatic Relations with Greece.

The Bulgarian Legations at Constantinople and Athens are still shut up, the former owing to the Allies' not yet having ratified the Peace Treaty with Turkey, but it is hard to understand why no Bulgarian diplomatist has been sent to the Greek capital. There has been a Greek Chargé d' Affaires at Sofia since the beginning of 1920, and a Bulgarian Minister and his Secretary were nominated to Athens a year ago, but have not yet taken up their duties. M. Kissemof, the Minister, is probably too valuable to M. Stambolisky to allow of his being spared at present, and it is thought that another Minister may be nominated in his place, as M. Kissemof's position as official interpreter and general right-hand man to the Prime Minister will be a very hard one to fill.

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**The Municipal Elections.**

The outstanding feature in the Elections which were held in 130 Municipalities on October 2 is the great decline in the Communist vote. With the exception of three places, viz., Samakov, Lom Palanka, and Kalofar, their vote has everywhere grown less, and the comparatively small number of votes they received at Yamboli, a town in Eastern Bulgaria, hitherto regarded as a Communist stronghold, is especially significant.

Other interesting features in the elections are the increase in the Agrarian vote in towns such as Rustchuk, and also the solid block that has been formed by the Democrats and the Narodniaks in most of the outlying districts. It would appear that it is only at headquarters that these two Bourgeois parties are divided, and it is very possible that the conference of the Narodniak party, due to be held at Sofia next month, will help in smoothing over some of the questions that at present prevent the two parties from being united.

The recent elections, including as they did only 130 out of 2,000 to 3,000 Communes, cannot be said to be of a grand importance, but nevertheless they serve as a useful criterion of present day political feeling in Bulagria, and it is certainly very satisfactory that the Communists have met with at least a temporary set back.

**General News.**

General Jekoff, the ex-Commander-in-Chief of the Bulgarian Army is expected to arrive in Bulgaria from Vienna to-morrow. His trial will begin on the 11th. inst., and it is understood that the defence, which will be conducted by M. Mouchanoff, will bring to light some new and interesting facts concerning the closing stages of the war.

The Honourable W. A. F. Erskine, the new British Minister to Bulgaria, arrived in Sofia on October 4.

Two million levas was recently collected by Banks and business houses in Sofia in aid of the starving people of Russia.


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## GREECE.

*Athens, October 8.*

**Two Letters.**

Intense excitement has been caused, not only in political circles but in Greece generally, by the publication in all the papers here, on the 2nd. inst., of a letter despatched by M. Venizelos to a friend in Athens, and M. Gounaris' reply published in the Press on the following day. M. Venizelos' letter was written in Aix-les-Bains on July 3 last. It points out that the refusal of the Government to accept the Allies' offer of mediation constituted the last crime against Greece. How could the Government say that they are continuing his (M. Venizelos') policy when by the vote of November, and by the rupture of the alliance with the great Powers, which followed as a consequence, this policy had been completely upset? He would never have thought of continuing the war without the support of Greece's Allies. There only remained to the leaders of to-day to pursue an entente which would terminate the state of war and save what could be saved. This entente was sought by England four months ago. Unfortunately, however, the Government, frightened by public opinion, refused the offer and continued operations. A further chance was offered and was again rejected, at a time when the Allies were disposed to state their terms in advance. These terms were to the effect that Thrace as far as Chatalja, should be retained, and that Smyrna with a hinterland should receive autonomy, with a Governor-General nominated by the League of Nations. These terms were certainly inferior to those accorded to Greece by the Treaty of Sèvres, but, unfortunately, these had to be considered the price to be paid for Greece's failure to take into consideration the Note of the Allies sent after the elections. Whilst maintaining that the Government had committed a diplomatic crime in not accepting the offer of mediation, M. Venizelos does not wish it to be understood that the terms England had in view would be accepted by the Turks. But with Turkey refusing, England could give Greece aid in her struggle to impose the Treaty of Sèvres. To-day, however, in view of the refusal on Greece's part, public opinion in England would in no circumstances permit its Government to come to her help.

The letter further completely excludes the possibility of an absolute victory, which would force the enemy to accept the conditions of the conqueror as the former would well know the diplomatic isolation of Greece. Consequently the carrying on of hostilities could only result in the weakening of Greece from an economic and military point of view which would, within a few months, lead her to implore mediation.

M. Venizelos' letter further goes on to recall the danger of an occupation of Thrace by the Bulgarians, and as an advance of that country's army on Salonika could not be checked, this would provoke the descent of another nation on that town.

Regarding the question of Northern Epirus, M. Venizelos foresaw that the fate of the decision of the Supreme Council would be similar to that of the Treaty of Sèvres, after the isolation of Greece, and after France and Italy became hostile towards her. Unfortunately, says he, at Athens the danger lurking under France's open declaration of unfriendliness has not been realised. This is so pronounced that she (France) is actually working against her own interests whilst at the same time hastening those of Greece to ruin.

The letter ends up by saying :—

It is to be feared that some of the Liberals also accuse me of treason, because, when speaking in London in favour of the application of the Treaty of Sèvres for Greece, it was pointed out that such application would lead to the recognition of King Constantine and that I had arrived at the point of supporting such recognition. The facts are that the governing parties of to-day continue the war because they wish to tire the Greek people and then bring matters to a position of stalemate, and later by concluding peace, be acclaimed as benefactors. In other words they wish to repeat what was done in 1915-1916.

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## M. Gounaris' Reply.

In view of the impression caused by the publication of M. Venizelos' letter, M. Gounaris decided to reply to it, and this reply was communicated to the Press by the Press Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

M. Venizelos, said M. Gounaris, based his tirade against the Government on the argument that his policy was dependent upon the alliance with the Allies, which alliance was overthrown by popular vote on November 1 (O.S.).

This basis was false. He would not discuss the existence or the conditions of the alliance on the basis of which M. Venizelos states that he conducted the war against Turkey. This alliance could not be broken, and has not been. The Great Powers could not abolish on their own initiative the obligations which they had undertaken, unless there was a clause stipulating that the Greek people should not throw out M. Venizelos; but the latter did not mention this point.

M. Gounaris goes on to examine how the alliance under the Venizelist Government acted. No Allied Army co-operated even with the Greek Army, neither were arms or munitions supplied. Not only did the Allies not give money to Greece but they forbade her issuing paper money. M. Venizelos never obtained freedom of action in Asia Minor, and neither he nor he who was performing the duties of a king at the time, was allowed to set foot in Asia Minor. Every movement of the Hellenic Army was dependent upon the consent of the Great Powers, which consent was never given. To-day these barriers had fallen. Every liberty of action had been left to Greece. The King of Greece had crossed the whole of Asia Minor actually under Greek occupation, and the Hellenic Army had carried freely the national flag wherever it is flying to-day.

The money required for the military campaign had been found in the country itself. The Powers had held towards Greece the same attitude as they had done towards M. Venizelos. In order to facilitate Greece in obtaining supplies, the Allies agreed that commerce should be opened, whereupon every nation hastened to offer supplies to the country. From the point of view of the alliance, therefore, the situation had undergone no change.

Such was the state of affairs in its proper perspective, with regard to the co-operation of the Great Powers in the struggle against Turkey. How could M. Venizelos dare to state that the alliance between the Great Powers and Greece had been broken off as a result of the Note of November 1? Would it not be better to say that the Treaty of Sèvres was signed and Greece alone entrusted to impose it? And could M. Venizelos explain why the Treaty had not been ratified by any of the signatories?

Referring to the Northern Epirus question, M. Gounaris states that M. Venizelos is very audacious in daring to speak of this question, in view of the fact that it was he who had used every endeavour to bring about a failure. Was it true or not that Northern Epirus belonged to Greece as a result of the struggles of the Epirotes whilst M. Venizelos was acting against its interests? Was it true or not that Greece had completely assimilated that country, and that the latter deputies formed part of the Greek Parliament? Was it true or not that the Allies had occupied that country, following an arrangement with M. Venizelos? How was it then that Northern Epirus was now under Albanian occupation? Who gave it to the Albanians instead of to the Greeks? Who was then in power in Greece?

Passing on to the agreement with Italy, the Prime Minister asks; was it not under the Venizelos Cabinet that it was denounced? With regard to the refusal of the Government to arrive to an understanding at the Conference of London, M. Gounaris says that there were no grounds for an entente. To begin with, Turkey, before Greece had time to reply, had declared through those who represented Angora, that she would not accept the terms stipulated, and was then actually preparing her troops for an attack. This situation was realised by the Great Powers themselves who informed Greece that she had perfect liberty of action to make preparations in order to forestall those of Turkey.

Touching on the proposals of mediation, M. Gounaris explained that whilst pourparlers would have been in progress, Kemal would have had ample time to reinforce himself.

In conclusion, the Greek Premier said that the Government which succeeded M. Venizelos had done everything possible and advantageous in the National interest, that which M. Venizelos had not been able to do not having the confidence of the people. This confidence of the people shown towards the present Government, was to-day a powerful asset, carrying probabilities of great success. To-day M. Venizelos spoke again of the lassitude of the people, which was even being provoked by the present Government. M. Venizelos was also mistaken in this illusion, as much to-day as when he stated the lassitude of the Army had caused his downfall. It was not the lassitude of the people which sent him away, and it was that which would once more bring him back to power.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, September 27.*

### The Island Outlook.

A point has been reached when some new departure is clearly essential unless the present anomalous and unsatisfactory situation is to be continued during the sessions of the new Legislative Council which is shortly to come into being. At a meeting of the "Central Committee" (which has for some years directed the course of events in the Greek community) held under the presidency of the Bishop of Papho, it was decided that yet another Pan-Cypriot meeting should be convened, on October 9 or 10, to decide upon the "policy" to be followed. The term Pan-Cypriot is of course a misnomer, as it would ignore the opinions of 60,000 Moslems. So few members attended (10 out of 28, of whom 6 only voted) that it has not yet been decided whether this decision holds good. The long-suffering Archbishop—the political figurehead—is to decide. Should the meeting be held, it means that about 2,000 representatives of towns and villages must be summoned; and no one can seriously imagine that any useful purpose can be served by all the trouble, expense and waste of time that would be involved.

A more important and interesting fact is that there is now, at last, a conflict of opinion (fully reflected in the Greek papers) as to what line ought to be followed in the new council. Considerable and growing sections of the educated community have been asking themselves whether the policy of abstention from attendance by the Greek members has not been a mistake, and whether, if persisted in, it is not bound to interfere with island progress. There is now a pronounced difference of opinion, and the nucleus of an opposition which is bold enough to speak out. Supporters of the present members who advocate their re-election contend that the latter have fought hard for the cause of "union," have sacrificed much, that they should continue the struggle on the same lines, and be returned by a grateful electorate. The new party say that, since a definite reply has been given by the British Government, it is useless to ignore the consequences, that island interests must now take the first place, and that these cannot be advanced by members who refuse to sit in the Council. The latter, it is represented, cannot change their tactics; otherwise they would be regarded as mere weathercocks; and there should therefore be an infusion of new blood. It is fully recognised that they have played their part strenuously, but the fact remains that they have not succeeded, and that the island is not to be handed over to Greece; and that way must now be made for men who will strike out a new line, which points to co-operation with their colleagues.

The outlook is therefore as follows:—If the present members (all but one of whom seek election) are returned, they will pursue the same futile tactics, and probably absent themselves from the Council, and maintain a hostile attitude of non co-operation and mischievous obstruction, that is to say that the real interests of Cyprus will be grossly neglected. If on the other hand new members, or a majority of such, are elected, presumably there will be more or less co-operation by the Greek section with the Government. Should the first alternative be realised, the Government (Colonial Office) can hardly tolerate any longer a continuation of this farce and of the subordination of legitimate work to politics, but would surely give a warning such as was given in 1895, that persistence in the present course must inevitably lead to a change of constitution. It is impossible to suppose that the present handful of agitators can any longer be allowed to play fast and loose with the working of the legislative machine. Several of the agitators have been cautioned regarding their speeches, and there has been some tightening of the Press law. The proceedings of the Council itself have been trifled with quite long enough by the Greek element.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## "TRAVELLERS IN THE BALKANS."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—Since returning from the Continent, I have read with amusement the note about my visit to Zagreb which appeared in your issue of October 6. It is true that my brother and I saw M. Raditch, as well as a number of other politicians of all parties, though the report that we were introduced to him by the acting British Consul is untrue. But while the Serbian Press was, I understand, accusing us of seeking to undermine the Yugoslav State, we were in reality engaged in the far more congenial pursuit of catching Slovene trout.

Not only was the river fishing of a very sporting character, but the surroundings were ideal. I do not think there are any valleys in Europe more lovely than those of Slovenia, or any people more charming that the Slovenes. Certainly the lake of—is an earthly paradise, and it is said that even Balkan publicists become calm and lovable after a week's contemplation of its deep waters.

Of its island church and its romantic castle and its great pike, of the beauty of the encircling hills, of the river, like green crystal, which leaps out of the rock and flows to it through the beech forests, only a poet could sing. But if all the political leaders of Yugoslavia would spend their holidays on its banks, I believe that the effect on their minds might be a potent influence for peace and harmony throughout the land!

I am, etc.,

LELAND BUXTON.

45, Kensington Park Gardens, Ladbroke Square, W.11.

## "BEDOUIN."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—I think it ought to be noticed that the spelling of "Bedouin," although it resembles an Arabic plural, is properly a singular, derived from a French form of the Arab *badawi*; consequently the plural "Bedouins" is correct, and the error (a very common one) is to suppose that it is already a plural. It is your reviewer who (on p. 415) has fallen into the common mistake.

I am, etc.,

S. A. C.

Cambridge, October 10.

Our reviewer, to whom the above letter has been communicated, writes:

"I am afraid that I cannot see eye to eye with your correspondent. Mesopotamian Arabs of education have told me that 'Bedouin' is a plural form, and it is certainly so used in speech in that region. Apart from this, Sir Richard Burton, whose authority can hardly be questioned, writes as follows in his "Pilgrimage to Al Madinah and Meccah." Vol. 2, p. 80 (Memorial Edition), footnote to Badawin,—"I use this word as popular abuse has fixed it. Every Orientalist knows that Badawin (Bedouin) is the plural form of Badawi, an 'ism al-nisbah,' or adjective derived from Badu—a Desert. "Some words, notoriously corrupt," says Gibbon, "are fixed, and as it were naturalised in the vulgar tongue."

"The Concise Oxford Dictionary" gives: "Bedouin n and a. (Arab) of the desert, wandering; gipsy (F., f. Arab. *badawin* pl. of *badawiy*—dweller in the desert (*badw*—desert); *-n* is prop. the pl. sign."'—Ed.

## RECORDS OF THE PAST.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The Society of Antiquaries has, as you may be aware, recently started a quarterly journal called the Antiquaries Journal, one purpose of which is to give information to all who are interested about any discoveries that may be made of archaeological interest. In the past many finds that might have furnished us with interesting information, were not generally known because there was no convenient means of recording them, and so the opportunity of investigating them was lost. Many of your readers take interest in such matters, and would willingly if they perchance heard of such things, communicate their knowledge. I should be much obliged to you therefore, if you would by inserting this letter in your columns, encourage any of your readers to communicate information to the local Secretaries of the Society whose names are below. To any of them any discoveries either of mediaeval or earlier remains which may be made should be promptly communicated. They will welcome any information and will willingly afford all assistance in their power. The earliest possible notice should be given as, in these matters it is very necessary to have advice in the first stage, before any work is done, whether by excavating or otherwise.

I am, etc.,

RALPH GRIFFIN, Secretary.

Cyprus: G. E. Jeffery, F.S.A., Nicosia.

Egypt: H. R. Hall, M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A., British Museum, London.

Malta: Prof. T. Zammitt, C.M.G., Valetta Museum.

Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Picadilly, W.1.

## ALBANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA.

(*To the Editor of "The Near East."*)

Sir,—The Albanian question is getting serious, and as the Albanians have Italy at their back, the European press is spoon-fed with anti-Yugoslav propaganda. The Slavs are naturally anxious to secure a good strategic frontier, especially as that wild country has been for centuries, and will probably be for many years to come, a theatre of border warfare and the raiding of villages, as is inevitable where there is a mixed and warlike population in a relatively tardy stage of civilization. But they have no wish to see the growth of Albania thwarted, and would infinitely prefer to see them left to themselves and not made the tools of foreign intrigues. In many parts of the Balkans the Serb and Albanian population are inextricably mixed, and there are constant if slow movements and migrations, and a substantial amount of mutual absorption, for, although the two nationalities are so distinctively marked, there is a tendency for the minority to become absorbed in the majority in different districts.

The recent reference to "Russian mercenaries" in "*The Near East*" itself is an example of the subtle effect of propaganda. It is well known how Yugoslavia has strained its resources to the utmost to find a home for the wandering Russian refugees, often to the discontent of the natives, and how the Government is actually spending large sums on the feeding of them. When General Wrangel's army was left to starve, and Belgrade was approached with a view to accepting more, the country's resources were not equal to the strain, but the Government agreed to take on a certain number, not very great, to reinforce their frontier guards, for this is the only manner in which many of these destitute Muscovites can earn their rations. We read that a much greater number of Russians are in the service of the Bulgarian Government, yet no one accuses Sofia of employing mercenaries, and the implication is a little cruel.

While it is quite possible that the Yugoslavs have carried on political activity in the south-west with a view to securing ultimately a strategic frontier, and may have committed indiscretions, it is Serbia that is suffering. There seems to be substantial fighting now on Serbian territory, and the military authorities have been in conference with the Cabinet with a view to sending reinforcements and upholding the sanctity of the frontiers. Information gathered from prisoners shows that the Italians are helping the Albanians with food, uniforms and munitions. And at the same time, the Magyars are massing troops on the northern frontier,

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hoping to profit by Yugoslavia's embarrassment in the south. In some political circles the opinion is expressed that as the country is in fact in a state of war with Albania, the situation should be regularised, the Skupshtina convoked, as the Constitution requires when the country is attacked, and war formally declared. Meanwhile, to avoid the necessity of mobilisation, the Ministry of War is despatching reinforcements in the form of regular troops and gendarmerie, but will not dare to denude the Hungarian frontier.

While it is true that the Yugoslav delegate to the League of Nations has forfeited a certain amount of sympathy by his outburst recently, which has been criticized in Belgrade, it must be borne in mind that when we come to the root of the matter, it is a purely Balkan question, which in former days would have been left to the two parties to settle among themselves. Also that the so-called centrifugal forces within the Triune Kingdom are very weak and few in numbers, but those without are both numerous and strong as many of your letters have shown. It is directly to Italy's interest, or to that of her imperialistic party, to act as they are doing, and it plays right into the hands of Hungary.

I am, etc.,

YUGOSLAVOPHIL.

## RUSSIAN REFUGEES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The case of the Russians here really wants writing up. There are 27,000 practically starving today in the streets of Constantinople (official figures)! You watch their condition getting gradually worse each day as you pass down the streets—thinner and more emaciated, and the expression on their faces one of increasing hopelessness. All the streets are *lined* with them, selling such things as paper snakes, paper flowers, picture postcards, newspapers, rubber dolls. I saw a nice looking youth last week about 26, who in the operation of selling one of two rubber faces that squirt a red tongue out—which he held up for sale—allowed his stick to drop to the ground. He was too weak to reach the ground, so the purchaser turned and picked it up for him. They stand in the streets in all weathers out at heel, with just a remnant on them of their original Russian military uniform. One hears that all funds for their assistance are about exhausted. The French have closed down entirely. It strikes one here that they are just as deserving of some of the Russian Famine Relief Fund as at any rate the looters of the relief trains in Russia itself.

So far the Russians here are amazingly quiet and law-abiding and in consequence are more and more gaining the sympathy of the public. But one feels that trouble must come before long. It is contrary to human nature that it should be otherwise.

I am, etc.

C.M.B.

## THE NEW PERSIAN CABINET.

According to an official message received in London, the Persian Prime Minister has reconstructed the Cabinet as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kavam-es-Saltaneh | .. | Prime Minister and Interior. |
| The Sardar Sipah.. | .. | War. |
| Mushir-es-Saltaneh | .. | Foreign Affairs. |
| Amid-es-Saltaneh .. | .. | Justice. |
| Shahab-ed-Dowleh | .. | Posts and Telegraphs. |
| Amir Aalam .. | .. | Education. |
| Mussadek-es-Saltaneh | .. | Finance. |
| Naib-es-Saltaneh .. | .. | Public Works. |

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## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

### Palestine.

In the *Contemporary Review* of October Professor Patrick Geddes, who has recently returned from Jerusalem, has an intensely interesting article on "Palestine in Renewal." He begins with a statement of that impartiality which he, as a town-planner, had to observe in Palestine; his views from such an aspect are therefore valuable:—

In this present situation, with hopes and purposes, opinions and criticisms as to the future of Palestine so widely divergent, the testimony of recent visitors may be of value; and this according to the nature and measure of their direct observation and their interpretations of such survey. The writer—not previously acquainted with Palestine, but prepared by long familiarity with various Mediterranean regions, some as far east as, *e.g.*, Cyprus—has spent part of 1919, and the greater half of 1920, in travelling and planning, and this with an eye to regional development. He has been consulted for the designs of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, and of Jewish, as well as other, garden villages there and round several other towns, and throughout the whole period of both visits he has been responsible to the successive Governments of Palestine, military and civil, and has accordingly been reporting to them on general city and town plannings, within which these Jewish schemes have only their limited areas among the rest. And just as the hygienist, whether at home in Europe, in India, or in Palestine, is in practice but little concerned with either the religion or the politics of the public which he is called to serve, so it is also with the town-planner. Essentially occupied as are hygienist and planner with general and community interests, a substantial impartiality is thus necessary and customary in their professions: indeed, without it their plans would be vitiated in all men's eyes, and not simply in their own.

And he proceeds to give one or two impressions gained from this angle:—

The common idea of the relative backwardness of Arab agriculture is too often confirmed, yet with very noteworthy exceptions for certain villages. The widely current impression of poor housing, in Arab villages and Moslem quarters, requires frequent correction; since skilled mason-work, substantial building, and good proportion are very general; while an old Turkish or Arab mansion has not only air and space, but dignity, and often interior beauty, even charm. Modern Christian architects of all denominations, with all their large opportunities during the past generation or two throughout the Holy Land, have as yet mainly been giving too formal presentments of their own styles, and thus failing to express them at their best; while Jewish building and architecture have been hitherto no better than in Europe, since they mostly range from poor, even ghetto-like, meanness and overcrowding of houses of ordinary suburban character, showing as yet scarcely any fresh inspiration.

And in continuing with a description of the varied traditions of Palestine and of the necessity for observing them all, he discloses the idealism that is at the bottom of all great practical men. "It is out of the old Palestine with its broken and surviving beauty, that men of good work and will, of each and every faith, may best hope to express their own vision of their new Jerusalem upon its hills." He goes on to discuss agriculture:—

Yet the most fundamental of all reconstructive tasks is agriculture; and its main object, in literal Biblical phrase, and in concrete fulfilment of its prophesy, is to "build again the old waste places." And though the Zionists are in this way the most active and ambitious, and the Moslem and Christian Press is in consequence voicing a dread of submergence, there is nothing to prevent much further development of all good agricultural and constructive endeavours—as, *e.g.*, by credit organisations. This in fact is being seen by many, and as a wiser and more practical policy than that of outcries of "dispossession." Such outcries are, indeed, baseless; for, even if Jews were to become destitute of that long foresight and political intelligence with which in other moods they are only too generously, sometimes almost superhumanly, credited, the British Mandate and administration are there, pledged to guard all existing interests. And, as a matter of fact, after looking at many Jewish land purchases, in north, east, and west, one forms the clear resultant impression that the Jews are paying very good prices for what they buy. Moreover, the bulk of such land, if not all, requires further large capital expenditure, so it will need not only skill and labour but long patience too, before the mass of these investments can be brought up to a remunerative return. This has been true even of the older Jewish colonies which have been growing up for half a century and more, along with those of German and American Christians, quite before the present Zionist movement, which is essentially of very recent years. Its world-wide publicity, however necessary for its objects in other countries, is in Palestine costing its promoters dear. For it is the very A B C of economic experience that, in a bargain between an eager buyer and a leisurely and conservative possessor, it is in the latter's favour that the scale tends to incline. This is inevitable where sentiment comes into the scales, as in any country, say for the archaeologist seeking to acquire some venerable ruin to

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him inestimably precious; for the religious body longing to restore a venerated shrine, or, again, for any person asking to re-acquire the home of his ancestors. But the Jewish buyer is each and all of these, and *more*; he has not merely the sum of all these sentiments, he is their multiplicand. He has, moreover the disadvantage of a legend of wealth behind him, almost as when any travelling Englishman was "milord," or was at least assumed to be heir to a London banker or brewer; this, indeed, all the more because everyone in Palestine knows that one of the Rothschild barons has long been backing and extending with his millions, the pre-Zionist group of colonies that have long been numerous, and are at length fairly prospering. But the Zionists themselves are less fortunate, since the great Jewish financiers and bankers are mostly somewhat shy of their ardour; they are, however, asked long prices none the less. And though sometimes an Arab seller may expand into unwonted luxury at Cairo or Jerusalem, there are also many cases in which, like proprietors of large but impoverished lands nearer home, he is able by selling a portion, to disburden and develop the land he keeps. Under the influence of a recent and vigorous political and Press propaganda, not a few *effendis* declared they would never sell to Jews, but some have been prudently reconsidering this. And one meets old-fashioned Arab landholders and chieftains, more interested in the development of their lands and people than in politics, who are frankly desirous of promoting Jewish settlements in their midst; not simply, as they explain, from a desire for ready cash, but as a fresh example and impulse to their own small, scattered, and admittedly backward agriculture. For a Jewish colony often offers employment for Arab labour, and certainly a stimulus to the neighbouring villages.

He then details some of the material improvements that have already been effected, and concludes with some instructive remarks on the nature of the Zionist Colonists:—

Now a word about these workers. After all one has heard of them as wastrels, dotards, usurers, Bolsheviks—for any and every word of abuse, however mutually incompatible, seems to satisfy such critics by turns—the naked eye finds them in the mass pretty much like a group of our own young soldiers back from the war. For in this a great number of them served, of course in many different armies; a surprisingly large proportion are men from universities, now closed to them, too commonly by hate, but also largely by the poverty, ruin, or massacre of their kindred. And in these young fellows turning from philosophy, law and letters, or medicine and science to agriculture, is there not also an element of "University Reform," fuller than its advocates, whether in Britain or India, have yet put forward?

But what of the Bolsheviks and Communists, of whom we have heard so much, and who alarmed Sir Herbert Samuel's Government? No doubt there are a sprinkling. I have heard, from some of their opponents, of two or three hundred in Palestine. If there be so many, it is few compared with too many British cities; but, in any case, the difference is that, while any great modern industrial city to-day is becoming more or less a nursery and training school of extreme economic theories, an even revolutionary spirit, any and every agricultural region—and especially such a reclamation area as this—is the nursery and school of a view of life and a philosophy of action of a totally different character, since it is no longer mechanical, but essentially vital and constructive. As a student and planner in great cities, and even at present in this quiet old Scotland, I feel a very real anxiety over their impatient Communists and ardent Bolsheviks; but when in the fields, whether watching Horace Plunkett's work in Ireland or Dr. Egginger's in Palestine, one breathes a totally different atmosphere, and with returning hope. For what steadier and better ground has any civilisation to show, in past, present, or future, than such return to mother earth, in strenuous and loving labour?

## A Problem of To-Day.

Writing in the *Saturday Review* on the "Asiatic Dislike of European Control," a correspondent thinks that "there can be little doubt that the relations between Europe and Asia will prove to be one of the gravest and most perplexing questions that the present generation will have to face." In his opinion, "it is in the Nearer East—that is, in all the country extending from India to the Mediterranean—that the social feeling between East and West is now gathering its strength under the impetus of new ideas and the unifying bond of a common creed." There is in fact a spirit of revolt in the East against all implications of inferiority in its dealings with Europeans:—

The philosophic Hindu dreams of the return to a life as depicted in the Vedas, a life of saintly self-complacency undisturbed from without, which he feels the rigid materialistic rule of the white man has rendered impossible of attainment. The Muslim sees around him at Agra, Cairo, Delhi, and Damascus the glorious marble relics of fallen dynasties and departed greatness, and longs for the days when every career was open to the strong and ambitious, when the great could live a life free from the restrictions of external law, moral duties, and responsibilities to others with which the European has encumbered civilisation. Even the timid had then a chance to make themselves a name in some of the quieter walks of life. All the excitement and high interest of life have, they feel, been extinguished under the rigid, wooden order produced by the foreign rule. For all this which has been extinguished the foreigner has nothing to offer in exchange. Nor could he offer anything except justice and good order. But the Asiatic prefers a more flexible justice, on his own lines, where his point of view is better understood and provided for, though this in the white man's eyes is not justice at all. So long has the past grandeur of Persia been nothing but a memory, so utterly has her civilisation crumbled that, except for the living influence of her poets, there is little to recall her former proud position among the nations of the world. Omar Khayyam, indeed, is known and appreciated in the West, but little is understood of the quaint philosophy of life of which Hafiz is a master, and still less of the mystic love poems of Saadi and his rose garden with the bulbuls singing in the trees. And Turkey, the home of ancient and modern empires, heir to the civilisation of Rome, and the object of envy and intrigue on the part of every western Power ever since "his most Christian Majesty" Francis I. allied himself with Suleiman the Magnificent, has, under the hammer blows of fate, dwindled into a caricature of its former might. Perhaps the future may prove that, in losing a weak Empire Turkey has become a strong nation and will find the means to shake off the foreign economic and international yoke. For the rebirth of the nationalist spirit of Asia dates from the revolution of 1908, when Turkey decided that her destiny lay on the southern side of the Golden Horn, and not in Europe. This great historical movement, the full effect of which has yet to be seen, marks for Asia an epoch no less important than the French revolution did for Europe. Yet, in the past, this antipathy between the two continents could not have been of the same intensity or even of the same kind as exists to-day. For did not the greatest of all world conquerors, Alexander the Great, marry a daughter of the Persian King Darius; and did not the patrician Antony take as a wife Cleopatra, the Queen of Egypt? Moreover, in more recent times, Shakespeare saw no objection to placing Desdemona and Othello on the stage together in circumstances which would, perhaps, be avoided in an essentially modern drama.

Lack of space prevents us giving more than one further quotation:—

It is certain that the European in the East can never merge himself in the Asiatic, for that to him would spell mental and physical deterioration with ultimate sterility as a consequence. Asia for the Asiatics is a law written into the soil and races of Asia. In the East the European never, if he can help it, accepts any other position than that of ruler. For the white subject thinks himself, often with small justification, to be the equal, if not the superior of the Asiatic King. Probably no two persons of different colour every marry without feeling, in some inscrutably way, that they had transgressed a law that is older than humanity itself. This strange, and apparently immutable, feeling of separateness was never more strikingly illustrated than in the position of the English in India in 1857, when the chances against them seemed overwhelmingly great. Yet they asked no quarter, they suggested no terms, they proposed no truce, but fought on, clear only as to one point, they would either continue to rule, or they would go under and be forgotten.

## The Egyptian Discussions.

Under the above heading the *Glasgow Herald* of October 11 appeals for brevity in the negotiations between Lord Curzon and Adly Pasha:—

The story of our trouble with Egypt since the risings, which led to the tardy despatch of the Milner Mission, has been a story of delays and postponements favourable to nothing but increased suspicion on the part of the Egyptians that this country is not sincere in its promises. It is true that the delays have been to some extent brought about by the action of the extreme Egyptian Nationalists; but it is open to question whether, if the British Government had taken a stronger line in regard to the Zaghlulist attempts to introduce new issues and to obscure the situation as a whole, a settlement would have *not* been arrived at by now instead of still remaining problematical. In many cases, one thing is transparently clear—namely, that neither Great Britain nor Egypt can afford to allow these discussions to be indefinitely protracted, or to be again interrupted by the factious machinations of Zaghlul Pasha and his supporters. The Delegation, with which Lord Curzon is resuming discussion of the points at issue, is a delegation from the Egyptian Government with the most trusted and perhaps most trustworthy of Egyptian politicians at its head. A careful study of the conditions in Egypt itself favours the impression that Zaghlul's influence is now more apparent than real, and that his recent displays of arrogance, petulance, and inconsistency have greatly weakened such hold as he had upon his countrymen, the great majority of whom will gladly support Adly Pasha's acceptance of a compromise much more reasonable than any to which Zaghlul would listen. There is surely no reason why, in view of these circumstances, an agreement should not be arrived at in time to allow of its being discussed in Parliament during the next session. Nor is it likely that such a discussion would be seriously controversial or unduly *prolonged*, save possibly by the efforts of Zaghlul's recent guests to exploit their rapidly acquired knowledge of Egypt and its political and social requirements.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

**The Piano-Player.**

On October 13 at the Æolian Hall a causerie-recital was given by Mr. Edwin Evans on "Modern Composers and the Player-Piano as an advanced means of musical expression," and the very large audience, much larger than that which the ordinary pianoforte-recital attracts, was an indication of the popular interest in the purely musical side of this comparatively new instrument. Much of Mr. Evans' lecture I unfortunately missed, but I heard the examples (played by Mr. Reginald Reynolds), especially written for the "Pianola" by Stravinsky, Malipiero, Goossens, Howells, and Casella, which were intended to illustrate his contention that the piano-player is an instrument with a technique of its own. Argument on this subject is useless: to those conservatives who still prate of mechanical touch, the lack of soul, and so on, I commend Mr. Ernest Newman's excellent book on the piano-player. But one is bound to confess that the pieces which were played were not attractive to the ear, though one freely admits that time is on the side of the experimentalists, since the ear will in the future certainly be able to take in masses of sound that are to it in its present untrained condition unbearable.

**Two Pianists.**

Brailovsky, whose pianoforte recital was at the Wigmore Hall on October 10, is already a very considerable artist. His technique is excellent, and his ideas, sometimes sound and sometimes showing the wantonness of youth, will probably take him to the highest rank. Unquestionably his finest possession is the spick brilliance of his playing, such as informed some of the more dazzling Chopin preludes. In these his was indeed a wonderful performance. But equally admirable is the most alluring muted silky tone in which he frequently indulges. From this tone he draws all sorts of colours, and with it he was even able to make the first two movements of Beethoven's "Pastoral" sonata (Op. 28) a constant delight. It sounded so easy, but that was because it was done by a master. But in "Carnaval" of Schumann he was not nearly so good; his rhythm was sometimes perverse, he missed many of the inner parts, and his sense of climax was disappointing.

In Miss Dorothea Vincent's pianoforte playing there was that good British honesty that so often in our concert halls finds itself the sole substitute for other and more satisfying virtues. At her recital at the Wigmore Hall on October 14, she displayed an unaffectedness and a technical ability that in any other art than music would probably secure for her popularity. But in music matters are different. There the accurate reproduction of proved values is not sufficient: one must suffuse one's reading in the glamour of original imagination. It was this personal, vital, gripping element that was lacking in Miss Vincent's playing. Everything, whether it was Beethoven's thin Sonata in E minor (op. 90), or Ireland's "Summer Evening" and "Merry Andrew," or Scott's "Introduction and Fugue," or even E. J. Moeran's new "Theme and Variations in F minor," was done in faultless taste, but could move no one. However pleasing and "nice" (as the Oxford people used to say) her playing may be, it will never progress very much without an infusion of personality.

**A Joint Song-Recital.**

Much as I admire the art of M. Mischa-Léon there were many dull things in the recital which he gave with Mme. Donalda at the Æolian Hall on October 13. Both were in good voice, Mme. Donalda far better than ever I have heard her; but in the songs of both singers there were some quite unworthy choices. Mme. Donalda especially brought many new songs. Of three new songs by Louis Durey "Trois poemes de Pétrone," only the first, "La Boule de Neige," showed much ability, and that of the superficially pleasing sort. A song of Casella, "En ramant" went well enough until the final verse, where it foundered in commonplace. Two new songs of de Breville were quite insignificant (so many modern French songs have negative virtues only), though recompense was made in Ravel's wholly delightful "Le Paon," which, incidentally, was extremely well sung. Her group of English songs was very poor, the worst of all being Scott's "Time o' Day" and some footling encore about "Smile a little." M. Mischa-Léon, who is incomparably the finer artist of the two, was, except where he was indulging in temperamental orgies, always interesting. He sang a beautifully finished "Sarabande" of Albert Roussel with consummate skill, following with perfect art the clear, limpid line of the melody. Laparra's "Du Pays" was a complete surprise to me: I had expected something vital, or at any rate original, from this composer, and here we had him pouring out diatonic conventionalities bedecked with common chords! His English group also, like the soprano's was poor, containing but two good songs, Butterworth's "Requiescat," which is perhaps too intimate, delicate, and English a thing for a foreign artist to fathom, and Bantock's "Desolation," magnificently interpreted by the singer. The beautiful justness of the atmosphere in which he distantly shrouded Bantock's song made all the more shocking the wild extravagances in which he indulged in Holbrooke's already extravagant "Come not when I am dead." But where he is a singer without peer is in his Scandinavian songs; it was a memorable thing to hear his tragic intensity in Lange-Muller's "Efteraar" or the pathos of his Grieg's "En Svane."

ANDANTE

## ALBUQUERQUE'S ATTACK ON ADEN.

Lecturing before the Royal Asiatic Society at 74, Grosvenor Street, London, on October 18, on "The Red Sea at the beginning of the sixteenth century," Sir E. Denison Ross said that the first quarter of that century witnessed events which had a lasting effect on the history of Egypt, Persia, and India. Among these events were the conquest of Egypt by the Ottoman Sultan, followed by his assumption of the title of Khalif, the rise of the great Safari dynasty in Persia, and the establishment of the Mogul Empire in India. But the event which concerned Europeans more than any of these was the opening of the direct sea route between Portugal and India.

In connection with the last named matter the lecturer gave an account of the attack by Albuquerque, the greatest of the Portuguese adventurers, on Aden, then a stronghold of a monarch ruling south-west Arabia. In 1513 Albuquerque left India to go to the Red Sea in search of a fleet whose attack he had long been waiting for in India. On the way he called at Aden, where the commander of the town sent to inquire whether he needed supplies for his fleet. Albuquerque replied that he had come to look for the armada that had been sent out by the Sultan of Cairo. There followed an exchange of compliments, Albuquerque asking the commander to acknowledge the suzerainty of Portugal. This was eventually refused. During the three days spent in the harbour Albuquerque determined a plan of attack; he decided that his whole force should engage in a scaling assault on an arm of the city wall which ran along the sea front. His force consisted of one thousand Portuguese and four hundred Malabaris. The attacking party went to the shore in small boats, carrying with them scaling ladders so wide that six men could ascend them side by side. The plan of the town garrison was to entice the Portuguese within the city walls, and fight them there rather than outside, where they would be at the mercy of superior artillery. Such was the keenness of the attackers in mounting the ladders, that these broke with the weight of the men upon them, and Albuquerque sent halbardiers of his guard to prop up the ladders with their spears. The chief success of this attack lay in the occupation by Garcia de Sousa of a fortified turret. Meanwhile Mir Mirjan rode out with others, also on horseback, and pressed down upon those who had entered the town. This attack the Portuguese could not resist, and most turned back in flight to the walls; while a few joined Garcia de Sousa in his turret. The Arabs brought straw and placing it below this turret set fire to it in order to smoke the men out. Whereupon Albuquerque sent ropes by which they could let themselves down. Garcia de Sousa refused to leave the turret by any other way than he had entered it, and lost his life in consequence. The fight lasted four hours, after which Albuquerque withdrew his men to their ships; and decided to continue his voyage to the Red Sea, leaving the chastisement of Aden to another time. Returning from the Red Sea he attacked Aden again, but found it in a much stronger state of defence than before; and after achieving very little he set sail again for India.

Comparing the Portuguese account with a hitherto unpublished Arab account of the fighting, the lecturer said it was interesting to note that they agreed in almost every detail; excepting that the Portuguese account told very little of the second attack, whereas the Arab account showed it to have been an even more serious affair than the first.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## A NEW POLITICAL GOSPEL.

**"THE FUTURE OF THE INDO-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH." By J. C. Wedgwood, M.P. (London and Madras; Theosophical Publishing House. 5s. nett.).**

The publishers regard this book, and its author, as so important that they have sent out copies for review without waiting to bind them, so as to economise time in spreading the new gospel. Perhaps they are justified, for gospels are best when served hot, and while this example is highly flavoured at the moment, we doubt whether it will keep. The theme is large, but simple. The League of Nations has failed, and the only chance of peace is to build up the desired world-union on the basis of the British Empire, enlarged by the free nations of the East, India, Ceylon, Burma, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Palestine, and supported by the co-operation of America, the direct annexation of which is fortunately unnecessary. The bulk of the book is occupied by the measures required to bring the free Eastern nations into existence.

This theme is arguable, but there is little argument in the book. The League of Nations for instance is labelled "a pack of dagoes and Lord Robert Cecil," and Colonel Wedgwood strides over the infant corpse to his next objective, delightfully certain that he has left no enemies in his rear. Men of discernment do not, however, look to the author for logic, still less for facts, and readers who do not require such pedantry will find the booklet interesting throughout, and frequently provocative—sometimes of thought, and sometimes of expletives. For ourselves, we confess that its chief interest lies in the revelation it furnishes of the psychology of its writer. Colonel Wedgwood is, of course, a Democrat, but he doesn't care twopence for the size of the adverse majority. He will believe practically anything that is told him to the discredit of his fellow countrymen, but all the same he has an almost fanatic faith in the men he is so ready to discredit. In some way or other he has become a confirmed doctrinaire, but blood will tell, and deep down in the machinery there is a stark middle-class strain, which every now and then acts as an antiseptic, and which, if it had freer scope, might, perhaps, transform the doctrinaire into the inspired statesman, for whom there is plenty of room.

We may add that the book contains a short preface by Lord Haldane, which in itself is quite unimportant, but is noteworthy for the confession that the writer wanted to write it, the first admission we have seen of voluntary submission to what has become one of the minor terrors of literature.

## A TALE OF MALTA.

**"THE GOVERNOR'S ROMANCE." By Mina Holt (London: John Long. 8s. 6d. net.)**

Although the scene of Miss Holt's novel is laid chiefly in Malta, she also takes us to an island off the coast of Galway, the childhood's home of Cleena, her heroine, and to South Africa where Cleena spends her early married life with the unloved, millionaire husband. The sense of actual motion from one part of the world to another is indeed Miss Holt's most successful achievement. She seems better able to convey the atmosphere of a place than to establish the individuality of a character. Cleena, although the author is evidently sincerely interested in her, is rather swamped by the necessities of the plot. And the hero, Hugh (in the latter part of the story, Sir Hugh Dava, Governor of Malta), is chiefly employed to come in and say and do what is expected of him in moments of crisis. Such is the moment when he returns from a secret mission to find Cleena—who has thought him dead—just married to the millionaire; then his "worn, bronzed face" takes on "grey colour" and he laughs bitterly. There is another later when, in order to show the reader that he is human although so sternly virtuous, he presses her "against his heart" and urges her to fly with him. The Governor's faithfulness through long years to Cleena is rewarded and his "Romance" ends most happily for them both.

Some of the minor characters, for instance the confirmed bachelor, General Birchington, strike one as being drawn from life.

Miss Holt is generous with mysteries—the one on which the plot turns is well worked out, and its solution is sure to come as a shock to the reader. But besides this there are German spies (the time is just before the war) who are only just prevented, by Cleena's ingenuity and courage, from doing terrible damage at Malta. We wish that Miss Holt had left out the chapter in which the spies confer after this discomfiture; it serves no purpose, and only causes us to feel irritatedly certain that no spies ever talked like that.

It is also a pity that the first chapter introduces some of the characters in an obscure, puzzling way, as we fear it might dissuade a reader who was taking a desultory glance at the novel, from continuing it to his own enjoyment.

## BRITISH POLICY IN THE NEAR EAST.

M. Pantcho Doreff, formerly a Bulgarian Deputy in the Turkish Parliament, and now Secretary of the Bulgarian Legation, devotes a pamphlet to the consideration of the policy of Great Britain in the Near East and Central Europe. Britain's prestige, he points out, rests *inter alia* on her humanity towards, and readiness to succour, the suffering and oppressed small peoples, "but the greatest tradition of British policy was always considered to be the magnanimity towards the defeated." This factor leads the author to his main theme, the treatment of Bulgaria by the Allies. To deprive Bulgaria of her Ægean port does violence to geographical, economic and moral principles. It is also an enormous blunder. His main points may be briefly quoted:—

There are three large rivers in Bulgaria rising from the bosom of the Balkans—Struma, Mesta, and Maritza. The mouths of all these were handed over to the Greeks..

. . . the very interest of Great Britain is to see that every nation in the world has at least an effective free port to an open sea, and this not only for the sake of maintaining direct trade with that country, but chiefly to be in a position to enable her to exercise her influence in regard to that particular State.

It is very difficult to understand what is the real interest of Great Britain in giving preference to a few millions of Greeks over three hundred millions of Mohammedans. Great Britain is destined to play the role of cultural intermediary between the Asiatic and American continents, and in this respect it would be quite right to say that one of the chief duties of British policy would be to reconcile the Christian with the Moslem civilization.

. . . Once the Turks were satisfied in their legitimate rights, the militarist and chauvinist manifestations of the Kemalist and Young Turk policy would die away and the peaceful and progressive elements preponderate.

In Poland our author sees in any other solution than leaving Silesia in German hands the risk of a graver error than was the Macedonian problem for the Balkans.

Mr. John Hogg announces for immediate publication a volume entitled "Soldiers of the Prophet," by Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. R. Murphy, F.R.G.S. The author was Naval and Military Intelligence Officer in the Persian Gulf; Chief Intelligence Officer to the Mesopotamia Force; and Head of the First British Mission to Turkey in 1918.

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**
October 20. (New Style).
October 7. (Old Style).
Safar 18, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 18, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Hereditary Prince of Kapurthala has arrived at Claridge's Hotel.

Sir Henry Babington Smith was included as executor under the late Sir Ernest Cassel's will.

M. D. Mamartcheff, third Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation, is on the Continent on leave.

Lieutenant-General Sir John and Lady Du Cane returned to London last week from Monte Carlo.

Lord and Lady Reading, accompanied by the Foreign and Political Secretaries, left for Kashmir on October 21.

M. Stambolisky has returned to Bulgaria from Geneva, states a Reuter telegram from Sofia.

M. Take Jonescu, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has returned to Bucharest from London.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have left London for the Baltic Provinces and Poland.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby will leave London on Sunday for Egypt.

After being received by King Boris, the Dean of Cashel, brother of the late Mr. James Bourchier, has visited the Rilo Monastery.

Lady Goldney, of Monks Park, Corsham, Wilts, sailed for India last week and will return about Christmas.

Mr. Alfred Mercer, of Wigan, Science Master, formerly Inspector of European Schools in Bengal, India, left £21,148.

The King has granted permission to Brigadier-General Sir Gilbert Clayton, to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile.

General Sir Claud Jacob (Chief of the General Staff, India) had the honour of being received by His Majesty at Buckingham Palace on October 11.

Sir Percy Loraine, new British Minister to Persia, is to leave Marseilles on October 29, and hopes to reach Teheran about the middle of December.


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Last week, at the opening meeting of the new session of the Victorian League, Sir Valentine Chirol gave an address on "The New Régime in India."

Lady Winifred Gore left London last week for Marseilles on her way to India, where she will visit the Commander-in-Chief and Lady Rawlinson.

Lady Ironside, late of Calcutta and Ootacamund, has taken 14, Victoria-road, Kensington, W.8., and this is now her permanent address. (Telephone, Western 490)

The *Sudan Times* states that Mr. J. H. G. Buller of the Legal Department will not return to the Sudan after the expiration of his leave in December.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, M. Michel Gavrilovitch, who has been on a special mission to Paris, returned to London this week.

On October 12, at the Homestead, Shanklin, a son was born to the wife (*née* Carter) of Captain R. P. J. Mitchell, Indian Army.

M. and Madame Venizelos were among the guests at a small luncheon party given on October 14, by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd George. Later in the week they left for America.

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington's leave is now drawing to a close, and, under present arrangements, he will return to his command at Constantinople during the first week of November.

The Belgian Ambassador entertained at luncheon on October 13, M. Michel B. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, and the personnel of the Belgian Embassy.

The marriage arranged between William Allard, of the Public Works Ministry, Cairo, and Dorothea, daughter of the late Charles Mann and of Mrs. Mann, Talbot Road, Highgate, will take place shortly in Egypt.

Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor of Somaliland, has left London to confer with the Political Resident at Aden on the question of the proposed transfer of Aden from India to the Colonial Office and the possible administrative amalgamation of Aden and Somaliland.

We are officially informed that there is absolutely no foundation for the rumours lately circulated by the Belgrade Press to the effect that King Boris of Bulgaria has been seriously ill. The King enjoys perfect health and is fulfilling all his engagements.

The marriage was celebrated on October 13, at St. John's Church, Calcutta, between Leslie John Marriott, M.I.C.E. of Chittagong, Eastern Bengal, and Winifred Frith, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bowring, of Alstone House, Huntspill Somerset.

The *Times of Mesopotamia* announces the rssignation of Colonel G. Lubbock, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E., Director of Mesopotamian Railways. With effect from August 21. Mr. P. Rothera, O.B.E., M.I.C.E., is appointed to act as Director of Mesopotamian Railways (*sub. pro tem.*)

The Prime Minister's eldest daughter, Mrs. Carey-Evans, on her arrival in London took Sir Arthur Pearson a cheque for £72, the sum collected for St. Dunstan's on board the Naldera, on which she was the voyage from Bombay.

The marriage was celebrated on October 11, at Holy Trinity Church, Karachi, India, between Captain Arthur Amys Fausset-Baker, Indian Army, only son of the late Major Fausset-Baker, and Mrs. Fausset-Baker, and Flora Jane, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Evans, of Withby, Sidmouth, Devon.

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The marriage was celebrated on October 11, at St. Saviour's, Westcliff-on-Sea, by the Rev. H. Morrison Rose, between Roderick Llewellyn Baylis, of Delhi, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Barnard Baylis, and Dorothy Phyllis, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bayliss, of Westcliff.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Synge, D.S.O. (S. and T. Corps, Indian Army), of Kelston, Seaford, Sussex, who saw service in the Tirah, Tibet, and Abor Expeditions, and during the Great War in France and in Persia, writer under the name "Powell Millington" of several books on life of India, left estate of the gross value of £9,437.

"Early Relations of Egypt, Babylonia, and Syria" is the subject of a lecture to be delivered by Mr. Percy E. Newberry, O.B.E. on Thursday, October 27, at 8.30 p.m. at the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House. This lecture is the first of a series on Egypt to be arranged by the Egypt Exploration Society; tickets and further details can be obtained from the Secretary, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

The Athens Correspomdent of the *Morning Post* states that M. Gounaris, the Greek Prime Minister, and M. Baltazzis, Minister for Foreign Affairs, have left the Piraeus on a destroyer, and are due to arrive in Paris to-day. Subsequently they will visit London and Rome. Admiral Malicopoulos and General Strategos, with M. Argyropoulos and other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are accompaniyng the Greek Prime Minister and M. Baltazzis to Paris and London.

The Egyptian Expeditionary Force dinner was held at the Café Royal on October 12. The dinner was the outcome of the successful G.H.Q. Palestine dinner held last year, and a Dinner Club, which will meet annually has now been formed under the presidency of Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, with Lieutenant-Generals Sir P. Chetwode and E. Bulfin, Major-Generals Sir H. G. Chauvel, Sir Vere Fane, and Sir Harry Watson as vice-presidents. Lord Allenby presided last week, and among those also present were Lieutenant-Generals Sir E. Bulfin and Sir Walter Campbell; Major-Generals Sir P. Palin, Sir John Adye, Sir Steuart Hare, Sir Henry Hodgson, Sir G. Bowman-Manifold, and Sir R. H. Luce; Brigadier-Generals Bartholomew, Buckley, Paul, Williamson, Oswald, Jellicoe, Sir G. Macauley, Clarke Short, Leggett, and Simson Baikie; Captains E. Unwin, V.C., R.N.; and W. B. Macdonald, R.N.; Wing-Commander A. D. Borton, V.C.; Colonels Angus McNeill, Davis, Bagshawe, Badcock, Lord Dalmeny, Mainwaring, Horton, Robbins, Paravicini, Sterling, Garsia, Jameson, and Waters Taylor; Majors Reynolds, Hill, MacDonald, Berkeley Wills, Raikes, and Captain, Raymond Savage, the organizer and hon. secretary of the Dinner Club.

## APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

King Ferdinaud of Roumania has promoted the Crown Prince to be Brigadier-General.

M. Fotitch has been appointed First Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

M. Constantin Al. Constantinesco has been promoted Third Secretary to the Roumanian Legation.

M. Nicholas Michel Vladesco has been promoted Third Secretary of the Roumanian Legation.

A Simla Reuter message states the Professor Rushbrook Williams has been appointed official historian of the Prince's tour through India.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Alfred Edward Martineau to be a Puisne Judge of the Madras High Court, in succession to Mr. S. Wilberforce, who is retiring from the Bench in November.

The appointment of the Prince of Wales to be an Extra Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India and an Extra Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire was gazetted last week.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointments of Mr. Muttayya David Davadoss Avargal, Barrister-at-Law, and Mr. Mutha Venkata Subba Rao Garu, to be Puisne Judges of the Madras High Court in succession to Mr. Justice C. F. Napier, and Mr. Justice Sadasiva Aiyar.

## OBITUARY

Lieutenant-Colonel Edmond Munkhouse Wilson, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., R.A.M.C. (retired), died on October 9 at Queen Alexander's Military Hospital, Millbank, aged 66. In 1881 he joined the Army Medical Department, and he served in the Nile Expeditions of 1884-5-6 (medal and clasp and Khedive's star), the Gambia Expedition of 1891-92 (medal and clasp), the Ashanti Expedition of 1895-96, when he was in command of a base hospital and was honourably mentioned and received the C.M.G. and star, and the Sudan Expedition to Khartoum in 1898 as secretary to the Surgeon-General (mentioned in despatches, D.S.O., English medal, and Sudan medal and clasp). In 1903 he was created a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John.

The death has taken place at Edinburgh of Major-General Peter Stephenson Turnbull, M.D., aged 85, an hon. surgeon to the King. Major-General Turnbull joined the Indian Medical Service in 1860 and served in Abyssinia in 1867 and 1868 under Lord Napier of Magdala. He was Secretary to the Principal Medical Officer, H.M. Forces, Bombay, from 1882 to 1888, and Acting Inspector-General of Prisons in the Bombay Presidency from 1883 to 1885. Major-General Turnbull also held the appointment of Principal Medical Officer for the Sind district from 1888 to 1893, in which year he became Surgeon-General to the Government of Bombay, retiring three years later. He was made a Fellow of the University of Bombay in 1893, and was awarded the Good Service Pension in 1896. He was appointed hon. surgeon to the King in 1902.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1921.


## THE PALESTINE PROBLEM.

If Palestine feels obliged to look outside her own borders for inspiration, it is to be hoped that she will turn to the East, where Mesopotamia is setting an excellent example by peacefully testing her new conditions before passing judgment upon them, rather than to the north or the south-west, where she might be misled into the belief that the methods of the Turkish and Egyptian Nationalists achieve more good than harm. Provided that disturbances can be avoided in the immediate future, there would seem to be many forces at work to clear away some of the misunderstandings from which the country has suffered for the last two years. The chief danger lies, perhaps, in any exaggerated hopes that the Moslem-Christian Delegation may have raised when it first set out on its mission. Its presence in England will not have been altogether in vain; the members will certainly have been able to enlighten on many points those with whom they have come in contact, but they will also, we may trust, have learnt something themselves. The greatest disservice that they could render to Palestine would be to seek to cover up the non-attainment of their hopes by allowing the extremists among their followers to imagine that more violence on their part would turn the scale in their favour. It would, without doubt, have the opposite effect. Further disturbances in Palestine to-day would discredit the Arab population, which is anxious to prove its fitness to look after itself without being subjected to Jewish tutelage. On the other hand, given more time for the gradual readjustment of views held regarding the situation in Palestine, there can be no doubt that the Arabs stand to benefit from the process. Their fears were aroused much more by what they thought the Zionists intended to do than by what had been done. They had been stirred up to take Zionist declarations far more literally than the rest of the world had. Thus when an advertisement in the American Press spoke of Zionism restoring a people without a land to a land without a people, it is easy to appreciate how half a million Arabs of Palestine might be induced to picture themselves as on the eve of being swamped by a Jewish immigration that would forcibly eject them from the land of their fathers. Slogans, however, are not always to be taken literally, and if the most level-headed business men are inclined to make a prospectus as attractive as possible, much must be forgiven the Zionists in the flush of the achievement that the Balfour Declaration implied for them. A year's practical experience of translating their aspirations regarding a National Home into a workable scheme has caused many of the high-flown phrases of the propagandist days to be abandoned.

No seriously-minded person to-day speaks or thinks of a country as apart from its population. The Jews would be the sufferers first, last, and all the time, if they were brought to a land emptied of its inhabitants. As far as Palestine is concerned, therefore, the Arabs may rest assured that they are wanted, and that there will be no attempt to oust them from their heritage. At the same time, if they are wise, they will reflect that, as it is impossible to contemplate the country without its Arabs, so it would be a misfortune both for Palestine and the Arabs to face a future deprived of Jewish co-operation. From the fact that before the war Jews and Arabs were on satisfactory terms it has to be inferred that the existing trouble arises mainly from agitation on the part of a few rather than from any inherent antagonism between the two races. What is known as the Effendi class, landowners, lawyers and others, may have felt that the halcyon days that they had known under Turkish jurisdiction were slipping away from it. Jewish labour, it will have argued, if not actually Bolshevist, can hardly fail to introduce modern ideas among the fellaheen, who will no longer submit to the time-honoured exploitation that has brought wealth to those in authority over them. But let it be known that the new order, although entailing certain far-reaching changes, will offer many compensations—a higher value for land, fresh openings for capital—and the Effendi class will probably become more friendly. As for the fellaheen, so long as the mandate is in British hands they have nothing to fear and much to gain. Conviction on this point, we may hope, will reach them both from Egypt and from Mesopotamia, and will satisfy them that those who would stir them up to make disturbances to-day are the very men, or the tools of the men, who oppressed them in the past.

Not the least welcome among the forces at work to remove misunderstandings and to create a better atmosphere in Palestine is the Economic Board for Palestine, a report of whose first annual meeting appears in this issue. Under the chairmanship of Sir Alfred Mond, this Board aims at associating a number of Jews of proved capacity and judgment for the purpose of creating economically successful enterprises in Palestine. It is held by the Board that in doing so it will be performing the greatest service which any British Jew can render alike to Great Britain and to the cause of a National Home. In other words, as we understand its aims, the Board is anxious to promote the material prosperity of the country, and not to concern itself with political matters. It realises, as actual experience has already proved, that the present capacity of Palestine for absorbing Jewish immigration is strictly limited; and it believes that the only way to improve that capacity is to develop the resources of the country. Among the more urgent needs of Palestine are hydro-electric works for obtaining power from the Jordan and other rivers, and the provision of a harbour. Smaller projects will also be examined. As examples of these were mentioned at the meeting a Dead Sea transport scheme, the manufacture of salt and house-building. The Board hopes to receive strong financial backing throughout the Jewish world; the enterprises into which its funds will be put are to be tested by the severe economic test of whether they can be made economically successful on sound business principles, and it hopes accordingly to rally to its support those who may be prompted by business motives, as well as those who may be influenced by sentiment, whether it be sympathy with the National Home movement or the feeling that, as British Jews, Great Britain has a call upon them. All who are interested in the peaceful development of Palestine and wish the country well will recognise the advantage of having considerable sums of money judiciously spent upon it, over and above what the Administration with a limited revenue may feel justified in devoting to public works. In the material prosperity that such expenditure ought to bring about there is certainly the fuller opportunity for Jews and Arabs to know one another better and to discover that in Palestine the two races are complimentary, if not indispensable each to the other.


*THE NEAR EAST* next week will include a

**Special Illustrated Supplement**

in connection with the Tour of **H.R.H the PRINCE of WALES** in India.


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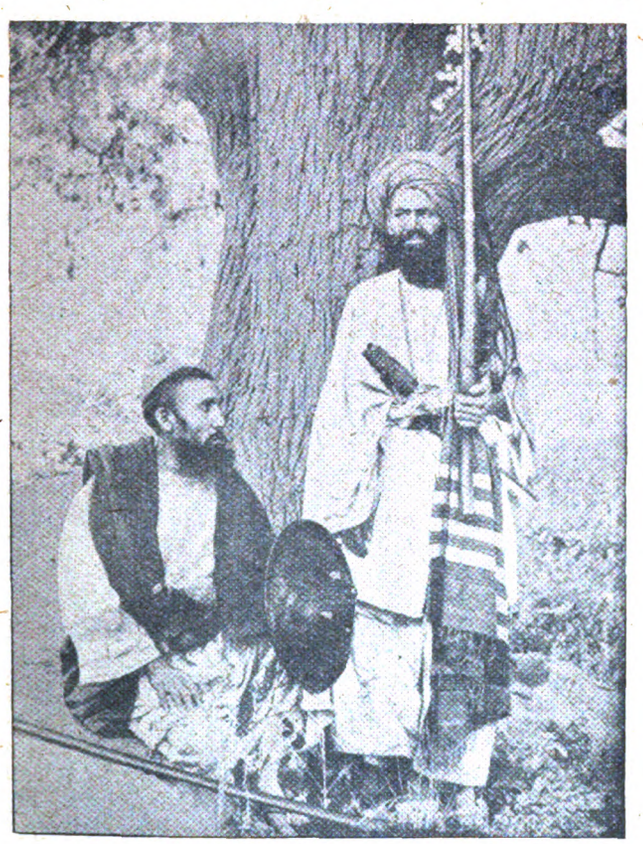
## THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER.

*(By Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah, F.R.G.S.)*

The time has now come when the struggle on the North West Frontier of India should cease, for owing to the political conditions in Central Asia and Afghanistan a disturbed borderland presents grave dangers to the peace of India. British policy in those regions has always been wavering ; it has been altered from time to time according to the changing atmosphere prevalent in official circles. Time and again it has been shown that military actions against the tribesmen were unsuccessful while a policy labelled, for want of a better term, as "masterly inactivity" answered the needs of the situation very much better. For well nigh a hundred years the tribesmen have been fighting.

To solve the problem of quieting the Frontier Province of India, we must understand the causes of the unrest. These are first and last due to economic conditions. The whole borderland, of about 800 miles, is one long stretch of wild, rocky country, where the need of water is as great as in the desert. Given facilities for cultivating their ground, the tribesmen will not fight, or at least their raids upon British territory will be greatly reduced. An example of this fact occurs in fertile regions of Peshawar district, and none can wish for better fields than I saw in the neighbourhood of Shabqadder.

A marked contrast to such fertility is afforded when one motors to Kohat from Peshawar, and sees that every man, whether ploughing or engaged in putting up his wall, has his rifle slung over his shoulder. Dreary



**Mullah Geeree Tribsmen, Frontier Province of India.**

and parched valley is all that they have to labour on. I saw a troop of women coming down a hill and making their way to their village, who had water pitchers on their heads, and were escorted by four armed men. On inquiring I was informed that every woman represented a household, and that was all the ration of water that they can procure in that area for their needs. There was only one well in the whole district, some eight miles away and nine villages had to get their supply of water from it. Further, that if all the grounds available and claimed were cultivated the produce would not suffice to keep all the inhabitants.

When nature is so much against them, is there any wonder that a warlike tribesman, hungry and sorefooted, sits on the top of his rocky hill, looking longingly at the green fields of Peshawar that he should exclaim with a sigh : "Look at that fertile country of the Ferungi and see our parched fields!' ? Then with a fierce sparkle in his eyes, his fingers clasp the butt of his rifle and he stands, whistles and gives a long sonorous call to his friend, "Gul—ul—mo—ma—da—da—oo—oa!" In a few minutes his comrade, Gulmohamed, comes up and relieves the mind of his friend by saying that there is no use in bemoaning fate and the real reason of God in making the tribal country so unproductive is that the Ghazi should pounce upon the green lands of the Ferungi. A raid is arranged forthwith.

While on my wanderings in the East, from which I have just returned, I had various opportunities of

**A Frontier Bazaar : PESHAWAR.**

talking both with the British officials and with the tribesmen, and I found that my views were endorsed on all hands ; every one agreeing that the Frontier troubles were directly economic, and could only be settled through economic means. Is it not the case that the construction of the Sawat Canal reduced fierce tribesmen to comparatively peaceful neighbours ? Engineering difficulties are undoubtedly in the way, but when the wonderful feats of Mesopotamian irrigation are borne in mind, surely the tribal area can be managed. Also we have another great feat of British engineering in Egypt, where Sir Murdoch Macdonald's name will remain in Eastern history as long as the Esna Barrage.

Reverting to the question of the North-Western Frontier of India, I refuse to believe that the tribesmen, if given the facilities for agriculture and working in factories, will again take to a life of raiding and destruction. From my personal observations, I am confident that if a peaceful form of living be provided, the Frontier will be made peaceful.

Other forms of quieting the tribesmen have been undertaken, one of them generally employed being subsidizing the Clans. Nearly four lakhs of rupees are given annually to the Afridi clans in the Khyber, and the *Maliks*—headmen—receive allowances separately. One knows of a Shinwari Malik getting as much as four thousand rupees a month. This form of procedure, if justified on some grounds is unwise on others. We may call it a waste, for it fails to bring out just that trait which this distribution of money ought to produce. The Government gives it as a present ; but the clansmen, in place of being thankful, assert that it is their just due that they receive, that they are the owners of the Khyber Pass, and that whatever is given to them is in return for services which they render in keeping the Pass open on Tuesdays and Fridays. On the other hand, it has been held that this allowance not only

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ensures the peaceful behaviour of the tribesmen, but gives a political hold by means of which the Khyber Agency is able to deal with disturbances in the so-called Independent Country. In this connection, one might mention Khan Bahadar Sheikh Mahboob Ali Khan. This officer has been able to accomplish much that would at one time have been impossible of realisation. The quickness of perception and far-sighted policy of this vigorous young Pathan show that he is the right man in the right place. He is to be praised for the reason that he is a son of the country which he is called upon to administer, and he knows the causes of unrest so intimately that a policy such as he pursues cannot fail to be of highest value to the British interests in that region.

It must be added that the Khyber Railway which is in process of construction falls considerably short of what it is supposed to realise. Lahks and lakhs of rupees spent on its construction through different passes do not counterbalance its uselessness. Considerable

**A Hold-up in the Khyber Pass.**
( This man was covering us while we repaired our motor. *A.A.S.*)

sniping is done of the workers on the railway in the Khyber, which has greatly retarded the work. But supposing that one day the railway is completed to Dekka, is it not possible for a recalcitrant Afridi tribe to throw a few boulders in a tunnel or cut the line, or do any other mischief of the kind? It is entirely a wrong policy to bribe in order to secure the friendship of a nation—and that of the tribesmen in particular; for a race whose friendship can be retained only by means of gold is unworthy of the friendship of the great British Empire.

It is not yet too late in the day to start a vigorous campaign in the North-West Frontier against the natural difficulties of production in that country. By such a campaign and by wise sympathy with the religious traditions—a point of considerable significance—a quiescent borderland may be secured. Otherwise Bolshevist intrigues will not lose time in using the tribesmen to create more difficulties than are already in the way of Lord Reading's Government.

*(Our illustrations are from photographs by the Author.)*

Rumours circulated in the Greek Press as to the enlistment in the Bulgarian Army, of officers and men from General Wrangel's Russian troops are officially denied by the Bulgarian authorities.

## THE ARAB INTELLECT.

On October 12, at King's College, London, in the course of an address on Mesopotamia, Mr. Edwyn Bevan referred to the Arab intellect. He said that the Mohammedan learning cultivated under the Abbaside Khalifs was sometimes claimed as a great achievement of the Arab race in the past, and deductions had been drawn from it as to what we might expect in the future. During the war some eloquent articles had been published in *The Times* from an enthusiast for the Arabs who took this line. But at the time those articles appeared he (Mr. Bevan) remembered their condemnation as gravely misleading by two men who might perhaps be considered our best Arabists. One of these, Sir Charles Lyall, was now gone. It was true that the Mohammedan literature in question was largely embodied in the Arabic language, which was that of the then reigning power; but it had not been produced by Arabs. It had been produced almost entirely by Persians, or Syrians, or the children of the old inhabitants of Mesopotamia; and therefore we could not draw deductions from it as to the capacities of the Arabs.

Commenting on this passage, Dr. Ernest Barker, Principal of King's College, said that perhaps he had been misled upon this matter because one of his old pupils and friends was Colonel Lawrence, who was enamoured of the Arabs—giving as one reason that the modern Arab wrote such fine revolutionary poetry. He (the speaker) had never seen any of this; but he would suggest that a race which could produce revolutionary poetry had some intellectual gifts. Going back to the days, about 800 A.D., when philosophy of a good deal of depth was written in the Arabic language, he would venture to suggest that it was the Arabs themselves, and not merely the Persians or Syrians, or the old inhabitants of Mesopotamia who wrote that philosophy; because some of the finest Arabic work in philosophy was done in Spain as late as 1200 A.D. Another point was that the Arabs had at any rate a great religious genius. The Arab was the desert dweller, and the desert dweller had the religious sense and enthusiasm. Judaism, Mohammedanism, and in some sense Christianity had all come from the desert in which the Arab dwelt; and, according to first principles, the Arab with his religious gifts must have some philosophic inclination. One other remark he would make was that the diffusion of the Arab was one of the marvels of history. About the year 100 A.D. the Arab was trading in and occupying Malaya. He occupied the whole of Spain, with all the North African littoral lying between Spain and Arabia, and was colonising a good deal of the east coast of Africa. This diffusion was only paralleled and was not equalled by the diffusion of the Northmen.

## THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY ENDURANCE TEST.

As briefly announced in a recent issue, the Society successfully held their second Endurance Test for Arab and Arab-bred horses on the Sussex Downs for five days commencing September 26, last. The course was one of sixty miles a day, starting from Lewes to a point near Arundel with various gradients, reaching over eight hundred feet at Ditchling Beacon, and over seven hundred feet at Chanctonbury Ring, falling to less than fifty feet at other points of the course.

The horses were examined at each compulsory halt so that none should proceed if unfit to do so. Eight horses (entered either in The Arab Horse Stud Book, or in the Arab-bred Register started; and the ultimate winner of the Challenge Cup and Gold Medal was Mr. H. V. M. Clark's Belka, by Rijm, out of Bereyda, and following her came Mr. L. Edmunds' last year's winner Shahzada, by Mootrub, out of Ruth Kezia, winning this year the Silver Medal. Belka finished the whole course of three hundred miles in 37 hours, 38 minutes, and Shahzada in 38 hours, 43 minutes, exclusive of compulsory halts. Both the winners were Arab horses bred in England; but Chandi, the only imported Arab in the contest, though dropping out at the end of the third day, considering his weight and height, made a gallant effort. It may be added that experts who were present considered that the winners made a fine performance in spite of the prevailing heat and the hardness of the ground.

## PERSIA DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On September 30, a meeting of the Persia Diocesan Association was held at St. James's, Paddington (Parish Hall). The Bishop of Barking, who presided, referred to the growing interest in Persia, contrasting the position to-day with that in the days when Henry Martyn first sailed for India. He emphasised the value of such an Association as the P.D.A. in upholding and strengthening the hands of Bishop Linton and the workers in Persia. Dr. White, of Yezd, gave a stirring address on conditions and work out there. Twenty-five years ago missionary work in Persia was small—almost entirely confined to Julfa. Now the workers are stationed in towns at large distances, and hospitals and schools are established in strategic centres. In Ispahan is St. Luke's Church, the first modern Christian church in Persia filled with crowds of men and women, some once Moslems now believers in Christ, others Moslems seeking the truth.

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## ECONOMIC BOARD FOR PALESTINE.

The First General Meeting of the Economic Board for Palestine was held at the offices of the Board, 7, Queen Square, Southampton Row, on October 6. Among those present were Sir Adolph Tuck, Sir Stuart Samuel, Sir R. Waley Cohen, K.B.E., Sir Samuel Instone, Mr. J. A. de Rothschild, Mr. H Van den Bergh, and Mr. J. Cowen. In the absence of the Chairman the Right Hon. Sir Alfred Mond Bart., M.P., who was detained at a Cabinet meeting, Sir R. Waley Cohen was voted to the chair. He said that he was sure that it must be a great disappointment to Sir Alfred Mond not to be able to preside on that occasion, because the Economic Board for Palestine was so largely his own idea. Sir Alfred felt that the acceptance of the Mandate for Palestine by the British Government, including as it did, the Balfour Declaration as to the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine, had placed a special obligation on British Jews to stand by the Government and give them all the help they could in carrying out the extremely difficult task they had undertaken before the world and on behalf of the Jews of the world. In this, as in so many previous similar things, Great Britain had no ulterior motive, but was following her traditional policy of championing the oppressed, and that was why he thought that they were all under a special responsibility to support the Government in this matter.

It would be well that it should be thoroughly understood that those who were working on the Economic Board did so because they felt that at the present time the greatest service which they and any British Jew could render both to Great Britain and to the Jewish cause was to make the task of creating a Jewish national home in Palestine a successful task. They felt that the best way to do that was to create economically successful enterprises in Palestine, and that was the object they had in view. Dr. Weizmann, the head of the Zionist Organization, had always very strongly welcomed the formation of the Board, and the expression of his feeling was shown in the presence there on this occasion of the representative of the Zionist Organization, Mr. Joseph Cowen, whom he was sure they all welcomed very heartily, though some of them might not share all the aspirations of the Zionist Organization.

He believed himself, though he was not an authority on the subject, that Palestine had considerable natural advantages, and that the objects which the British Government had set out to achieve could be achieved ; but it was no use disguising the fact that a lot of money would be required if it was to be achieved with a degree of success. The utilization of the water-power, which at present flowed unused to the sea and was the country's most valuable potential asset, harbours, houses, credit facilities for industry and agriculture, irrigation,—these were all urgent necessities, and many of them were likely to be good investments ; but of course they all depended upon the necessary capital being available. They might get, they certainly would get, some money from the Jewish public on a non-commercial basis because of their feeling for Palestine and their desire to help in building up the country. But it was impossible to get capital on the scale they would require unless people were convinced that the enterprises on which the capital was to be laid out were sound business undertakings and that they would be properly managed. They judged that, more than anything else, from the standing and reputation of those who would be responsible for the enterprises. It therefore seemed to the Executive Committee that the right thing to do was to get together a body of men of proved capacity and judgment, men who would have the public confidence, and that only in that way would they have the chance of getting the capital they required. How far they had been successful in doing this, they would be able to judge from the list of members which had been sent to them.

Another point which they had in view was to co-operate as closely as possible with other bodies working in Palestine so as to co-ordinate all the activities that fell within their particular sphere, the economic sphere. For that reason they had been very glad to welcome on the Executive Committee members nominated by the Zionist organization and also by the Jewish Colonization Association, both of which bodies had of course experience and special knowledge which would be of great value to them. They also hoped to have the assistance and support—in fact it was more than a hope, because they had had an assurance of their support—of those in America as well as other countries who shared their views and their objects. They felt that it was only by pooling all available resources that they could hope to achieve substantial results.

He would now like just to indicate their programme of work as far as they had been able to realize it. He thought it was generally accepted that the most urgent needs for Palestine were the hydro-electric projects for obtaining power from the Jordan and other rivers, and also the question of the harbour These two enterprises were of paramount importance, because they were productive enterprises in the fullest sense of the word. They would give employment to a very large amount of additional labour, and they would have an incalculable effect upon the permanent prosperity of the country. He was not able to say much about them in detail then, but they would require a large amount of capital and a great deal of examination if the capital was to be wisely spent.

Probably everyone there had heard of Mr. Rutenberg's scheme of a hydro-electric power station to utilize the water-power that was already available. He had gone far with his negotiations, and no doubt some definite scheme would come up for consideration as soon as there seemed any possibility of getting the large amount of capital required. The question of the port was also approaching a more definite stage, and it was hoped to proceed almost immediately with the necessary preliminary boring and sounding. The Economic Board would be able to perform a useful function in connection with both these enterprises and no effort would be spared to do so.

Apart from these larger schemes, which necessarily would take some time, there were a large number of small, promising propositions which were constantly coming up there, and which they believed could form the basis of a number of industries which might develop very largely indeed. The first, probably the most immediate task that they would have before them would be to provide capital for those propositions in so far as they were sound and promising. They considered very carefully the best way of putting themselves in a position to deal with those propositions. They had decided that the most practical way of dealing with them was to form a company, to be called The Palestine Company, with a capital which he believed was provisionally fixed at about £200,000.

The purpose and object of that company would be to examines these propositions and enterprises, to invest in these undertaking and enable them to be started as soon as possible after they had been examined on the spot by their representative. The company would of course have a representative in Palestine, who would act as their agent and sit as their nominee on the boards of any companies in which they might make investments, and who would be responsible for seeing that they were efficiently managed. He would have liked to put a prospectus before the meeting, but they had not got quite as far as that yet, though they hoped very shortly to do so.

Without going into details of the various undertakings which had come before them, he might say that one of the most urgent things was, of course, to assist in house-building in Palestine. There was an appalling scarcity of housing accommodation in all the principal towns, and rents were very high. With the fall in the cost of building material, however, they hoped that it would be found possible to put up houses on an economic basis, and that they might be able to assist in this.

Another enterprise which would be of interest, and which looked rather promising, was a transport scheme for bringing corn and other produce across the Dead Sea into Palestine, and conversely for sending merchandise from Palestine to Transjordania. That seemed to them to be of great importance, because of the benefits which it would confer on the inhabitants on both sides of the river. The Government of Palestine was also interested in it, as the Company, if formed, would have a contract with them for the conveyance of mails and troops. Such an enterprise might do a great deal for the backward regions east and south-east of the Dead Sea, and that was one of the matters on which they were securing further information.

They were also anxious to help the production of articles of general use, for which the country is at present dependent on imports from outside, and there was a salt scheme before them which looked as if it would be able to take almost the first place among the schemes they were examining. The capital required would be about £40,000. They had already received promises which made them able to say now that they could finance that scheme, with the aid of the J.C.A., who had undertaken to subscribe half this amount.

Before sitting down he would like once more to emphasize the vital importance—of course it was absolutely vital to this enterprise—that they should secure a large measure of support. Their objects, their aspirations, were very plain, simple and straightforward. They were determined to test all the enterprises into which they put funds by the severe economic test of whether they could be made ecomically successful on sound business principles. He thought that an illustration of what should be their aims might be drawn from the life of Sir Ernest Cassel. He did not suppose Sir Ernest Cassel, when he put money into Egypt, originally did so solely from business motives. No thought there was sentiment attached to it. He thought in their affairs, too, there was considerable sentiment. Some were

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perhaps moved more by what he might call the Nationalist sentiment; others more by the feeling that as British Jews the British Government had a call upon them. Whatever it might be, there was no doubt that if that body could develop in Palestine a number of really successful industries, they would be rendering an invaluable service to the Jewish cause and the British cause. On that account he did venture to appeal to the meeting to secure a much wider circle of friends to support their organization. They had to do work of a varied character, and if they were to do it adequately, they would need men and women of varied experience.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. J. de Rothschild, and seconded by Sir Adolph Tuck, Bt.

## PALESTINE UNREST.

The annual meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission was held in Church House, Westminster, on October 4. The Bishop of London, who presided, said that a great reform in the Church's affairs in the East had been effected by the splitting up of the diocese of Jerusalem and the enthronement of Bishop Gwynne as the first Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan. The Mission was continuing to make grants to the new independent diocese for the next two years. Further, the Mission had spent £4,000 in buying out the last claim but one in the land adjoining St. George's Cathedral, which was used as a playground for the boys' school.

Bishop MacInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, said the year had been one of steady and encouraging work in spite of the political unrest. Zionism was a difficult subject. The friction in Palestine, he said, was largely due to the attitude of the Zionists. He had not discovered in them any desire to work for the common good of the country. He was still a keen supporter of the ideal of Zionism, though he disagreed with the methods adopted. Nine-tenths of the natives had been stirred to an active and bitter opposition to the movement, and Palestine was seething with unrest over the declared intention to make Palestine as Jewish as England was English. This ideal, in his opinion, was absolutely impossible of attainment.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Four members of the British Mission to Kabul are returning to India to recuperate.

King Albert has arrived at Toulouse by aeroplane from Casablanca in Morocco on his way back to Belgium.

Bulgarian Cabinet Ministers responsible for the entry of Bulgaria into the late war were put on trial on October 11 in Sofia.

British representations have been made in Belgrade and Italian in Tirana in hopes of securing a suspension of hostilities along the Serbo-Albanian frontier.

At Rabat last week, Mulay Yussef, the Sultan of Morocco, received the King and Queen of the Belgians and conferred on the Queen the Sherifian military medal.

The riband of the India General Service Medal, granted for operations against Afghanistan, 1919, may now be worn by *personnel* of the Royal Air Force who are entitled to the award of the medal.

The Indian Group of the Royal Air Force is being reorganised and will in future comprise four Wings instead of two, although the number of Squadrons will not be increased.

The President of the Vilna region, says a Reuter message from Warsaw, has invited the representatives of the British Press who have been visiting Roumania to visit Vilna.

An Abyssinian delegation headed by Kantiba Gobra, who attended King George's coronation on behalf of the late Emperor Menelik has arrived in Cairo *en route* for Jerusalem on a religious mission.

A munitions explosion occurred at a fortress near Bucharest on October 14, in which ten persons were killed and numerous others injured. One hundred and fifty trucks of munitions were blown up.

Twelve hundred wagon-loads of cereals for the relief of the famine-stricken have been bought by the co-operative society of the Communist Party of Bulgaria on account of the Central Union of Russian Co-operative Societies.

Two French airmen are now on their way to Bucharest to open negotiations for the establishment of a branch of the Paris-Prague-Warsaw air service from Prague to Vienna, Budapest, and Bucharest, and ultimately, to Constantinople.

A British Court-martial at Constantinople has sentenced to death a man named Torlakian, who was found guilty of assassinating Behoud Khan, the Azerbaijan Minister there.

Eight of the persons found guilty of killing a number of Sikhs at the Nankana Sahib Shrine, Punjab, some months ago, have been sentenced to death, eight to transportation for life, and 17 other to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

Sir Edward Northey, the Governor of Kenya, in opening the Legislative Council, appealed for a truce on the Indian question, which, he said, would be seriously and quietly considered. He also said that no compensation could be made for losses due to currency changes.

The ex-Soldiers' Society of India and Burma has appealed for a lakh of rupees with which to found a home at Jubbulpore for old soldiers who, through wounds, weakness, or advanced age are no longer able to support themselves.

A telegram from the Officer Commanding the Malabar Column, dated October 4, states that 2,830 rebel prisoners had been dealt with, and that over 2,000 had been sentenced to punishments ranging from a whipping to two years' imprisonment.

M. Pezard, an excavating the site of the ancient Kadesh, or Kadshu, in Syria, has found a number of Roman, Greek, Syrian, and Babylonian remains, and an exceedingly interesting Egyptian obelisk bearing a carving of Pharaoh Seti I (1310-1292 B.C.).

A dispute having arisen as to the ownership of the Tomb of Rachel in Palestine, the High Commissioner has decided that if it needs repair the work may be carried out by the Jews but without prejudice to any rights which the Moslems may enjoy, pending the final decision of the Commission on Holy Places.

The *Morning Post* Rome correspondent writes (October 12): Ex-Queen Miléna of Montenegro, has at last officially abolished the Montenegrin Ministry, which for some time has been a mere farce. The Montenegrin Government has therefore ceased to exist.

The Simla correspondent of *The Times*, writing on October 13, states:—Thirty-five thousand ex-Service Indians will be collected at various camps for meeting the Prince of Wales during his forthcoming tour. The first camp will be at Poona, where over 2,000 men will greet the Prince two days after he lands. Other camps are at Ajmer, Lucknow, Benares, Calcutta, Madras Nagpur, Agra, Delhi, Jullundur, Lahore, Jhelum, Peshawar Attock, Rawal Pindi, and Dehra Dun.

## PORT SUDAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

By Proclamation, dated September 15, a municipal council has been constituted under the title of the Port Sudan Municipal Council. The Council is to consist of the following ex-officio members:—The Governor of the Red Sea Province, the Senior Inspector of the Red Sea Province, the Inspector of Port-Sudan District, the Medical Officer of Health for Port-Sudan or in the event of there being no such Official, the Senior Medical Inspector Red Sea Province the Sub-Inspector Red Sea Province or in the event of there being no Sub-Inspector an executive official of the Red Sea Province to be selected by the Governor, and the Mamur of Port Sudan. Two other Government Officials may be nominated by the Governor-General, and not more than nine or less than six Members one-third of whom must be natives of the Sudan to be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Governor from among the Notables and merchants of the municipal area.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**British Empire Exhibition.**

The appeal of the Prince of Wales at the Mansion House last week for the guarantee of £1,000,000 to enable the work for the proposed British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1923 to be started at once, as was to be expected, has met with an instantaneous response, and it seems highly probable that before he leaves England on his Indian tour he will have the satisfaction of knowing that there are, to use his own words, "a few thousand happier homes" as a result of the additional employment thus afforded. The project of the Exhibition has met with the strongest support throughout the Empire, as it is realised that, provided it is really comprehensive, it would form an invaluable medium for the development of trade between the different parts of the Empire and for making our resources better known. None of the existing buildings were quite suitable for the purpose; hence the decision to obtain the site at Wembley, where permanent buildings are to be constructed, which after 1923 will house the British Industries Fair, and, it is expected, other exhibitions.

**Palestine Harbour Works.**

If there had been any truth in the report that a contract for the construction of a harbour at Haifa had already been given, it would be difficult to explain the delay in its confirmation. The alleged value of the contract—ten million sterling—was certainly calculated to arrest attention, as it is between four and five times the total of Palestine's present revenue. I can well understand the Administration hesitating to commit itself to such a costly undertaking, however urgent the need of a harbour. When the Economic Board, a report of whose first annual meeting appears elsewhere in this issue, is able to start operations on a big scale, it may be an easier matter to contemplate an expenditure of ten millions on a single project. In the meantime, if a harbour at Haifa cannot be constructed for less, there will be a desire to examine Jaffa's claim to be made the chief port in case it should prove a cheaper enterprise. If there is any danger of Haifa being cut off from the northern markets by the incidence of railway rates, Jaffa will certainly be nearer to the centre of gravity of the Palestine market, with its Transjordania annex.

**The Greek Currant Crop.**

From Messrs. Burlumi's annual report on Greek currants, which is given in another column in this issue, it will be seen that as far as the quantity is concerned, the prospects for consumers are somewhat more favourable than last year, the estimate of the crop being 120,000 to 125,000 tons as against last year's estimate of 90,000 tons. The quality, it is stated, is, however, not up to standard, and the fruit "seems insufficiently cured, but there may be an improvement in later shipments, as early arrivals, as a rule, do not generally represent the actual quality of the crop." It is to be hoped that this anticipation will be borne out, for the British market for currants has been developing rapidly of late, but might easily be destroyed by carelessness as to the maintenance of the standard.

**No Cause for Complaint.**

I have just been reading a lengthy criticism in a local paper of the recent increases in the Irak customs duties, and frankly I am at a loss to understand the nature of the grievance unless the objection is to all taxes. If that be it, I sympathise, for I, too, am a hearty opponent of the "taxman," but I know that taxes are a necessary evil, and in increasing the customs duties the authorities would appear to have followed the only way to raise additional revenue. After all, a country to be self-supporting must pay for the privilege, and the incidence of the taxation as it stands is not heavy, especially as there is no income tax at six shillings in the pound. The alternative to an increase in the duties would appear to be an increase in the British income tax, and I can imagine what the taxpayer would say to that.

**The Trade Crisis.**

Before these notes appear we shall have the Government's proposals for dealing with the critical trade situation arising from the adverse exchanges. Chief interest is naturally centred in developments with regard to the export credits scheme. If the business community is to be satisfied the scheme put forward will have to be a great advance on that at present existing, which, as shown by figures published during the last few days, has fallen very far short of fulfilling its objects. In two years the advances made total about two and three quarter millions, and while it must be admitted that of late the rate has been considerably accelerated it is obvious that the scheme as constituted is unlikely to render any material assistance to solving the problem of trade depression.

**Export Credits.**

As I have previously emphasised, however, no export credits scheme whatever its qualities can do more than alleviate the situation to some extent, and as Sir Robert Horne pointed out last week it would be well not to entertain too great expectations of the relief that will

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be forthcoming from the Government's scheme. In present conditions the authorities are simply unable to contemplate any measure which may mean in effect presenting other countries with the equivalent of the advances made. Thus the scheme will presumably be limited to countries whose financial and general economic position ensures ultimate payment. It would of course, apply to the Near Eastern countries whose exchanges are a mere travesty of the actual situation, but not to countries whose exchanges would appear to preclude the possibility of recovery within a reasonable period.

**Sir Drummond Fraser's Report.**

One of the most disappointing features of the present situation has been the failure of some of the Governments concerned to take the most obvious steps in the direction of reconstruction. It is not open to question that the Ter Meulen scheme supplies a certain way to the restoration of purchasing power in Europe, but there has been no attempt so far as I know to make use of it. The position with regard to the scheme has just been the subject of a report by Sir D. Drummond Fraser, who points out that the general condition of trade and production in the countries the scheme was designed to benefit, has improved " relatively to that in other countries," but "while private industry shows signs of improvement the state of their public finances has steadily deteriorated, and is in some cases already desperate." Obviously the more embarrassed the Governments are the less likely are they to look with favour on a scheme which requires the allocation of approved revenues for its application. It remains to be seen whether the League of Nations can persuade them of the vital necessity of this course.

**Factors in the Situation.**

An important memorandum on the trade depression has been issued by the Federation of British Industries which has appointed a committee to consider, and to consult other interests in regard to, the suggestions it contains. While of necessity it covers very familiar ground it has the outstanding merit of presenting the facts of the case very clearly. It is pointed out that there are three fundamental causes of the present position—the general impoverishment of the world, the destruction of the world's standards of values, and an alteration of the world's trade channels which may be permanent or temporary. The view is expressed that two periods of difficulty will have to be faced. In the first the exchanges and tariffs will seriously hinder international trade, and during this period commerce will have to adapt itself to the new channels " in so far as they seem likely to be permanent." The second period " will last until by a process of hard work and restricted consumption the world has replaced the stock of commodities and instruments of production lost during the war."

**The Outlook.**

The question of the restoration of stability is then dealt with, and a plea is put forward for international action in regard to the exchanges. The experience of the last year or so shows very clearly that that is the only way; the difficulty lies in impressing the need for cohesion upon the countries concerned. There are grounds for supposing that at least one country has resorted to further inflation in order to obtain an immediate though illusory trade advantage; that of itself illustrates the position. The League of Nations, if it is ever to realise the hopes based upon it, should be able to bring home to the world the need for universal action. But the fate so far of the Ter Meulen scheme scarcely induces confidence. A far from cheerful view, it may be added, is taken of the immediate outlook in the memorandum which urges that an improvement in stability can only be gradual, and that " we must anticipate a period of extraordinary difficulty and considerable distress for several years."

**Wanted—a Policy!**

That view, needs, however, to be qualified, like the statement made last week to the effect that we may expect twice as much unemployment next year. Both are possible, given a *laissez faire* policy, but given bold and determined measures based on an accurate weighing up of the position there is no reason at all why the period of economic instability should not be greatly curtailed, and something approaching a real trade " boom " be developed far sooner than most people anticipate. The memorandum, in criticising the proposals made to alleviate the position, emphasises the importance of the reduction of direct taxation accompanied by rigid economy in Government expenditure, and besides export credits schemes it is suggested that barter might be developed to a small extent, but it is recognised that great difficulties exist in this connection.

**Commentator.**

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.*

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street S.W.1.)*

**Egypt.**

Blind Tape.—The Inspector of Buildings, West Division, 32 Boulevard de Ramleh, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 2,500 linear metres of blind tape 2½ centimetres wide. October 31.

Clothing, etc.—The Lunacy Division, Abbassiya, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers, brushes, and other household necessaries required for Abbassiya and Khanka Asylums for one year from April 1, 1922. November 21.

Paper and Stationery.—The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of paper, stationery, and general office material required by the Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, for the year 1922—1923. December 15. (D.O.T.)

**Malta.**

Conveyance of Mails.—Sealed tenders will be received at the Office of H.M. Treasury, Malta, up to 4 p.m. on November 30, 1921, for the service of the conveyance of mails between Malta and a port in Sicily or the Continent of Europe for a period of six years, (*a*) twice weekly, (*b*) three times weekly, provided that either party can terminate the contract by giving six months' notice on the expiration of the first three years. Tenderers will give the following particulars:—(*a*) Days of the week and hours of proposed arrivals and departures at Malta and at specified ports abroad. (*b*) Gross and net tonnage of steamers, speed, passenger and other accommodation. (*c*) Amount of annual subsidy required. (*d*) Date of commencement of service. Copies of conditions of contract and forms of tender may be obtained on application at the Treasury Office, Malta, or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London S.W. The Government will consider any other conditions which tenderers may propose. No tender will be considered unless it is signed by the tenderer and by a suitable guarantor, residing in these Islands, for the due performance of the contract, and unless it is accompanied by a deposit of £500, which in the case of unsuccessful tenderers will be returned as soon as a contract is completed within the term fixed in para. 8 hereof. In the case of the successful tenderer the deposit shall be returned after the signature of the contract. The tenderer whose offer is accepted shall forfeit the deposit of £500 should he or his surety fail to sign the contract within eight days from the date of an intimation given to them to that effect, and fail to deposit with the Government of Malta, within eight days from the date of acceptance of the tender, a sum of two thousand pounds (£2,000) as security for the due performance of the contract.

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, October 4.*

**The Market Position.**

A fortnight ago I reported that the commercial barometer was registering a change for the better following on the rise in the price of cotton. During the ensuing two weeks cotton has soared steadily to a height of nearly 60 dollars, but the commercial community, remembering the sharp and bitter lesson inculcated during the aftermath of the last boom, is making haste very slowly. Retail buying for the winter has received a temporary set-back, but this is due to the sudden reanimation of the dying summer and not to any protest against the prices, which have fallen considerably since the consumers as a whole decided to economise. But before there can be any decided increase in business generally retail buying must obtain in considerably greater volume than during recent months, as almost everyone has large stocks on hand, and though not sufficient to supply a substantial demand at least large enough to induce a feeling of caution before importers book up heavily abroad. The winter season is upon us, however, and the stage is set for a buying revival. As soon as it materialises Egypt will be a comparatively happy hunting-ground for the manufacturer with stocks to sell.

*Cairo, October 7.*

**The Cotton Crop.**

The Ministry of Agriculture announced yesterday morning that the preliminary estimates of the coming cotton crop had been completed and that the estimated yield would be about 3,440,000 kantars. This means just under 700,000 bales. It is, as an annual yield, very low. But it has proved higher than was anticipated. The general expectation has been that the yield would not be more than about 3,000,000 kantars, and this assumption has led to a certain amount of Bull operations on the Bourse at Alexandria. In the ordinary course of events such a rise in the price of the staple commodity would immediately have quickened business; but the very regularity and speed of the rise is awakening the suspicions of business people who have been caught before in the vortex of a falling market. No one is able to predict with certainty how high cotton is going to go, or when the bottom will fall from the market. Therefore, the rest of the commercial community is standing by, patient and cautious, until a glimpse is obtainable of the basis of the future. It is retaining its cash in hand for payment of liabilities if things suddenly go bad, or for quick investment if the rosy tints develop to brighter prospects. There is also the fate of the political negotiations to be considered. A high cotton-price and a possible disturbed country are too risky for definite plans to be matured.

**Tobacco Duties.**

At the last meeting of the Council of Ministers it was decided that the import duties from October 3 on tobaccos coming from countries with which special arrangements with Egypt have not been concluded would be fixed as follows:—(a) L.E. 0.820 mills. per kilogramme on leaf tobacco; (b) L.E. 0.920 mills. per kilogramme on stripped tobacco; (c) L.E. 1.020 mills. per kilogramme on cut, pressed, and shredded tobaccos and on cigarettes. The import duties from October 3 on tobaccos accompanied by a certificate from a country having a special agreement with Egypt are fixed as follows:—(1) L.E. 0.800 mills. per kilogramme on leaf tobacco; (2) L.E. 0.900 mills. on stripped tobacco; (3) L.E. 1.000 mills on cut, pressed, and shredded tobaccos and on cigarettes. Without a certificate of origin these tobaccos cannot be imported without paying the import duties fixed in the first paragraph. The duties on cigars of every quality are fixed at L.E. 1 per kilogramme The duties fixed by this decree are to be levied on all tobaccos which have not paid import duty by October 3. Tobacco on which import duty has been paid, and which will be exported in the form of cigarettes from December 3, 1921, will be subject to a drawback at the rate of L.E. 0.600 mills. per kilogramme of tobacco contained in the said cigarettes.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, October 6.*

**The New Budget.**

The Ministry of Finance is now working on the budget for 1922-3, and in this connection has sent a circular letter to the different Government Departments to the effect that their respective budgets should be sent in before November 1, and should show a further reduction of 25 per cent on those of the present year.

The Ministry of War, however, has already advised the Ministry of Finance that in order to carry out the Army requirements a further sum of 7,200 million lei will be needed above the sum provided by the budget. This sum it is proposed to spread over five years, starting from this year, and is intended primarily for army buildings, equipment, &c.

**The Swiss Loan.**

Despite repeated rumours to the contrary, it is now practically confirmed that M. Titulescu has obtained from the Swiss Government a loan of 40 million Swiss francs. The conditions of this loan are not yet known, but from semi-official quarters it is reported that the Roumanian Government will receive 5 million francs in cash, and 25 million francs in goods, while with regard to the remaining 10 million francs nothing definite has yet been decided. The loan will probably be redeemable within five years, and will bear an interest of 8 per cent. per annum.

**Traders and the Exchange.**

In view of the extremely critical situation of merchants who have obligations to meet in foreign currency at the present rate of exchange, merchants' unions and associations throughout the country have made a written appeal to the Government through their representatives to take the necessary measures to protect them from foreign creditors who insist on payment at the present rate of exchange. The merchants explain emphatically that they do not wish for a moratorium, but they urge that in cases where creditors will not grant an extension of time they should be allowed to meet their foreign bills at a reasonable official rate of exchange fixed by the Government. In this connection the Minister of Justice has been authorised by the Ministers' Council to find a legal solution by which merchants' bills payable in foreign currency can be extended.

**New Import Regulations.**

A few days ago the Government decided to allow the free importation of all goods, proportional taxes being applied to certain luxury goods. In view, however, of the objections raised to this measure in different quarters the Government has now completely prohibited the importation of certain luxury articles, such as champagne, and other wines, liqueurs, caviare, fine preserves, powders and powder puffs, textiles containing more than 50 per cent. of silk, perfumes, and all cosmetics. Other luxury goods may be imported, but the duties and luxury taxes on them will be considerably increased For articles such as rings, earrings, expensive furs etc. the luxury tax will have to be paid in "gold lei" according to the rate of the day.

**Restrictions on Exports.**

The following products may not be exported:- Iron ore and cast-iron, copper, brass, and zinc in every form, coal and lignite, flax and hemp in every form, excepting finished articles, sacks, wool, fish, milk and its by-products excepting sheep cheese, poultry, paper

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in every form excepting printed and paper articles, caustic soda, paraffin, crude oil, fuel oil, grease and other mineral oils, oak beams and staves, rape-seed, iron and oak barrels, " Podolia " oxen up to six years old, other oxen up to four years old, cows up to eight years old, bulls, buffaloes, horses, sheep, mules, asses and goats, pressed fodder with the exception of oats, barley, and maize.

The following goods may be exported :—Wheat and rye and their by-products, excepting flour paste, gold and silver.

The following products may be exported by special permit provided home consumption has been satisfied :—Pigs, smoked, dried and prepared meat, bacon, lard and animal fats, bones, wool, flax and hemp, rags, torn paper, vegetables, cheese, and all kinds of preserved vegetables, cement, celluloid, old iron, Pyrites of iron, Manganese of iron, oak and beech railway sleepers, oak bark, glue, starch, finished wool articles and carpets.

**Miscellaneous.**

The Roumanian War Office has concluded a convention with the French Government by which the latter in exchange for military uniforms supplied to the Roumanian Army will receive a certain quantity of oil products. So far 24,585,958 kilogrammes have been shipped to France, the price being fixed at 750 francs per ton. This export is free of taxes.

The Soviet Government has asked the Roumanian Government to allow a Russian Mission to enter the country for the purpose of buying cereals. Their request has been granted.

It is hoped that the Borcea bridge on the Bucharest-Constantza railway line will be repaired before the end of this year. The port of Constantza has suffered considerably on account of this transport difficulty.

The Government has now fixed the price of gold produced from the State mines at 27,000 lei per kilo. The export tax and commission on exportable gold has been fixed at 3,000 lei per kilo.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October 9.*

**Control of Cereals.**

As many stories have been current concerning the intention of the Government to requisition fresh stocks of flour and other cereals a communique was issued yesterday by the Ministry of the Interior to the effect that the Government had no intention of restricting in any way the free trade in cereals and would not requisition any further stocks of flour. The communique stated that the requisitions of flour that had already taken place were necessitated by the need for accumulating a certain reserve of flour for the use of the non-producers of cereals, in view of the danger of shortage of bread caused by the introduction of free trade, and the resulting haste of the grain dealers to export as much as possible. This announcement should reassure those traders who feared that their trade would be interfered with by the Government.

## EGYPTIAN COTTON SHIPMENTS.

Particulars are to hand of the shipments of Egyptian cotton from Alexandria during the season ended August 31, last. The total export was 445,415 bales, equal to 3,400,500 kantars. The chief importing countries were :—England 223,292 bales, United States 51,230 bales, France 41,257 bales, Switzerland 31,349 bales, Germany 27,355 bales, Italy 21,712 bales, and Japan 18,686 bales.

The following is a list of the principal exporters with the number of bales shipped, the figures in brackets representing shipment to England :—Peel and Co., Ltd., 53,543 (32,587) ; Carver, Brothers & Co., Ltd., 51,036 (23,721) ; Choremi Benachi and Co., 43,358 (18,958) ; Reinhart and Co., 31,127 (7,537) ; Commercial Company of Egypt, 24,087 (13,854) ; Planta, J. and Co., 22,626 (7,660) ; Eastern Export Company S.A., 21,775 (18,437) ; Gregusci C. and Co., Anc., G. Frauger and Co., 17,561 (4,013) ; Escher, W., 16,430 (2,025) ; Tamvaco, Choremi and Co., 15,368 (2,649).

## INDIA'S FISCAL POLICY.

The following resolution, on the subject of the appointment of a Fiscal Commission, has been published by the Commerce Department of the Government of India :—

With the approval of the Secretary of State for India, the Government of India has decided to appoint a Fiscal Commission with the following terms of reference :—To examine, with reference to all the interests concerned, the tariff policy of the Government of India, including the question of the desirability of adopting the principle of Imperial preference, and to make recommendations.

The following gentlemen have agreed to serve on the Commission :—President, the Hon. Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, Kt., C.I.E. ; Vice-President, J. M. Keynes, Esq., M.A. C.B., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge ; members, T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar, Esq., M.L.A. ; Ghaneshyamdas Birla, Esq., M.L.C., of Messrs. Birla Brothers, Ltd., Calcutta ; J. C. Cojajee, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Professor of Economics, Presidency College, Calcutta ; The Hon. Sir Maneckji Byramji Dadabhoy, Kt., C.I.E. ; Jammadas Dwarkadas, Esq., M.L.A. ; The Hon. Sir Edgar Holberton, Kt., C.B.E. ; R. A. Mant, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S. ; Narottam Morarji, Esq., of Messrs. Morarji, Goculdas and Co., Bombay ; C. W. Rhodes, Esq., C.B.E., M.L.C., of Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Co., Calcutta ; Sir M. De P. Webb, Kt., C.I.E., C.B.E. The Vice-President will arrive in India about the beginning of February. Mr. H. G. Haig, I.C.S., has been appointed Secretary to the Commission, and Mr. E. F. Rogers, officer on special duty in this department, will be Assistant Secretary.

The Commission will assemble at Bombay in the first half of November, and will visit the more important commercial and industrial centres of India for the purpose of taking oral evidence, completing this part of its work early in March, 1922 ; it will submit its report to the Government of India as soon thereafter as possible. Various associations and individuals will be invited, either directly by the Commission or through Local Governments, to forward their views in writing; other associations or individuals wishing to represent their views should apply to the Secretary, Indian Fiscal Commission, Simla, who will furnish them with a list of questions to which answers are required. The Commission will decide, after a perusal of the written replies, which witnesses will be examined orally. The Government of India trust that Local Governments and administrations will afford the Commission all the assistance which it may require, and will comply with any request for information which may be addressed to them by it.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the 10 days ended September 20 amounted to £E10,069 total for year £E159,397. For the corresponding period of last year, receipts amounted to £E14,959 ; total for year £E215,624.

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## THE FUTURE OF COTTON.

### Will a Substitute be Discovered?

*By E. C. de Segundo, A.M.Inst. C.E.*

In the year 1907 a conference of American and European cotton manufacturers was held in Atlanta, Georgia, at which it was stated that the American Cotton Belt could be relied upon to produce all the cotton required by the world's ever increasing demands, and that it was wholly unnecessary to think of opening up new cotton fields in other parts of the world.

The planters had not reckoned with the boll weevil. In 1907 this insect, which first crossed the Rio Grande in 1892, had spread over rather more than one quarter of the area comprised by the cotton belt. To-day, it ravages the whole area of some 750,000 square miles, and, although the serious menace to this cotton pest was recognised 20 years ago, the strenuous efforts and unremitting researches and investigation of the United States Department of Agriculture have been wholly unsuccessful in discovering any practical remedy for the depredations of the Mexican boll weevil, or even means of appreciably alleviating the results of its activities.

In view of the glut of cotton in 1919 arising from various causes more or less directly connected with the economic after-effects of the war, a determined campaign was entered upon in the United States for a reduction of 50 per cent. in the area planted to cotton this season as compared with 1920. The area planted this season was about 25,000,000 acres against about 35,500,000 acres in 1920, or an actual reduction of about 30 per cent. Under reasonably normal conditions this acreage would be expected to produce a crop of between 9,000,000, and 10,000,000 bales, instead of which the latest Government estimate places this season's crop at 6,500,000 bales, and other estimates place it as low as 5,800,000 bales. Moreover, in the opinion of certain experts, a not inconsiderable proportion will be found to be unusable.

We thus have to face the fact that the *effective* American crop this year will probably be under 6,000,000 bales, corresponding to an effective yield per acre of about 120 lb. on an acreage of 25,000,000, an alarmingly low yield for the United States. Even taking the Government crop estimate of 6,500,000 bales, the yield per acre would work out to only 130 lbs. per acre (assuming all bales to be 500 lb. bales), a much lower figure than any of record.

But it must be remembered that the term "yield per acre" is not necessarily a true criterion of productivity. Many other factors enter into the question, and it is worthy of note that the variation in the yield per acre during the years of record before 1892 (when the boll weevil first appeared in the United States) is not appreciably different from that during the years of since 1892, *with the exception of this season.* It would appear that this season's abnormally low yield must be attributed almost entirely to the increased activity of the boll weevil,—because weather conditions are stated to have been, on the whole, by no means abnormally unfavourable.

During the war, the proportion of the American crop spun in American mills increased greatly. The following figures are taken from Shepperson's "Cotton Facts" for 1920:—

| Year | Crop in bales | Proportion spun in American mills. |
|---|---|---|
| 1915-16 | 12,862,000 | 53 per cent. |
| 1916-17 | 12,737,000 | 55 ,, |
| 1917-18 | 11,865,000 | 59 ,, |
| 1918-19 | 11,360,000 | 48 ,, |
| 1919-20 | 12,252,000 | 50 ,, |

It is clear that if the domestic consumption in the United States continues to be anything like 6,000,000 bales per annum, and if the ravages of the boll weevil and other cotton pests increase in intensity, or even remain as at present, the proportion of the American crop available for export may languish and perhaps vanish altogether. Opinions seem to be divided as to the resultant benefit to the United States, but there can be but one opinion as to the immediate effect upon the world in general.

In view of the conditions and circumstances, economic and other, which have come into existence in the United States during the last fifteen years, it is not improbable that in the near future the United States may find difficulty in raising more cotton than will suffice to satisfy the home demand for spinning, and will recede more and more from the position she has so long held as the premier cotton-growing country of the world. China is stated to have produced 6,000,000 bales this season.

The prospect of cotton becoming a dear textile raw material instead of one of the cheapest, as it has been for two generations or more, is one which can only be viewed with the gravest apprehension, because cotton is a necessity of our civilised life. There are two alternatives:—(1) New cotton fields must be opened up, or (2) a substitute for cotton must be found.

As regards the first alternative so much has already been said and written in these columns and elsewhere that it were a work of supererogation to add more than a brief comment. If the greatest of our export trades—that in manufactured and half-manufactured cotton products—languishes and dies, the blame can only be laid at our own door. For years past far-seeing men have unceasingly drawn attention to the precarious basis upon which our great industry rests; to the folly of remaining dependent upon one source for some 80 per cent. of the required raw material; and to the unlimited possibilities of cotton cultivation within certain countries comprising the British Empire, notably India and the Sudan.

As so frequently happens, those in authority—or rather those who should act in that capacity—appear, until quite recently, to have been blind to the increasing gravity of the cotton situation as affecting the Lancashire spinning industry.

Although the artificiality of our conditions of life in this country due to importing some 70 per cent. of the foodstuffs we need must have been patent even to the average intellect, and the supreme necessity of maintaining and increasing our export trade in order to be able to continue to pay for our food must have been equally obvious, no adequate steps have been taken to safeguard the supplies of raw materials for an export trade the value of which in pre-war years had reached about £114,000,000 per annum.

We complain about our "loss of trade." The simple fact is that we sit down calmly and suffer others to take it from us.

As regards the second alternative, it does not seem to be generally realised that from 90 to 95 per cent. of the world's cotton crop involves the concomitant production of a character of cottonseed, which, after ginning, retains a not inconsiderable quantity of short residual cotton fibres, which, although too short for spinning, constitute a valuable raw material for the production of cellulose. Mr. C. F. Cross, F.R.S., whose work in connection with the scientific investigation of cellulose and its derivatives is known throughout the scientific world, stated many years ago to the present writer that posterity would look back upon our age as the cellulose age. Among the more important cellulose derivatives, industrially speaking, may be mentioned viscose. Viscose (the discovery of which may justly be attributed to Mr. Cross) is the basis of one of the most successful processes for the manufacture of artificial silk. This industry, which is, comparatively speaking, of recent origin, has progressed by leaps and bounds. The battle between wood and cotton as a raw material for the production of viscose has been fought out, and has resulted in the victory of cotton—apart from which, the available supplies of wood pulp in relation to the demand for news and other cheap papers—are rapidly becoming smaller and smaller.

For the production of viscose, length of staple in the

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cotton fibre is of secondary importance. The primary consideration is cleanliness and freedom from the extraneous matter always found in cottonseed to a greater or less extent. It is a feature of a recently introduced machine (referred to some months ago in these columns) that the removal of these residual cotton fibres from the cottonseed is effected in a manner which avoids the intrusion of the dirt and *débris* present in the cottonseed into the fibre product delivered by the machine. Thus a very large supply of suitable material for the production of viscose is rendered potentially available, and active steps are now being taken for the establishment of these machines in Great Britain, the United States, India, and in other cotton growing countries.

In view of the great improvement in the processes involved in the manufacture of artificial silk which have been introduced from time to time in recent years, it does not seem unreasonable to suggest that, given efficiency of organization and management, it should be practicable to produce an artificial fibre from the residual fibres of cottonseed which would form an efficient substitute for staple cotton, and compare favourably in price, at least, with that of superior cottons.

It may be that the next generation—even perhaps the present generation—will be clothed in artificial silk shirts and other garments now spun from cotton.

## THE SUDAN IN 1920.

### A Prosperous Year.

The fall in the price of cotton and other adverse economic developments came too late to have any material effect on the general position in the Sudan last year, and the review of conditions there in the recently published Blue Book, the first section of which was dealt with in these columns last week, shows the country still in the enjoyment of the flood of prosperity that developed early in the war and was enhanced in 1920 by what are described as "unprecedented harvests."

An improvement was again recorded in the country's finances, the revenue again reaching a record figure. The revenue amounted to £E4,392,000, and the expenditure to £E3,532,000, there being thus a surplus of £E860,000. It is pointed out, however, that this sum cannot be regarded as a real surplus, as services only of a recurrent nature are provided for in the Budget, and that further—

this sum cannot be regarded as representing a normal development of the revenue of the country, as it is in a large measure attributable to causes that may not be expected to recur. Apart from the uncertain nature of a revenue largely derived from agricultural sources which are dependent upon a varying rainfall, upon freedom from insect pests and fluctuating market prices, there is the general uncertainty of the economic future throughout the world which not only calls for great caution in sanctioning current expenditure, but makes it necessary to exercise the strictest economy and to do all that is possible to build up the reserves to meet future demands.

At the end of 1919 the unallotted balance of the reserve fund stood at £E119,500, to which had to be added the Budget surplus of £E272,279 and £E48,783 from sales of land and other receipts, giving a total of £E440, 562. The allocations for 1920, the principal of which was £E121,500 for railway and steamer services, left an unallotted balance of £E121,000, so that with the addition of various receipts amounting to £E3,500 and the surplus of £E860,000 the amount available for allotment for the present year was no less than £E984,500. The Budget estimates for 1921 showed a substantial increase on those of 1920, the totals being £E4,026,000, and had the conditions obtaining in 1920 continued, history would doubtless have repeated itself and the Sudan would have had another substantial surplus. Of course these vicissitudes are bound to occur from time to time in the case of a country dependent on agriculture. Progress cannot be continuous, and a setback such as the Sudan has since been experiencing will only check the country's development.

Turning to commerce there was a large increase in 1920 both as regards imports and exports. Imports rose from £E4,805,745 to £E7,006,865, while exports advanced from £E2,740,759 to £E4,712,652, but these increases do not represent the development of trade owing to the inflated prices. Actually imports in 1920 were greater than before, but to nothing like the extent suggested by the above figures, while as regards exports an average trade was done in grain, gum and hides, but exports of cotton developed, and it was the phenomenal rise in the price of this commodity that was mainly responsible for the increase in value. It will be noted that there was once again a large trade balance against the Sudan, the figures being £E1,930,894. This is the invariable experience of all countries during the period of development, and while as in the past, circumstances may bring about a temporary improvement in this respect it may be anticipated that it will be a considerable time before the Sudan is likely to be in a position to count upon being a favourable trade balance.

From the statistics that are given it would appear that Egypt is not maintaining its position as the medium of trade between the Sudan and foreign markets. The Red Sea ports obtained 58 per cent. of the imports and 56½ per cent. of the exports as against percentages for 1919 of 54 and 49 respectively. The position is best illustrated by the fact that while the foreign goods imported from and through Egypt were 49 per cent. higher than in the previous year those imported direct were 66 per cent. higher.

As regards the agricultural position the report describes the year as "one of moderate areas of cultivation and of excellent prices for all agricultural produce." The total area of crops amounted to about 1,900,000 feddans, an increase of 220,000 feddans which was practically confined to rain cultivation. It is pointed out that the comments "apply to the cultivation dependent upon the 1919 rains and flood, but no review of the whole year would be complete without reference to the abnormally favourable rains and floods which have been experienced and which will provide in next year's statistics a record for the Sudan."

Much interesting information is contained in the report on the provinces. We give the following extracts.

*Bahr-el-Ghazal.* The crops for the 1919-20 season were excellent. The province, however, cannot benefit by a good season as it should because of the impossibility of transporting a large quantity of grain from one district to another.... The reason for the difficulty of transport is that the Dinka tribes detest all forms of work, and in particular carrying.

*Nuba Mountains.* Mechanical transport was introduced some three years ago on the road from Tonga on the White Nile to Talodi, and has proved a great boon . . . .

*Blue Nile.* The feature of the labour problem which is peculiar to this province is that native cultivation and the large cotton growing estates both require a large amount of labour for cleaning at the same time. Consequently the price of labour during, and directly after, the rains goes up to any-thing between 30 and 50 piastres a day. The harvesting of the dura also coincides with the first pickings of the cotton, and there is another rise in the price of labour. Between the two periods the price of labour falls to perhaps 5 or 8 piastres a day.

*Upper Nile Province.* An attempt is being made by the Soudan Cotton, Fuel, and Industrial Development Company (1919), Limited, to exploit the great agricultural resources of this province, and one or two considerable areas have been taken up. There is no difficulty in the production of the crops as experiments have shown that excellent cotton and jute substitutes can be grown, but the principal obstacles that have to be overcome are the labour and fuel problems.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By our Engineering Representative.*

### A Big Tipping Waggon.

An exhibit at the Commercial Vehicle Exhibition at Olympia to which I was unable to refer last week owing to pressure of space was the Star 50 cwt. tipping waggon, shown complete with tipping gear. It has a 20-25 h.p. engine, water-cooled, with aluminium cast and tubular radiator. Lubrication is by forced feed to all parts of the engine, and every effort has been made to render this waggon immune against the effects of rough usage. The wheelbase is especially short to allow of the lorry being weighed on a standard weighing machine, and altogether it may be said that it is particularly suitable for the haulage of goods where the weighing of every load is essential. This firm also showed a 30 cwt. box delivery van of which the specification is as follows:—20-25 h.p. engine, water cooled, with aluminium cast and tubular radiator. Pump circulation. Lubrication by forced feed to all parts of the engine. Magneto ignition. Zenith carburettor. Four speeds forward, one reverse. Ferodo lined clutch. Live axle, worm drive. Deep section pressed steel frame. Tyres and wheels; Sankey pressed steel wheels, single front and twin rear, interchangeable, detachable, fitted with 880 x 120 Dunlop pneumatic tyres, with spare wheel and tyre. Wheelbase 11ft. 6in. To carry a useful load of 30 cwt..

The body is of the large box type, having a carrying capacity inside of 8 feet in length, 5 feet in width and 5 feet 2 ins. high.

### Front Wheel Brakes.

Those engineers who for so long have advocated the use of brakes on all four wheels of motor vehicles will be interested to hear that nearly two dozen different makes of cars, exhibited recently at the big Paris automobile show, were equipped with front wheel brakes. The innovation is the more interesting in view of the fact that hitherto the leading French engineers have expressed adverse opinions as to the practice. There is, of course, a certain difficulty in ensuring even action; the transmission of the braking power to the front is a matter of some little difficulty, but, however, it may be in practice, in theory four-wheel braking is the best possible procedure.

### Low Temperature Carbonization.

In view of the important developments which it is hinted are about to occur in connection with the process known as the low temperature carbonization of fuel it may be of some interest to recall the principal features of a gas-works equipped, some 12 years ago, with the plant in its then state of development. In this way we shall be better able to see the changes and developments made in the process.

The plant was erected at the Plymouth Gas Works, by permission of Sir Joseph Bellamy, who agreed to take 500,000 cubic feet of gas daily from the new equipment in order to augment the resources of the Plymouth undertaking.

The low temperature plant consisted of three units each 52 feet long by 13 feet wide, spaced a distance of 15 feet apart.

Each unit was nominally capable of dealing with 56 tons of coal daily, it being estimated that this quantity would produce 35 tons of smokeless fuel and 280,000 cubic feet of 20 c.p. gas. The plant had only been in operation a short time before it was found that these figures could be exceeded. In weight nearly 60 tons of fuel passed daily through each of the stills, resulting approximately in 40 tons of smokeless fuel and 320,000 cubic feet of gas.

At that date each unit consisted of 32 vertical bunched stills, each bunch consisting of 12 tubes cast into a single block. The stills were fed from above by a travelling hopper, and after a period of 3½ hours' distillation were discharged into a chamber where the contents were quenched. The smokeless fuel was then collected and carried by an electrically driven continuous conveyor to the bins where it was stored. The stills were heated by gas obtained from a small producer plant, and even at that date the control over the temperature was so complete that it could be regulated within very narrow limits to 800 degs. Fahr. at every point.

After leaving the vertical retorts the gas generated passed through a hydraulic main of special construction to the condensers and exhausters, and from thence, after measurement, to the scrubbers and purifiers. It is interesting to note that the comparatively small low temperature plant was able to carbonise, in two of its units, more coal per day than the high temperature plant of the gas works with its 72 retorts.

### A Rolls-Royce Success.

I am informed by Mr. Claude Johnson that the post-war Rolls-Royce has just gained a conspicuous victory in the Côte du Phare Hill Climb at Biarritz, the details of which are contained in a message from the firm's Spanish representative. The car, a post-war Rolls-Royce, driven by Mr. de Salamanca, has beaten all cars in all classes, including racing cars. The Côte du Phare is 500 metres in length, possesses 3 sharp turnings, and the start was made from a stand-still on a 6 per cent. gradient. The Rolls-Royce car was travelling at the rate of 63¾ miles an hour at the finish, and actually climbed the hill in well under 26 seconds.

This success calls to mind a similar success by the Rolls-Royce car gained by the firm's Spanish representative in 1913, when a standard Rolls-Royce car won the Spanish Grand Prix over a tortuous course of 194 miles in the Guadarrama Mountains, at an average speed of 54 miles an hour.

### An Oil Circuit Breaker.

An opportunity has just been afforded me of examining a new type of automatic oil-break circuit interrupter, suitable for use on circuits carrying up to 30 amperes at 600 volts, either alternating or continuous current. Of course a very large number of circuit breakers of various types, as direct acting with inverse time element, have been placed on the market, and are in general and satisfactory use, but the designers of the new appliance referred to above evidently consider that there is room for one of simpler form or which would possess some equally valuable advantage and so they have placed the new piece of apparatus on the market.

I was particularly struck with the principles of the mechanism and the way in which these have been utilised and the finished articles developed from the initial idea. Actually, a very fine piece of apparatus has been placed at the disposal of the electric power engineer, and I anticipate hearing that it has at once leapt into popularity. I know stations where apparatus of a greatly inferior type is being used.

The total weight of the device is 28 lb., consequently it is quite easy to handle and to fix in position, the design I have seen being of the wall type. The maker claims that it embodies several novel features, and, although it is now some years since I was in charge of a central station I was able to see at a glance that these claims were justified. The trip mechanism is extremely simple and it will come as a surprise to most of my readers to hear that no use is made of the worked-to-death toggle principle. There is very little wear likely to occur in the tripping gear and such as is unavoidable will not interfere with the efficiency of the action. A further feature is that the moving contacts are at their maximum speed at the moment they leave the stationary contacts. The no-volt coils as well as the trip are positive in action and the design is such that these cannot be affected by vibration. A further point which will appeal to all users is that the parts are interchangeable. Incidentally, the switch case is of cast iron, and the oil tank of pressed steel, with interlocking gear. As customary with these appliances the handle is loose in both the on and off position and as mentioned an inverse time element is supplied if required. There are ample means for adjustment provided in connection with the overload trip and inverse time element device, and an ammeter can be supplied in conjunction with the circuit breaker if required.

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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Manchester, Friday.*

At the commencement of the week the tone of the market was firm, but during the past few days a sagging tendency in raw cotton rates has prevailed which has naturally caused a certain amount of falling off in business. The lowering in values is generally understood to be the result of the big depreciation in the German exchange rates. Buyers on the whole have adopted a policy of caution, but at the same time a few transactions of large weight have been mentioned, these however have only been isolated cases. With regard to the cloth demand for the outlets of the Near East buyers for Egypt have not been altogether idle, and some encouraging transactions have taken place in a variety of fabrics. A little more demand has been about for the Levant, but not much business has been done for Constantinople. In the yarn section Bolton spinnings have been very quiet, and the offtake has been patchy. In sympathy with the drop in raw cotton rates, prices have favoured buyers. Quite an extensive cloth inquiry has been about for India, but it is realised that developments with regard to that outlet are impossible until the Gandhi boycott on foreign goods is removed. Still a few encouraging transactions in mulls, dhooties, and jaconets have taken place for Calcutta and Madras, and a few sales of shirtings have been registered for Karachi. Shippers to China have not reported any increase in business, and sales generally have not been of any weight. Not much business has been done for the republics of South America. The prospects of the market at the moment are rather bright, but before a larger business can be registered raw cotton rates will have to show more stability and have a hardening tendency instead of declining.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 13:—The past seven days have been comparatively quiet compared with other weeks we have witnessed recently, and the total sales show a considerable falling off. This is hardly surprising, everything considered. Spinners have been buying freely of late. There is, as yet, but little improvement in the home trade for yarns, and there is still a considerable quantity of below-cost-price manufactured goods to be disposed of before the way is really clear for fresh business based on current prices of the raw material. Then there is the all-important factor of the movement of the American crop. America has been a big buyer of Egyptian cotton recently, but with her own crop coming into sight, there is naturally a disposition to see what can be had out of it—we refer, of course, to staple—before resuming buying in Egypt. It was largely this cessation of buying, combined with a certain amount of "long" liquidation in Alexandria, which has caused the present decline. This decline has come at an unfortunate time, and confidence amongst buyers has again been shaken considerably, and just when it was beginning to show signs of recovery. The demand here has been of a fairly general character, with the usual preponderance in favour of Sakellaridis—fully good fair to good. C.i.f. business has been conducted on quiet lines only, spinners in most cases finding it cheaper to purchase here on hand-to-mouth principles rather than pay the prices asked for in Egypt. Manchester reports, except those dealing with home yarns continue favourable, and always providing that steady markets ensue, there is good reason to expect a recrudescence of buying before very long. Total sales 2,300 (includes 550 bales Sudan). Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced ¼d. per lb., those of Upper and Brown are unchanged on the week.

## COTTON INDEX RISING.

In the October issue of his Cotton Trade Circular published this week Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, gives the index number for the general average of current cotton prices as 256, which compares with 219 for the previous month and 161 in the middle of March last when the downward trend of values was arrested. Twelve months ago the general average was 381.

Taking the price ruling on July 31, 1914, as a basis of 100 in each case, the figure for American cotton is now 220 and that for American yarn 244, which show advances on the month of 25 and 23 points respectively. Cloth prices, however, have only risen 14 points—from 198 to 212—but the gain in Egypt cotton from 253 to 338 is most marked. Values in Egyptian yarn have also appreciated to the extent of 36 points to 265.

The advance of 37 points in the general average on the month is attributable to the increase in the rates for raw cotton as a result of the recent unfavourable advices relating to the growing crops in the United States and Egypt. This feature has stimulated buyers in the Manchester market to greater activity, and Lancashire producers of cotton yarn and cloth have secured more orders than for many months. At the present time the prospects may be considered encouraging.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

### Spinning Company Dividends Increased.

The stocktaking reports for the September quarter of 76 Lancashire cotton firms that carry on the spinning only of cotton yarns have been analysed by Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, and the results along with the comparative figures for previous similar periods, are published in his Cotton Trade Circular issued last week.

Of the 76 companies, which have a total paid-up ordinary share capital of £8,596,450, no less than 43 have experienced such a lean time that the directors have been unable to recommend the payment of a dividend to the shareholders. The remainder, however, have fared better, two companies making a distribution at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, one 7½ per cent., fifteen 10 per cent., one 11 per cent., two 12½ per cent., two 13 1-3 per cent., one 15 per cent., eight 20 per cent., and one 24 per cent. per annum.

A satisfactory feature revealed by the summary is that the average dividend per company for the three months, which works out at 5.65 per cent. per annum, is an improvement on the average for the same concerns for the preceding quarter ended June 30, when the figure was 5.10 per cent. per annum.

Some idea of the extent of the trade depression can be gauged from the fact that the average for the September 1920 quarter was 25.77 per cent. per annum; December 1920, 19.92 per cent. per annum; and March 1921, 8.10 per cent. per annum.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 3-8 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 92 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 235–245 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 20.43 | 627–750 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.5¼ |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 53.90–54.90 |
| Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 540–555 |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.5¼ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 700–720 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £.. .. | 42.86 2-3 | 3.89½–3.94¼ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 53.25–54.12 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 360–370 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 96.00–99.00 |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ .... | 25.22½ | 525–575 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 51 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 6,900–7,300 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 14,000–16,000 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

**GERMAN MARKS OVER 400 TO THE £**

**Has the Depreciation of the German Mark come to an end.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.—Exclusive information on the present position of GERMAN MARKS and an indication as to the future price movements. (Highest last year, 353—lowest, 147), together with CABLE INFORMATION FROM OUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE NOW IN FRANKFURT A-MAINE can be obtained free of charge by Investors writing to the:—

**Foreign Exchange Department,**
**THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,**
**Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London S.W 1.**

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Prices declining.

Coffee.—The position is practically unchanged. Costa Rica has dropped 4s. to 126s.; but Indian is unchanged at 100s. Nairobi is the same at 106s., while Jamaica is unchanged at 140s. Futures are :—December 50s.; March, 51s.; May, 51s. 9d July 52s. 6d.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair request at unchanged rates. White Mauritius is 6d. down at 46s. 6d.; while Czecho-Slovakian has shed 3s. at 20s. 6d. West Indian crystallised is the same at 46s., while white Java is 6d. down at 48s. 6d. Beet sugar is 3s. 9d. up at 22s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—The market has been weak. Indian Linseed is 9d. up at 16s. 9d., but La Plata is 9d. down at 15s. 6d. Rapeseed is quiet with Toria 6d. down at 19s. 3d., brown Cawnpore 6d. down at 18s. 6d., and bold Ferozepore 3d. down at 17s. 9d. Cottonseed has been weak with Indian 9d. lower at 9s. 3d., while Egyptian black has lost the same amount at 13s. 9d.

Seed Oils.—Prices have declined. Linseed oil is 1s. 6d. down at 29s. 6d. Cotton oil is steady with refined common edible unchanged at 57s.; Egyptian crude 1s. up at 48s.; and the deodorised variety the same at 62s.

Oilcakes.—A dull tone has prevailed, Linseed cake is 10s. down at 300s; while London-made cottonseed cake has lost 10s. at 190s. Arachis cake is 20s. down at 290s.

## BULGARIAN MARKET POSITION.

The Bulgarska Banka in its report dated October 1, states :—Despite the very satisfactory crop the prices of cereals and flour, of milk and its products, of cattle and meat are tending to rise. In view of the present rate of the leva and the increasing freedom for the export trade it is evident that these products will be in demand at prices that will approach more and more the prices in the countries where the currencies are less depreciated. If the other circumstances of the economic position were normal this would necessarily result in an almost corresponding improvement in the value of the leva.

Imports are extremely limited; materials for construction, metals, machinery, and Colonial produce predominate. The unfavourable exchange and the coming into force of the new tariff have taken away what courage remains to importers. The vast majority of them are abstaining from placing orders abroad, no longer having the basis for the establishment of their calculations of prices, and not being able any longer to immobilise large sums as the credits for which they stand cannot be increased on a par with the depreciation of the leva.

The abrogation of the Law of the Consortium has resulted in important purchases here. Prices are continually rising. The Government, beginning to entertain apprehensions regarding the supplies for the population, is contemplating various fiscal measures to ensure retaining the necessary quantities in the country at moderate prices. The solution of the problem remains to be found.

Considerable quantities of flour, cheese, and eggs have been exported to Constantinople. The export of cereals still remains very limited. That of attar of roses and tobacco is more animated. The prices of attar of roses are a little higher, ranging from 18,000 to 20,000 leva per kilogramme.

As we have already recorded in previous reports the tobacco crop is good. The drought has affected the crop as regards quantity, but not as regards quality which is very good. The disposal of the stock remains very difficult; the large houses hope, however, to be able to conclude transactions for the export of the new crop.

Business in cocoons has almost come to an end. All the disposable stock has been bought by exporters. The export continues, and has become very considerable during the last two months.

Mr. Vanderlip, the American banker, has arrived at Belgrade.

The Burmah Oil Company has declared an interim dividend in respect of the current year of 2s. per share, the same as last year.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of the crop conditions in September :-

Cotton.—The notation figures for this month are the lowest ever published since the formation of the Department of Agriculture in 1910. The failure of the crop is most marked in the provinces of Gharbiya, Daqahliya, Qalyubiya, Beni Suef and Faiyum. Some reasons for the abnormally poor crop are :—(1) Late sowing owing to the hesitation of cultivators; (2) Careless cultivation due to low prices in the early part of the season; (3) Unseasonable weather from middle May to middle June; (4) Overwatering after a short supply during July; (5) The cool damp weather during the period under review following the hot spell in August; (6) The increase of the pink boll-worm, which has been encouraged by the lateness of the crop and by the amount of unginned cotton from last year stored in the villages. The results from the first picking are unsatisfactory; very little is expected from the second picking, and many cultivators are not troubling to take one.

Millet (Sefi).—Practically the whole crop has been harvested. The yield is expected to be a good average one.

Millet (Nili).—The areas under this crop seems to be less than last year. The crop is growing satisfactorily.

Maize (Nili).—The weather was, on the whole, favourable and water supply was sufficient. Thinning, manuring and watering were being carried out. Cobs have already formed in early-sown areas, but a very large proportion of land seems to have been sown late and in these areas the condition of plants is far from being satisfactory.

Rice (Sefi).—The weather was, on the whole, favourable and the water supply sufficient. Some early-sown areas have been harvested. The yield is expected to be a little below the average.

Bersim.—Both weather and water supply were favourable. Sowing has taken place late in August or the first days of September. The condition of the young plants is satisfactory.

Sugar-Cane.—The cool, damp weather experienced in Faiyum and Beni Suef Provinces has slightly affected the crop, but the condition of the plants is on the whole, satisfactory. Some cutting has taken place for human consumption. Slight attacks of stem-borer (Sesamia cretica) have been reported. An average yield is expected.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 1 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amounted to 106,245 bags compared with 56,125 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 98,245 bags as against 51,125 bags for the same period of last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 8,000 bags as compared with 5,000 bags for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to-date total 101,294 loads, as against 100,495 loads for last year. The total estimated sales are 99,594 loads as compared with 100,495 loads, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 100,495 loads.

Shipments.—114,239 boxes of sultanas, 1,422 cases of figs, 2,313 boxes of figs, and 35,386 bags of figs are being loaded on the s.s. Gourko and s.s. Stork for London and Hull.

Markets.—Demand for sultanas has commenced decreasing, and arrivals from the country are proportionately falling off, dealers having no inducement to continue buying from farmers on falling consuming markets abroad. Business in the later autumn stage will come to a relative standstill until a revival sets in later in the year. Shipments henceforward will be of limited compass. Total exports to date total about 15,000 tons.

Figs are a steady market, and prices marked a sharp advance on reports of rain damage. The production is likely to prove short of estimates, stocks remaining in hand being very light. The proportion of sound packing figs has been very limited this season, and qualities generally of natural figs are of a lower standard than last year. This deterioration is due to the unfavourable atmospheric conditions which prevailed since the winter in the Meander Valley. Foreign exchanges have been declining during the week.

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## GREEK CURRANTS.

Messrs. Burlumi's annual report, dated October 3, states:—Our last report was dated September 30, 1920, and in it we estimated the crop of currants at about 90,000 tons. The yield, which actually reached 89,000 tons, was the smallest grown in point of size, since the year 1900, and the prospects of a successful season to all traders in the article appeared rosy. Although prices ruled high no anxiety was felt as to any serious drop for the reason that the crops of both sultana and Valencia raisins were likewise very small. The s.s. Thurso arrived in London on September 19, followed by the s.s. Coya on September 2 and the s.s. Crane two days later. Buyers operated with great caution at from 88s. for Pyrgos in half-bags up to 105s. for shade dried Vostizza in quarter cases. These prices receded at from 8s. to 10s. per cwt. during October through poor demand from the country and depreciation of exchange, but the *coup de grace* was reserved for the first week of November, when the Food Minister decided to reduce the price of his huge stock, of some 14,000 tons of old currants, from 75s. to 45s. per cwt. duty paid. This possibiilty was threatening from the arrival of new fruit on the English markets, but few thought that the reduction would have been so sweeping. The Food Minister, by adopting such a step, had little thought of the enormous interests vested in this article by the luckless traders. The result was that a panic ensued and prices tumbled down by several shillings per cwt. without attracting buyers at the fall.

The market continued flat and lifeless all through the winter months, buyers adopting the hand to mouth policy for their requirements. Early in March a syndicate of speculators bought the entire Government stock of currants, some 7,000 tons, at an average price of 30s. per cwt. duty paid, and this event infused some life into the article. The major part of these old currants were exported to Germany, Holland and America. A better tone prevailed, but prices remained practically stationary all through the spring and summer months with occasional fluctuations within narrow limits. The season ended disastrously as the fall in prices has been severe, thereby causing incalculable losses to the dried fruit traders generally. The currants shipped to foreign countries were distributed as follows: United Kingdom, 55,000 tons against 70,000 tons in 1919-20; United States and Canada, 16,500 tons against 28,000; Holland and Germany, 12,500 tons against 6,000; France and other parts of the world, 3,500 tons against 6,000; total, 87,500 tons against 110,000.

The Privileged Company received during the season in their warrant stores 10,000 tons all of which had been withdrawn before the end of the season. No dried fruit had been offered to the company for purchase, the ruling market prices being always much higher than the Convention limit. In their Retention stores the company received 4,500 tons, making 10,000 tons with the certificates in circulation on August 22, 1920. The land tax in kind, at 5 per cent. on the exported quantities, absorbed 4,400 tons and 4,000 tons represented by certificates circulation have been carried over. The Retention currants have been sold to the local distillers and to wine makers. The stock of old sound fruit carried over to the present season is estimated to be about 1,500 tons. Deducting 3,000 tons of old fruit brought over from the previous season 1919-20, we find that the crop of 1920 has yielded 89,000 tons against 127,500 tons in 1919 and 125,000 in 1918. The clearances for home consumption in the United Kingdom for the year ended August, 1921, amounted to 58,895 tons against about 63,000 tons for the previous twelve months ended August, 1920. The latter figure was somewhat hypothetical as no details of distribution were being published by the Board of Trade before September, 1920, when control on dried fruit was finally removed. The stock of currants in the United Kingdom as returned by the Board of Trade at the end of August was 9,980 tons against 15,000 in 1920 and 8,500 tons in 1919.

The new crop is estimated according to the latest news received from Greece at about 120,000 to 125,000 tons. The climatic conditions have been favourable during maturity, but owing to excessive heat harvesting commenced earlier than was expected to avoid rot setting in, which is usual when abnormal heat prevails in the currant growing districts. The s.s. Manhattan with about 600 tons of new fruit arrived in London on September 21, followed by the s.s. Hollandia I on September 24, with an equal quantity. A few samples were shown from the latter steamer on the latter date, but being Saturday a few sales only were made, of Gulf at 70s. and Patras at from 65s. to 70s., in quarter cases per cwt. duty paid. The s.s. Frederic Cleaves arrived on September 26, with over 1,000 tons, a good portion of which consisted of Vostizza. Although a good selection of all growths was offered to the trade the response was most disappointing. No doubt lower quotations from Greece, owing to the depreciation of the drachma oblige buyers to demur and to wait for developments. The quality of all growths is not up to that of last year's. The fruit seems insufficiently cured, but there may be an improvement in later shipments, as early arrivals, as a rule, do not generally represent the actual quality of the crop. The s.s. Phrygia arrived in Liverpool on September 29, and the opening of the market is reported slow with few sales at about the same prices as those paid in London for similar quality. Considerable business has been done both with the United States of America, Holland, and Germany from Greece on c.i.f. terms, and some 10,000 tons are now being shipped for these countries. The volume of business c.i.f. to the United Kingdom has been comparatively small, and excepting shade dried Vostizza which was bought somewhat freely at from 71s. to 78s. and Pyrgos at from 42s. to 52s. in quarter cases c.i.f. London for September shipment, all other growths have been neglected. Owing to the wild fluctuations of the exchange quotations vary from day to day, and all transactions based on an erratic exchange are bound to disconcert both buyers and sellers and to impede business.

The Privileged Company distributed to the ordinary shareholders for the year ended August 22, 1920, a dividend of 34.50 drachmae per share, equal to a little over 12¼ per cent. on the capital, and to the founders 12.20 drachmae, equal to 5 per cent. per share. The Retention for the current year has been fixed at 18 per cent. in kind and 17 per cent. in money. The exchange for cheques on London fluctuated during the season between 30 and 35 drachmae per £ sterling.

## SUDAN NOTES.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Khartoum, September 29.*

Crop reports from the Blue Nile Province are not quite so cheering as usual. In spite of a good rainfall the crops are not very promising, and considerable damage has been suffered owing to a plague of mice and grasshoppers, more especially in the Medani, Hassa Heissa, and Kamlin districts, during the latter half of July. During the first half of August however conditions have improved, and crop prospects are fair. The area under cultivation is much less than last year, partly due to lack of energy on the part of the cultivators and also to a great extent owing to the state of the produce markets. A sufficiency of labour is obtainable in the Medani district at PT 10. per day, with a tendency to rise.

An outbreak of cattle plague was reported from Sennar on August 29, amongst cattle brought in from Kosti. This is regrettable as the province has been free from contagious bovine-pleuro-pneumonia for forty years. As a result of successful inoculation the disease has been stamped out. The infection was finally traced to cattle at Segadi, imported by the Sudan Construction Company from outside provinces.

News from Kordofan states that rains have been plentiful throughout the province and all cultivation is progressing well.

Crop reports from the White Nile Province are very good. The rains throughout the province with the exception of the Geteina district have been even better than those of last year, and there is every indication that the crops will be much above the average.

From the Red Sea Province news as to the flooding of the Tokar cotton area is good. The floods have been above the average, and have been well distributed. A succession of gales have been notified from Suakin, occasioning considerable damage to buildings in the town.

In Berber Province—the Wad Hamed, Kelli, Tubga, and Fadlah basins have been well flooded, but cotton cultivation has been somewhat difficult owing to the heavy grass crops resulting from early rains. The plants are reported to have survived, and as a result of strenuous efforts on the part of the cultivators most of the areas have now been cleaned. Rain crops

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promise exceptionally well, and good grazing should be found in the Abtai.

The prospects of the date crop in Halfa Province are fair and forward contracts have already been made by the cultivators. There have been complaints from Delgo that date dealers who have hitherto been most regular in visiting the district for their purchases have suddenly ceased to do so, and are not even appointing local agents to carry on the work. There is general satisfaction throughout Abri and Delgo at the abnormal rains which have resulted in a very considerable increase of cultivation. As a result of the appearance of smugglers on the northern frontier a patrol has been sent out from Halfa along the West bank of the river in order to put a stop to any more contraband coming in from that direction.

Dongola Province reports that the date crop has been severely damaged by rain, the southern part of the province being more especially affected.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon: (Continental), 157s. cwt.; (Canadian, 110s. cwt.; (American), 105s. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 229s. cwt.; (Australian), 180s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 205s. cwt., cheese (Canadian), 104s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 90s. cwt.; lard 80s. cwt.; eggs: (Danish), 32s. per 120s; (Styrian), 17s. 6d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 4d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 86s. 6d. cwt.; coffee: (Costa Rica), 152s. 6d. cwt.; (East India), 140s. cwt.; (Central American), 120s. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha, (longberry), 115s. cwt.; (Santos superior), 65s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin) 56s. 3d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's) 11¾d. lb.; pepper: (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 136s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 122s. 6d cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 79s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 55s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 57s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated) 52s. 1½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 47s. 9d. cwt.; (West India crystallized), 43s. cwt.; (centrifugal), 17s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1¾d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 17s. 3d. cwt.; rice: (Rangoon No. 2), 20s. 6d. cwt. (bran Rangoon), £8 7s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 1½d. lb. mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb.; tea: (Indian, common to good common), 9d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 5d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 10½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 7d. lb.; wheat: (English white) 53s. 6d. qr.; (La Plata ex-ship), 82s. qr.; (Australian), 69s. qr. barley (malting), 68s. qr.; barley (feeding), 41s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 30s. qr.; (La Plata), 26s. 6d. qr.; maize: (mixed American) 33s. qr.; (La Plata), 33s. 3d. qr.; flour 51s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £69 9s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £75 12s. ton; gold bars, 108s. 7½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 120s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 138s. 6d. ton; galvanized sheets (24G), £19 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 ton; manganese Poti; 1s. 1½d. unit molybdenite, 40s. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £9 10s. bottle; silver bars, 41d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 17s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £155 2s. ton; wolfram, 13s. unit.; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 21s. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 9d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 5½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £14 9s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £33 15s. ton; benzole (standard) 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £16 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 131s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bi-chromate, 9d. lb.; chlorate, 6d. lb.; caustic £32 10s. ton; nitrate, £52 10s. ton; permanganate, 11¾d. lb. sulphate (90 per cent.), £17 ton; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; Sodium: Crystals, 141s. 3d. ton; bi-carbonate, £12 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent), £9 ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent), £24 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £18 10s. ton; prussiate, 7¾d. lb.; nitrate, £14 16s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 7½d. lb.; quinine, 4s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £39 15s. ton; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton; white ground lead, £53 2s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £31 ton; sulphate of iron, 117s. 6d. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 14.65d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian Sakel), 27s. 5od. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £14 10s. ton; rape (Toria), £19 10s. ton; soya beans, £15 ton; palm kernals, £19 10s. ton; sesame seed (China), £32 ton; Oils; Linseed, £30 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £78 15s. ton; palm, £39 15s. ton; rape (crude), £54 10s. ton; soya, £43 ton.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Barsi Light Railway.

The report of the Barsi Light Railway Co., Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that the net earnings for the year less Indian income tax and super tax, amounted to £45,115 4s. 2d., or, adding the exchange adjustment of £17,039 14s. 11d., £62,154 19s. 1d. After providing the interest on the debenture stock, £5,600, and the interest and sinking fund instalment, etc., on the "Latur Extension" debentures, £5,649, there is left £50,905 19s. 1d., which, with the balance of £10,352 13s. 2d. brought forward from the previous year, makes £61,258 12s. 3d. at credit of net revenue account. The directors have transferred £15,450 17s. 3d. to credit of reserve account for the equalisation of dividends, depreciation on investments, etc., which account now stands at £135,000, and £4,000 to taxation reserve account as a provision for corporation profits tax and the heavy income tax which will become due hereafter in respect of the past year's profits. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent. (or 10s. per share) was paid on April 22 last, and the directors now recommend that a final dividend of 3 per cent., with a bonus of 4 per cent. (14s. per share in all) be paid. This will make a total distribution of 12 per cent. for the year and leave £10,607 15s. 0d. to be carried forward. Owing to the partial failure of the monsoon, goods traffic in the second half year fell off considerably; taken as a whole the year was a good one and shows total receipts second only to last year's record As against the previous year there is a decrease of 5,242 passengers and Rs. 48,683 in coaching traffic and sundry receipts due chiefly to the smaller attendance of pilgrims at the fairs at Pandharpur on account of the stoppage of through bookings from the G.I.P. Railway.

Goods traffic shows a decrease of 23,742 tons and Rs. 1,15,178 owing to the continuance of restrictions on through bookings during the earlier part of the year, and the failure of the crops in the district as a result of which the export of food grains and cotton seeds from H.E.H. the Nizam's Territories was prohibited. Working expenses at Rs.6,61,763 are Rs. 53,964 higher, the chief cause being the all round increase in salaries and wages which has been forced on all railways in India by the action of labour and the rise in the cost of living. In consequence of the increased expenses, combined with the decreased earnings, the percentage of working expenses to gross earnings amounts to 46.22, as compared with 38.09. The net earnings of Rs.7,70,133, compared with Rs. 9,87,956, and the rates of exchange for remittances yielded a considerable addition to the profits and bring the average rate for the year to 1s. 10.13 per rupee., The approximate traffic receipts from April 1 to August 27, 1921, amount to Rs, 5,46,300 equal to Rs. 217.50 per mile per week, as compared with Rs. 6,97,900 (Rs. 276,00 per mile per week) during the corresponding period of last year.

### Harrisons and Crossfield.

The report of the directors of Harrisons and Crosfield Ltd. for the year ended June 30 last states that the company's business has been carried on in the face of adverse conditions, owing to the very heavy fall in the prices of rubber, tea, and nearly all classes of merchandise in which the company deals, and to violent fluctuations in exchange. From the stocks held large amounts have consequently had to be written off, having regard to which the result of the year's working is not unsatisfactory. The stocks stand in the balance-sheet at replacement values. The investments show some considerable depreciation as compared with their cost; but market prices have for some months been largely nominal, and the directors believe that the investments will again show appreciation over the balance-sheet figures when the present crisis is passed.

The net profit earned during the twelve months amounts to £164,466, to which is added £37,874 brought in. Out of this the directors have paid the full dividends of 6 per cent. on the cumulative preference shares and 10 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares, and they have also paid 7½ per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares and distributed £5,941 among the holders of management shares. These dividends together amount to £157,815, and the balance remaining at credit of profit and loss is £44,525, which the directors propose to carry forward. The company has contributed upwards of £10,500 to the staff provident fund during the twelve months. A profit-sharing scheme has been introduced at the branches, and it is hoped that this will prove beneficial alike to the company and the staff. Meeting, 38 Eastcheap, E.C., October 21, noon.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Marmouret-ul-Aziz, August 6.

Business has come to a standstill owing to the lack of means of transport. There has been a fall of 25 per cent. in the price of cereals on account of the good harvest.

Jaffa.

The report for August states :—Owing to the tithes for 1921 falling, due, continued arrivals of cereals from the interior, and the fall in foreign flour a slight decline has taken place on this market. The mean prices of the month are as follows :—(in piastres Egyptian per rotole ;—wheat 4½ to 5¼ ; barley, 2¼ to 2½ ; beans, 2¼ to 2½ ; vetches, 3 to 3¼ ; lentils, 3 to 3½. Consignments for Syria continue.

It is to be noted that as in the past year wheat has been attacked by the weevil ; in view of that state of things merchants are abstaining from laying in stocks of cereals, and the result is that prices show a strong tendency to fall.

Mersina.

The report for August states :—During the first three weeks of the month the commercial and financial crisis continued to rule in our market with the same intensity. However a marked recovery took place during the closing days of the month, a development which has been hailed by all merchants as the forerunner of the commercial movement so much desired. The recovery is due, it is understood, to certain purchases for the interior, carried out through the little town of Djihan, which suggests that when normal communications are re-established Mersina will beyond question recover all its importance and its lost activities.

The tendency for cotton to rise, recorded in our report for July, has not suffered any abatement, and this commodity now stands at P.s. 165—215 per batman of 5 kilos as against Ps. 125—150 in July, and Ps. 115—140 in May and June.

Beans are also harder at P.s. 10 per oke as against Ps. 6—7 last month. Wheat from Ps. 11—12 per oke has risen sharply to Ps. 18—19. Barley is also firmer at Ps. 8½ per oke as against Ps. 7. Oats were sold at the end of August at Ps. 7—7½ per oke. Sugar on the other hand has fallen to Ps. 25 per oke following arrivals from Alexandria and Constantinople.

Panderma, September 15.

The arrivals of the new crop have made their appearance on the market. The exports include 100,000 kilos of wheat for Smyrna and 45,000 kilos of chick peas for Constantinople.

Stocks existing here (in kilos) are as follows, prices (in piastres per kilo) being given in brackets :—Wheat 1,250,000 (7¾ to 8¼) ; oats, 315,000 (3½) ; barley, 1,025,000 (4,7-8) ; maize, 25,000 (4) ; chick peas 55,000 (7¾ to 8,5.8) ; flax grains, 130,000 (7,3.8) ; lentils, 65,000 (4,7-8) ; beans, 260,000 (7¾) ; mustard, 20,000 (7¾) ; native flour 75,000 (10,1-8 to 12,7-8) ; dry cocoons, 20,000 (360 to 367) ; sugar, 70,000 (28,7-8) ; coffee, 16,000 (39 to 50¾) ; skins, 700 (54,5-8 to 85¾). There are also 500 cases of Roumanian oil at 400 piastres per case, and 2,000 cases of American oil at 575 piastres per case.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Business Very Restricted.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday night.

Generally speaking a dull tone has prevailed in the markets during the past week. A lower Bank rate would have helped to brighten things up, but once again hopes of a reduction were disappointed. As a matter of fact whatever happens in this direction it is hopeless to look for any great improvement until the trade outlook is more settled.

Gilt-edged securities have again provided the bright feature of the week. Consols are unchanged at 48,7-8, but War Loan Fives are 5-8 up at 49,7-8. Fundings are ¼ up at 72,3-8. In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 69, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are the same as before at 66 and 69 respectively. The India 7 per cent. Loan is ¼ up at 103½.

The Industrial group has been dull with weakness developing in various directions. Business has generally been extremely restricted. Iron and steel shares have been weak, while Shipping securities have moved adversely. P. and O. Deferred are 5 down at 345. Furness Withy are 24s. xd., while Cunards are 6d. down at 17s. 6d..

**Oils Unsettled.**

The unsettled condition of the Oil Market has continued. Mexican Eagles are a shade lower on the week at 3,15-32. Anglo-Egyptian are 3-32 up at 1,7-32, but Roumanian Consolidated have shed 1s. at 8s. Steaua Romana are 3d. up at 9s., but Phoenix are 1s. down at 7s. 3d. Dacia Romano are 13-16. Burmahs are 3-8 up at 5½, while Anglo-Persian Prefs are 21s. 9d., Anglo-Persian 2nd Prefs being 22s.

Bank shares have been firm, Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are 1 up at 54, while Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 55. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 3-8 down at 7½, while National Bank of Egypt at 19¾ are 1-8 lower. Bank of Athens are ¼ down at 2,1-8, but Ionians are unchanged at 3¼.

The position with regard to Rubbers remains much the same. The share market is practically stagnant, little business being transacted. There is very little stock about as holders are unwilling to part at present prices, and the development of even a small buying movement would make a considerable difference.

**Greeks Decline.**

Greek shares have developed weakness. The 5 per cent. 1884 loan is 3 down at 39, while the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 37. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is 35, while the 5 per cent. Funding Loan has lost 2 at 37. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is unchanged at 39.

Land shares have shown a variable tendency. Beheras are ¼ down at 10¾, but Behera Prefs. are unchanged at 3¼. Egyptian Delta Lands are 4½d. down at 8s. 9d., while Egyptian Consolidated Lands have shed 3d. at 1s. New Egyptians are 6d. down at 25s. 6d., but Sudan Plantations are unchanged at 3,1-16. Sidi Salems are 1,1-8, while Union Foncieres are 2,7-8, a decline of 3-16.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 7¼. Egyptian Markets are 20s., and Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 35s. 3d.

## ROUMANIA'S OIL EXPORTS.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—The statistics of Roumania's exportation of oil products by countries during the first half of 1920 are as follows (the figures representing tons):—To France 18,554, Italy 17,966, Czecho-Slovakia 12,771, Turkey 11,530, Bulgaria 9,569, Austria 8,551, Great Britain 7,469, Hungary 6,381, and Germany 5,157. A comparison of the monthly average of oil exports during this period with those for the corresponding six months of 1920 shows that while the monthly exports in 1920 averaged 20,583 tons the total had fallen in 1921 to 17,912 tons.

## ANGOLA—OILFIELDS.

Angola Oilfields, Ltd., has been registered with a nominal capital of £1,000,000 in £1 shares. Objects:—To adopt an agreement with Trade and General Trust, Ltd., to acquire and turn to account petroleum, asphalte, napthaline, coal or oil-bearing lands in any part of the world, and to carry on the business of miners, prospectors, explorers, refiners of and dealers in petroleum and other mineral oils and the products thereof, carriers, wharfingers, shipowners, &c. The registered office is at Capel House, 52, New Broad-street, E.C.

## THE AIR POST.

The Postmaster-General states that as the outcome of the experiment, arrangements have now been made whereby the public will be enabled to post letter packets, registered or unregistered, for transmission from Egypt to Irak (Mesopotamia) by aeroplane once a fortnight. A special air mail fee at the rate of 1s. an ounce will be charged in addition to ordinary Imperial postage. Despatches from London in connection with the service will be made weekly by the ordinary Indian mail; they began with the despatch on October 13. Any letter intended for onward transmission by the air service should bear in the top left-hand corner the "Air Mail" label obtainable at any post-office, or the words, "By air, Cairo-Baghdad" clearly written or typed. Parcels and insured packets are not admitted. The normal time occupied in transmission by the combined ordinary and air route will be about 18 and 11 days in alternate weeks, and the saving in time compared with transmission all the way by the ordinary route should be from seven to 14 days or more.

The time of departure from Toulouse of the air mail for Morocco has been revised. The latest time of posting at the General Post Office, London, of correspondence intended for inclusion in the Moroccan air mail is now 11 p.m. on Saturdays and 6 p.m. (5.30 p.m. for printed papers) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 10:—Season.—October 3—Monsoon active in North Burma and South Madras. October 4—Strengthened in Peninsula. October 5—Upper Burma, Assam and South-Eastern Madras rain practically general. October 6—Fairly general rain in Upper Burma and Konkan. October 8—Rain general in Bay Islands, Mysore and Bombay-Deccan. October 8 and 9—Heavy rain in Madras-Deccan. Crops.—October 7.—Punjab and Central Provinces—unchanged. Bombay—cotton and oilseeds good. Markets.—Bombay cotton market October 6—steady. Oomras Rs. 470. December-January. Cotton arrivals September 1 to 29, 150,000 bales as compared with 55,000 bales in same period last year. In Bombay piece-goods market retail enquiry steady. Demands for white and grey staples continue encouraging. In Calcutta market, Jute and Hessians quiet and fairly steady. Heavy goods quiet and rates slightly easier. October 4—T.N. Shellac Rs. 135. At the tea sale on October 4, very few Darjeelings offered, but good selection of good quality from all other districts. Prices were firm and occasionally slightly dearer for all grades. All markets interested except Persia. 248,606 packages sold to date at average price of 8 annas 11 pies per lb. October 7—Price special rice Rs. 637½. Railway Survey.—Nasik Road—Belapur (on the Dhond-Manmad line), Railway detailed survey 92 miles by Great Indian Peninsula Railway Co. sanctioned. No change in Bank rates.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on September 30 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 7-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7½; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £27-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56½; Behera Ord., £E 11,1-16; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 55; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 30; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £29-32, Consolidated Land, Pt., 6; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 835 ex; Credit Foncier Act; Fr., 643; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 339; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110 ex.; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 81½; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 108; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 26s. 9d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4,5-32 ex.; Filature National d'Egypte, £12¼; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc., an des., £5, 7-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2 9-16; Kom Ombo Ste. An de Wadi, £5,1-16; Kom Ombo Ste, Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37; Lots Turc., Fr., 36; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270; Nungovich Hotels, £7,1-16; Ramleh Railways, £3; Salt and Soda, Pt., 35s. 3d.; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr., 45; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 60; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £3,3-32; **Egypt Hotels, £2,7-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £2,7-8.**

The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company recommends a distribution on January 2 of £2 5s per cent. out of stockholders' revenue account, in addition to guaranteed interest at rate of 3½ per cent, per annum, making 7 per cent. for the year. In addition there will be the refund of 12s 9.45d per cent. for income-tax to stockholders owing to the adjustment of Colonial tax. Income-tax will be deducted on £4 dividend at the rate of 4s 11.04d in £.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## DALMATIA'S WATER POWER.

In an article in the *Prager Presse*, Vice-Consul Franz Falta states that the question of the exploiting of Dalmatia's water power has come into evidence by reason of the changed national economic situation in Yugoslavia. The late Austro-Hungarian policy favoured the activities of German and Italian enterprise in Dalmatia, as a result of which two of the greatest water-power resources in Dalmatia are in the hands of foreign capitalists. The Italian "Sufid" Company (Societa anonima per utilisazione di forze idrauliche in Dalmazia) controls the Gubarica waterfall in the river Cetinja, and likewise those on the River Krka without any restriction.

The existence of lime and coal fields in the immediate neighbourhood of the central power station suggested the production of carbide and its derivative azotes. According to the statistics of the former Italian Consulate in Zara, from 20 to 30,000 kg. carbide and cyanamide is the yearly production, but this sum should be about doubled to arrive at the true figure. The "Sufid" obtains 100 kg. cyanamide out of 800 kg. carbide, and the production is so much the more profitable in that cyanamide sells in Dalmatia for Yugoslav Kr. 7-10. The cost of production of 100 kg. carbide amounts to Kr. 37 (including amortisement of relatively high cost of installation), while the sale price is Kr. 72 per 100 kg. This explains the prosperity of the Sufid in the immediate past, and the desire of the Yugoslav circles to rid themselves of this foreign exploitation. The Dalmatian cyanamide is the rival of Chilian saltpetre; the latter went through a crisis in recent years owing to this competition, while the increased production of artificial fertilizers in Switzerland, England and Germany gave it the *coup de grace*. Incidentally, 75 per cent. of the Chilian saltpetre production is in the hands of Yugoslav emigrants. The crisis reacted also upon the Dalmatian cyanamide market, and brought about a reduction in the Sufid's activities.

The controversy is now entering on its decisive phase. Not only the question of emancipation from foreign capital, but also the choice between cyanamide and saltpetre is concerned, whereon depends the well-being of the Yugoslav emigrants who cannot be treated with indifference, in view of the great part played by them in the liberation of Yugoslavia.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 27).

*Anchor Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Malia for Calcutta (Manchester November 5); s.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 5); s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 19).


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*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 26); s.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 9).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Harrington for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 28).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan MacNaughton for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 20).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk and Batoum (Glasgow, November 3); s.s. Pavia for Genoa, Leghorn, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Liverpool, November 10).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. City of Oxford for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, October 22); s.s. Cressado for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Liverpool, November 5).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Harvard for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, October 22); s.s. City of Brisbane for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 26); s.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 8).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. Melford Hall for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, October 31).

*Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenshane for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, November 3); s.s. Glensanda for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, November 17).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Dramatist for Calcutta (Liverpool, October 30).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Amarapoora for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 2).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 22); s.s. Peruviana for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, November 5).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Limoges for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Jaffa, Beyrout and Cyprus (Liverpool, November 10).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, October 22); s.s. Andalusian for Tangier, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, October 29).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, October 21); s.s. Kalyan for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 21); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, November 11).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Neuralia for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 21); s.s. Margha for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 28); s.s. Merkara for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 4); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 11); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 18).

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

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119. Russian gentleman, age 34 years, speaking fluently English and French, offers his services to a British firm or company, with a view to becoming acquainted with any special line they intend to undertake in Russia, so as to be able to act in their interest in that country.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 546—Vol XX. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *Foolishness in High Places.*

Many people have hitherto found it difficult to understand the vindictiveness shown by the Allies towards ex-King Karl. He cannot be held responsible for the war, unless he is credited with a sinister influence in Austro-Hungarian affairs before he came to the throne, and with the collapse of the Dual Monarchy it might be thought that almost anybody could reign in Hungary without disturbing Europe's sleep o' nights. But a veto was promulgated against the ex-King, and has been extended, with what justification it would be difficult to say, against the whole of the House of Hapsburg. Ex-King Karl has now provided his boycotters with some of the justification that they previously lacked. If there is one place where fools cannot be suffered gladly, it is on a throne in Central Europe at the present time. Only a fool will be the tool of every chance intriguer, and this is precisely the rôle that the ex-King seems to have marked out for himself. To-day two things are necessary to enable him to be on the throne of Hungary—the support of the Magyars and the sanction of the Allies. If he had been content to keep quiet for a period, he might conceivably have dispensed with the latter. As things are, he is likely to find the hostility of the Allies, or at least of the Little Entente, the determining factor in his undoing. Not even an aeroplane trip from Switzerland to Hungary can render the action of a throne-snatcher who breaks his parole heroic. Hungary with the Burgenland escapade has made herself disliked among many who were anxious to befriend her; her would-be sovereign has made himself contemptible when most people were inclined to accord him sympathy.

### *The Allies and Hungary.*

The correct attitude of the Budapest Government, supported or inspired by the obvious determination of the Allies to stand by their guns, has led to the collapse of the ex-King's false move, without the necessity of any military effort on the part of the States of the Little Entente. It is to be hoped that the lesson from this incident will not be lost sight of in the future. Wherever troubles threaten in Europe—at least outside Russia—the Allies only need to present a united front and handle them firmly in order to secure their speedy liquidation. We should be sorry if the Little Entente should feel that it must always be standing under arms for the safety of Europe. Even in regard to the Carlist escapade we were convinced that, in the present parlous condition of European finance, the question of "His Majesty Charles IV" on or off the throne of Hungary is not worth the expenditure of a leu, dinar or krone to any of the neighbouring peoples. The suggestion that Hungary with or without Charles IV can jeopardise the interests of the Secession States is, we believe, an unwarranted aspersion on the latter. Individually they are each a match for Hungary; collectively they have an unassailable position. Their united statesmanship, therefore, should be directed to avoiding the expense of further warfare at all costs.

### *The Franco-Turkish Agreement.*

It is officially announced that an agreement with the Nationalist Government has been signed at Angora by M. Franklin-Bouillon, on behalf of France. In the absence of definite information to the contrary we must suppose that the understanding between the French Government and Mustapha Kemal Pasha is restricted to matters affecting Cilicia and Syria, in accordance with the promise given by M. Briand. France has long been anxious to clear up the situation on her Cilician frontiers in order to be able to withdraw her troops, without incurring the charge of sacrificing the non-Moslem population. The only possible way out of her dilemma was to come to an arrangement with the Turks, and she has apparently satisfied herself that the Nationalists are to be trusted when it is shown that they are trusted. In regard to this the French are probably right; in any case there is no other course open to them or to the Allies, and the sooner the latter make up their minds on this point the better for all concerned. The agreement on the other hand would assume a very different complexion if it trespasses on matters of interest to the Allies as a whole instead of to France alone.

### *Greece and Turkey.*

Every allowance must be made for Greece's difficulty in adopting this view of the Turks as her own. To understand the position it is necessary to get back to first principles. At the bottom of the Asia Minor situation lies the fact that the Turks hate the Greeks as much as they are hated by the latter, with the result that on both sides we witness the same warping of judgment whenever enemy affairs are in question. With the Greeks the trouble may take the form of an unwise advance into Asia Minor beyond the limits imposed by

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military and financial considerations. In the case of the Turks we have the cruder exhibition of wholesale executions of Pontus Greeks accused of treasonable acts. It would be idle to deny that the Angora Government has shown some qualities of statesmanship during its existence, and for this reason the blunder, to say nothing of the criminality, of the executions stands out in bolder relief. To explain it we have to recall the folly of the Allies in authorising the Greek to act as their policeman in Turkey. In all matters affecting Greece the Nationalists "see red" and will continue to do so for just so long as the Greeks have a land frontier with them in Asia Minor. Remove this incitement, and the world may find the Turks as amenable as the French appear to have found them at last in regard to Cilicia.

### *Italy and Rhodes.*

The Italian view of the situation in regard to Rhodes is probably that it is entirely on all fours with that of Cyprus, and that consequently English opinion on the subject should be expressed cautiously. There are, however, many circumstances in connexion with the British possession of Cyprus altogether lacking in the Italian occupation of Rhodes. Not the least important is the question of time; another is the fact that the justification supplied by a considerable Moslem minority in Cyprus does not hold good in the case of Rhodes. But any analagy breaks down completely when British and Italian methods of administration are compared. The Rome Government has evidently decided that Cyprus methods are not to be practised in Rhodes. The British allow Greek members of Legislature to absent themselves until such time as they are ashamed of their childishness or their constituents grow tired of their tactics. In Rhodes failure to attend public functions in honour of the Italian Crown Prince has caused the Greek Archbishop and some of his clergy to be arrested and deported from the island. Whether such measures make for peace in the future remains to be seen. Only a Power conscious of its strength and of the justice of its cause can adopt the tolerance and leniency which Great Britain has shown in Cyprus in far more trying circumstances.

### *The Murder of M. Dimitroff.*

There can be no justification for political murders; but in the case of the assassination of M. Dimitroff, Minister for War in Bulgaria, it is possible to piece together the circumstances which may be supposed to have led directly to the tragedy. M. Dimitroff was the strongest man next to M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister, in the Agrarian Party. In spite of being associated with certain commercial undertakings which were held by the Moderate section of the Agrarians to have brought no credit to the Party, he occupied important posts in the Cabinet, first as Minister of the Interior, and then as Minister for War. During both these periods the political life of Bulgaria was disturbed by various acts of violence, which for one reason or another added to the number of M. Dimitroff's personal enemies. When finally some prominent members of the Macedonian party, having been brought to Sofia, were compelled to reside in certain provincial towns to which they were conveyed, and one of them, on the way to Kustendil, failed to reach his destination alive, feeling against the Minister for War was still further embittered among certain sections. M. Dimitroff, it will be noted, was killed while motoring to Kustendil, and although no arrests have been made, the crime is attributed to Macedonian elements. It is only fair to Bulgaria to point out that M. Dimitroff in office was an anachronism to his own countrymen.

### *Zaghloul Pasha's Tour.*

Saad Pasha Zaghloul's trip up the Nile has not yet come to an end, as it was erroneously reported to have done last week, but in all probability he and the more intelligent of his supporters will be very glad to be done with it. For, although they will of course persist in representing it as a triumphal progress marred by the malignity of the Government, they will find it increasingly difficult to make the world accept that view as correct. That the Pasha has his ardent followers in the South, as in the North, it would be foolish to deny; but the trip has already served to show that they are by no means the overwhelming majority that the Zaghloulists would have us believe; and indeed it is open to doubt whether they are more than a considerable minority. Particulars of the fighting between the two factors at Assiout show that they were not unevenly matched; and as far as it is possible to judge from the reports sent from other places at which the 'Nubia' called, only to be warned off, it would seem that the same was the case at most of those towns. In one way the trip has served a useful purpose: it has taught both sides that Zaghloul Pasha is no longer—or should we say not at present?—able to do exactly as he pleases with the country. We may now reasonably expect the Egyptians to await the conclusion of the negotiations in London before giving way to any further extravagant display either of joy or rage. If reports current here are to be trusted, it will not be long before the negotiations are brought to an end.

### *A New Persian Force.*

A month ago, in reporting that the Persian Government had made an offer to take over the South Persia Rifles and that the offer had been rejected by Lord Curzon, we remarked that there was nothing to prevent the Persians' organizing a force on similar lines for themselves, if they had the ability to do so. Last week the Persian Legation announced that the Teheran Government is creating a new force to take the place of the Rifles, and that it had invited Great Britain to sell the arms and ammunition requisite for its armament. The Legation *communiqué* added that if the request were granted, there need be no fear of that tribal unrest in anticipation of which the British Consul at Shiraz had advised the withdrawal of British families from the district. But the request has not been granted, the British Government standing by its decision not to allow the S.P.R. arms and munitions to be taken over without a full guarantee of the purpose for which they would be used. It is a pity that such a reply should have to be given; for sooner or later the Teheran Government will probably get what it wants elsewhere, and meanwhile South Persia is likely to drift back into the anarchic state from which it had only recently emerged. But, failing guarantees such as those asked for, no other answer would have been wise: in all probability the arms and ammunition would have found their way to the North; the South would have been no better off; and we might ere long have had reason to regret our complaisance.

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### *The Moplah Rebellion.*

Another week has passed without any very obvious progress towards the final suppression of the rebellion in Malabar. An official telegram, indeed, suggested that we might expect shortly to hear of a decisive action, but so far the official *communiqués* have given no encouragement to that view, and the obscure position now assigned to them in the daily Press suggests that editors at least regard them as possessing little interest for the public. We do not, however, wish to suggest that any cause for pessimism exists. The area affected has been restricted, and the ground still held by the rebels must be regarded as a natural stronghold, the reduction of which must inevitably take time if useless sacrifices are to be avoided. It must also be borne in mind that Moplahs do not usually surrender even when their position has become untenable, so that some time may yet elapse before tranquillity is restored, and we can only express the hope that the delay will not be greatly prolonged.

### *Legislative Hustlers.*

There is something rather pathetic in the eagerness of the Indian Legislative Assembly, as shown in the recent debate, to speed up the transformation of the Constitution, and dismantle the whole scaffolding of dyarchy within a few months of its erection. The legislatures, both central and provincial, have made such a promising start that the eagerness of their members is easy to understand, and it seems almost churlish to say anything which might disillusion them, but at the same time we are bound to point out that they have not yet been put seriously to the test. The youngest offspring of the Mother of Parliaments are undoubtedly healthy and vigorous, but so far they have been nursed tenderly, perhaps too tenderly, by their guardians, and they have still practically all their troubles before them. For one thing, the members have not yet met their constituents, and even the boldest will hesitate to prophesy what will happen at the elections two years hence; but apart from the risk of a revolutionary change in personnel, there are dangers ahead which may easily turn either the legislatures or the constituencies into so many bear-gardens.

### *Dangers Ahead.*

It would be easy to make a long list of these dangers but a couple of examples will suffice. The Central Assembly has of late shown a tendency to engage in the reform by legislation of various social or religious customs, and in India that is very treacherous ground. The customs are doubtless out of date, but the fact is not universally admitted, and at any moment the subterranean forces of orthodoxy may be mobilised against the reformers, and the legislature find itself the scene of a conflict which may cause even its members to revise their views regarding its capacities. In the provincial councils again, a peck of trouble seems to be brewing over the excise administration. Members are almost necessarily prohibitionists, for the higher castes drink in secret when they drink at all ; and if they carry things too far, they may rouse the temper of the lower classes, who have as yet little direct representation, but who may suddenly decide to take an active part in politics if their chief luxury is threatened. It is in view of such possibilities as these that we think the legislatures would be well advised to be content for the present with the position they have already won. They need a large increase in the number of voters before they can safely use extended powers.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening.*

### A Discordant World.

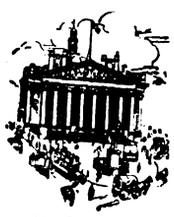
It has been a hectic week. On the Continent a sanguinary revolution in Portugal, the return of the ex-Emperor Karl, and the successive fall of the German mark and the German Government, have shown how far the world is still from settling down to a secure and stabilised civilisation. These facts have dashed the hopes of the optimists at home, who have professed to discern a gradual improvement abroad during the past year. Even in home affairs matters have not gone too smoothly.

### An Inquisitive Parliament.

The House of Commons was convoked with the idea that it should sit for a fortnight to say ditto to the Government's proposals on unemployment. But it showed no particular disposition to play so tame a part and is likely to enquire into the whole condition of trade, and to discuss thoroughly the very large proposals put before it. For the first time in our history the State has taken the responsibility of fostering trade by grants in aid—like a hospital—from national funds, a curious commentary on the general desire to curb the functions of the State in commerce which necessarily demands debate and may cause controversy. It is a departure from precedent that will have many curious reactions, quite apart from the immediate effects, which naturally are what mostly concern the Government and Opposition. Whether the immediate effects of these proposals—which now await constructive criticism—will be of great benefit remains to be seen ; there are some doubters. Their ultimate consequences may still be debated a generation hence.

### Ireland.

The Irish Conference continues, but it has taken a back seat in public notice, partly because the rule of secrecy at its meetings has been inviolably observed by both sides, and the Press has therefore had no indiscretions to report. Unfortunately there is another reason for the lack of interest in the Downing Street meetings. Official telegrams between the King and the Pope were published during the week, and since both expressed a desire for peace, it seemed impossible that the most extreme Sinn Feiner or the strongest Tory could take offence at their phraseology ; it is not yet an ethical or even a political crime to profess the wish to be at peace with one's neighbours. But Mr. de Valera obviously took it in bad part, and at once sent off a telegram to the Pope which must have embarrassed the Vatican, and has seriously jeopardised the chances of a



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successful outcome of the negotiations between Britain and Ireland. It could be read as nothing less than a claim for full republican independence, since it was a definite repudiation of the King, combined with the inevitable grievance against British methods, and a suggestion that underhand propaganda was being resorted to.

Seeing that the King was officially the prime mover in the road to peace, and that Mr. de Valera himself took part in the preliminary conferences this summer, and subsequently abandoned the claim for full independence in his prolonged correspondence with the Prime Minister, his intervention has been universally regarded as extraordinarily maladroit. It has been suggested in some quarters that its best explanation is as an outburst of petulance against his own party, who, for doubtless sufficient reasons, thought it best not to include him in the present Conference. That hypothesis would be preferable to the idea that the Conference was assented to in bad faith by the headquarters in Dublin. It is understood that the Government regard this episode with some anxiety.

However that may be, a feeling of pessimism and even of disgust has followed the optimism of a fortnight ago. It is too soon, of course, to say that the Conference will fail, but if this affair is repeated, its chances of success will not be great. The immediate reaction is that the strong Tory and Die-Hard group in the House of Commons, which is usually more vocal in the lobby than in the House itself, has raised its head. It demands an open discussion of the whole Irish position during the present sittings: the result of which would inevitably be the saying of many bitter things, and a political storm that would leave the atmosphere even more oppressive than it is now. Mr. Austen Chamberlain has addressed the Constitutional Club (which is one of the centres of discontent) with smooth words and the proverbial soft answer, but there are threats of revolt and slaughter within that terra-cotta building which do not bode altogether happily. The Conservatives, like Mr. Pickwick, are usually docile, but they talk now of "taking their coat off," like that respected hero, and they will need rather tactful handling. The fact that they have no real leader with any national following, so far from making things better, may make things worse. It is easier to deal with a recognised leader than with a mob.

**Bones, Bottomley, and an Acquittal,**

As if these things were not enough to fill the papers, the news has been full of legal and criminal matters. Mr. Bottomley is prosecuting a man for criminal libel in one court, and is being attacked in several others, on account of some prize lottery which he ran, and which seems to have got everybody concerned into difficulties; there have been whole columns of examination, cross-examination and re-examination, incidents between rival counsel, and scathing comments by magistrate and judge. At Cambridge there was a murder trial which ended in an acquittal, and the Isle of Wight has been excited by the discovery of some human bones in a garden. The experts declare that they came over with the Conquerer or thereabouts, and have been buried for centuries, but local opinion rejects this solution as too tame altogether, and prefers the idea of a recent crime, and a proper criminal hunt with the gallows at the end. One touch of gruesomeness makes the whole world kin. All the reporters in Fleet Street have been down to investigate the mystery, but after all they have failed to make those dry bones live as a news story.

**Grosvenor House for Sale.**

Another great London house is likely to go. The Duke of Westminster, who has just sold a couple of pictures for an enormous sum, is about to dispose of Grosvenor House in the near future. The pressure of taxation and the impoverishment of estates render it impossible to keep up these great houses; and most peers, faced with the inevitable, would rather sell their London than their country house. After all, even a Duke can find quite tolerable accommodation in a hotel. The change is bound, however, to have an effect not wholly for good on London society; we seem to be within measurable distance of a time when entertainments on the grand scale will be impossible in the capital. A more serious side of this tendency is that it will eventually provincialise the aristocracy; they may perhaps keep more in touch with their own estates—so long as they continue to hold them—but they will play less and less part in the high politics of the time, and consequently in the House of Lords. Anybody who wishes to see how far this change has already gone has only to look at a list of the Cabinets of fifty years ago, when the great nobles playe a large part in Parliament and the Government of the day, and contrast it with the present time, when the great bulk of the Cabinet consists of commoners. The aristocracy have not exactly abdicated, but their influence on affairs is certainly declining year by year.

**A Feminine Agitation.**

The past week has seen a real recrudescence of feminism, A local council has been in trouble because it has threatened to dismiss a lady doctor on her marriage; as her work is mainly concerned with women and children, it has exposed itself to the effective retort that marriage will make her more and not less acquainted with that type of practice.

But the real battle of the women has been waged at Cambridge. Oxford, which is inferior to Cambridge in many respects, has at least accepted women as part of the University; but Cambridge, while permitting women's colleges, will not grant women real degrees, and still refuses to allow them any actual share of the corporate life of the University. Some very ingenious arguments have, as usual, been put forward to prove that women would ruin the tone of the University; it is said that they are imitative and not constructive or intellectually creative—as though the average male don was ever anything more than a commentator on the commentators—and they have been told that they would do much better to go off somewhere and form a university for themselves—preferably in the Hebrides, I suppose.

On a pouring wet day last week country clergy and school masters of incredible antiquity arrived to vote the women down, while undergraduates indulged in a glorious rag in the streets, with a funeral procession symbolising the burial of the mere male by triumphant women. By a large majority women were again forbidden any part in the university life, but the campaign is not yet over. The ladies threaten to appeal to the Government to alter the law, and the unhappy Cabinet may yet have to appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into the constitution of Cambridge University. Meanwhile Oxford chuckles; it has so often been sneered at by Tabland as being mediaeval and the home of lost causes that it can hardly restrain a decent joy over the present perplexities of its rival.

**The Week's Book.**

The most important book of the week has been Professor J. W. Gregory's "Rift Valleys and Geology of East Africa" (Seeley Service) which covers more ground than its name implies, since it deals with the geological rift which begins in the Jordan Valley, runs through the Red Sea, and thence downwards through the Tanganyika and to the south of the Zambesi. It is thus one of the most unimportant features of the earth's crust, and this detailed survey will be a great use to prospectors and administrators, and many others than geologists. Despite the legends of Sodom and Gomorrah and other traditions, Professor Gregory arrives at the conclusion that this rift in the earth's surface is very ancient, and he gives at some length reasons for the belief that is in him.

OCELLUS.

Sennar Province, of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, has been renamed Fung Province, Fung being the dominant tribe. Sennar town and district have been transferred to the Blue Nile Province in order to bring the whole area covered by the Gezira irrigation scheme under one jurisdiction.

**TO OUR READERS IN INDIA.**

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, October 12.*

**Awaiting Developments.**

The spirit of the hour may be described as expectation mingled with trepidation. The whole country is nervously expectant concerning the result of the official negotiations in London. A section of the people, chiefly the literate classes, are awaiting the result of Zaghloul Pasha's visit to Assiout. The commercial community is watching the cotton market for hints as to the future; and almost the whole of the business community is awaiting further information relative to the coming tourist season, for which prospects are so wonderfully bright when everything is taken into account. It seems as if the present is a time when no one dare make plans. Everything depends upon the events of the next four weeks: Egypt will be friendly or hostile to Great Britain; Zaghloul Pasha will have indicated that he has a substantial section of the people with him, or he will have discovered that he has passed the zenith of his popularity and his influence; the cotton market will be buoyant or sagging. And we shall know whether the rosy prospects for a splendid winter season are to be realised.

**The London Negotiations.**

The latest news from London indicates that the crux of the negotiations is at hand. The respective plenipotentiaries are about to start upon the knotted tangle of the military occupation. That is what the negotiations have been reduced to. If this question can be settled, there is every hope of an amicable treaty. If not, Adly Pasha presumably will return with his delegation, and resign. Zaghloul Pasha's visit to Upper Egypt so far has been productive of one minor sensation. On the first day his steamer passed through continuous cheers from both banks of the Nile, even in spots where the only sign of man was the crop of maize stretching for miles along either side of the river. But on arrival at the first big town from Cairo—Beni Suef,—towards midnight, there was a strange silence; and it was not until the boat had been at anchor for three-quarters of an hour that four members of the reception committee appeared on the bank and related how the police and soldiers had picketed the banks and refused to allow any demonstration in favour of Zaghloul. Even the Nile boats which had been engaged to take the notables downstream to greet the party had been ordered to remain at their moorings. Strong telegrams of protest were at once sent to the Ministry of Interior and to the native papers in Cairo.

**The Sultan and Zaghloul Pasha.**

According to a report from a well-informed source, prominent Zaghloulists have recently made a determined effort to effect a reconciliation between the Sultan and Saad Pasha Zaghloul. It is stated that two of Zaghloul's most influential friends called at the Palace and hinted that as Sunday last was the anniversary of the Sultan's accession to the throne, and as there would be a big reception at Court, the Sultan might care to heal the breach by inviting Zaghloul to join the guests at Court. The Sultan refused, on the ground that it would not be consistent with his dignity if he took the initiative to secure the presence at Court of one of his subjects who had deliberately stayed away when all eyes were turned to see if the usual complimentary visit would be paid by that subject. Rumours, however, began to circulate that a reconciliation had been effected, but at the Acting Premier's reception, on Sunday evening, in honour of the anniversary, a high official from the Court intimated quietly to some of the most prominent guests that there had been no *rapprochement* between the Sultan and Zaghloul, and that there would not be one till Zaghloul abandoned his attitude of studied aloofness.

**The End of Summer.**

By recent steamers large numbers of officials and business people who had been abroad on leave returned. Cairo is rapidly filling up again, many familiar faces being noticeable, together with the van of the tourists. The Residency returns to Cairo in the last week of the month, in preparation for the return of the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby. The Ministries will also return at about the same time.

*Port Said, October 8.*

**Zaghloul Pasha's Visit.**

The visit of Zaghloul Pasha to Port Said, accompanied by his guests amongst the Labour *Wafd*, and several hundred of the riffraff of other parts of Egypt, passed off without any untoward disturbance. The speeches of the Pasha and the white men accompanying him showed the usual ignorance, or evasion, of the realities of the situation, and apparently did not make any great impression on the Egyptian population of the place. Port Said is entirely commercial, and the business community know the benefits of a strong and impartial rule, and apparently do not hanker after any change in the 'self-determination' direction. Of course if every individual were absolutely certain that in the event of 'independence' he would be made a Mudir or something of the sort, things would be quite different; but as in all probability, not even Zaghloul has promised him that, the average citizen of Port Said prefers to wait and see.

I have it on the best authority that the amount of money subscribed here for Zaghloul Pasha's party did not exceed four hundred pounds, a sum which probably just covered the hotel expenses of the party and the cost of the special train. One keen observer has likened Zaghloul's *penchant* for telegrams and special trains, to the same phase of megalomania (*anglice*, swelled-headedness), which was such a feature of the Kaiser's incipient madness.

**Harvest Festival.**

Last Sunday was kept here among the British community as a Harvest Festival, and the church was profusely decorated with fruits, flowers, and vegetables, which together with the eggs collected at the children's service in the afternoon, were sent to the British Hospital for the use of the third-class patients. In the evening a feature of the service was the anthem solo, "Consider the Lilies," sung with beautiful effect by Miss Nanine Roberts.

Lord Radstock left here a few days ago in the City of Exeter. He came out to Egypt soon after the war started, as the representative of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A., and did great work visiting the various Huts on all the Eastern fronts, sharing the life of the men in every way. He made one trip to Malta, and was torpedoed on the way. Returning to Egypt a few months later, he continued his work among the troops till after the Armistice, when, owing to the demobilization of the armies, he was able to devote himself to the

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holding of missions among the native churches in various parts of Egypt. He went about entirely unarmed, and generally unaccompanied by any European, being looked after by the native pastors, who also acted as his hosts and interpreters. He cut himself off from all official connection, and as a private person, though of high rank, was able to do an immense amount of real evangelistic work, as well as creating a better feeling towards the English among the natives of the country.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, October* 16

**A Welcome Sign.**

It is pleasant to find the *Obzor*, an organ of the Narodny Club, in Zagreb, appearing with a leading article in a strong pro-English vein. The writer chides his contemporaries, not for their constant paeans of gratitude to the French for their great services to Yugoslavia during the war, but for the scarcity or absence of such paeans of gratitude to the English, who did as much. He goes on to remark that we British do not advertise much; but, having done our job, quietly withdraw. He singles out in particular Sir Arthur Evans, Mr. Wickham Steed and Dr. Seton Watson, without the influence of whose support it is probable that the Union would never have been achieved, for the British were not educated up to the cry of "Delenda est Austria." And if ever any anachronism in Europe required deleting, it was certainly the "ramshackle empire."

**M. Pashitch versus M. Protitch.**

M. Pashitch has gone to Paris to confer with the King, who is shortly expected to return to his capital, and to exert all his influence against the allocation of Skutari to Albania. The news that this city has been allotted to the Arnauts is interpreted here as a diplomatic snub to M. Pashitch. It is generally maintained that M. Pashitch was willing to sacrifice Fiume if he could get Skutari, that is to say, he regarded the problem as a purely Balkan one; but now both are lost, and this fact gives his opponents an opportunity of saying that his foreign policy has been as great a failure as his Constitution, which has caused such discontent in parts of the country that there is a strong movement for revision, led by his own henchman M. Protitch. As a matter of fact, the outsider cannot feel very much sympathy for the loss of Skutari. Although it was built by the brothers, Mrnyavchevitch, the father and uncles of Marko Kralyevitch, Serbia's favourite hero, as the beautiful old tale tells us, and was the capital of the old Serbian state of the Zeta, the modern traveller looks in vain in that purely eastern town for any traces of Serbian influence to-day. The claim based on sentiment can hardly receive support in these days; the claim based on strategic considerations is another matter, but the key of the position is the famous hill of Tarabosh.

Parliament is due to re-assemble on the 20th, and probably M. Pashitch will be back by then, and it is to be hoped, the King as well. The Cabinet will have its hands full enough, with the Albanian question, the financial question, and the slump in the exchange, and the vigorous opposition led by M. Protitch, who is a redoubtable opponent. A stalwart Radical leader himself, he disclaims any intention of splitting his old party, but the effect of his action has been to stir up the Democrats. If it is true that he has secured the adhesion of the Narodny Club and also of Raditch, and the Bosnian Mohammedans join him too, as appears probable, he will have a strong backing: if this bloc comes to terms with the main mass of the Radical party, M. Protitch will have scored a remarkable personal triumph, and will certainly carry his policy of revising the Constitution, in favour of a reasoned form of federation such as he proposed last summer. That would be a shrewd blow to the Democratic party.

**M. Protitch's Policy.**

M. Protitch has just brought out the first number of his new paper, *Radikal*, which has been awaited with considerable interest. It is interesting to note that in his leading article, he refers to the possible eventual inclusion of Bulgaria in the union, but the obstacle, according to him, is the strong intermixture of Turkish and Tatar blood, as they themselves acknowledge in their upper levels, and in their north-eastern district, which has given them a different mentality, and in the fact that from their liberation by Russia they have been the whole time a plaything in the hands of foreign-intriguing politicians. Then referring to the union of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, he at once introduces his policy, which he set forth last year in his "Draft Constitution." He writes:—"Our people has been divided among several States, and administered in various methods, manners and systems . . . We are trying to unify into one simple mould a national life varied for hundreds of years, regardless of nature around us, and of the history of our own and of other peoples. Nature is one, but varied. And the State can be one, but must not and cannot, if it wishes to live a healthy and sound life, clothe all its citizens in one overcoat, and must not and cannot so abruptly change the *pelengire* (breeches) of Uzhitse for trousers, nor graft the life of a Shumadinats or Old Vlach on to that of a Croat of the Zagorje." This is also the cry of the Narodny Club, and will probably find a number of sympathisers in Serbia itself, but is in direct opposition to the "Greater Serbia" policy represented by M. Pashitch. As these two veteran Radicals have worked together for a generation, the situation is piquant, and it will be interesting to see whether M. Protitch will carry his party with him. If he does, and he is a strong man, he will succeed in forming a powerful coalition, with the support of the Croats, both of the Narodny Club and very likely of Raditch too, and of the Bosnian Mohammedans, and the Democrats will then find themselves in the chilly atmosphere of opposition, and perhaps may split into their component parts.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, October* 12.

**The Bid for Power.**

The negotiations between the Liberals and the Transylvanian National Party, for the purpose of forming a coalition, have now come to a deadlock, and in order to avoid a complete rupture between the parties have been suspended. The bone of contention is the demand of the Transylvanians that the Liberals should wind up their entire political organisation in Transylvania and in the Banat. The reason for this demand is to be sought in the fact that the Liberals have been recruiting among the former partisans of the Transylvanian National Party. In the event of collaboration the Liberal Party, being the more powerful and especially the richer of the two, would no doubt contrive to absorb a large portion of the members of the other Party. The Liberals contend that it would not be fair on their part to abandon their newly acquired partisans, and further, they consider the Transylvanians' demand to be equal to a claim of political autonomy in that province, which in principle they would not concede, nor would any other political party of the Old Kingdom. The deadlock between the two parties is naturally very favourable to the Government, which is still treating with the Tzaranists; it is even trying to win them over by offering them portfolios in the Cabinet, which in any case is expected to be rearranged before the re-opening of Parliament or immediately afterwards. The Tzaranist Party is stated to have been further strengthened recently by the adhesion of a certain section of the Socialists known as the Social-Peasant Party.

**The Anniversary of King Carol's Death.**

A requiem mass in commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the death of King Carol was celebrated with great solemnity on Sunday at Curtea d'Argesh, in the presence of the Royal Family, the members of the Cabinet and other high officials. On this occasion the 400th anniversary, the death of Voevod Neagoe Basarab was also celebrated. Basarab IV of Wallachia was the founder of the famous Cathedral of Curtea d' Argesh, which was renovated and embellished by King Carol.

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The cathedral is regarded as the finest monument in Roumania and is much admired for its architecture and its wealth of historical relics. It is also the mausoleum of Voevod Neagoe Basarab and his wife Despina, as well as of King Carol and Queen Elisabeth (Carmen Sylva).

**Street Mendicants.**

A frequent and displeasing sight of Bucharest was the large number of ragged beggars and tramps seen in the main thoroughfares of the capital. These have now disappeared as if by magic, thanks to the enforcement of the new regulation for suppressing public mendicity. Offenders were raided by the police and taken to a temporary home, where every case was investigated. It was ascertained that the majority of the mendicants were professional beggars, who found their trade a lucrative one. Many managed to hide in time and are now lying low, waiting for the authorities to become less energetic in the enforcement of the law ; others have emigrated to provincial towns, where the regulation has not yet been applied. Naturally, some deserving cases were found. Of these the aged are placed in homes, the sick interned in hospitals, and the physically fit are being given suitable work.

**Visit of Italian Students.**

About a hundred Italian students, accompanied by University professors, have for the last two weeks been visiting different towns in Roumania. On Thursday last they arrived in Bucharest and were very warmly welcomed by the authorities and the people of the capital. The Italians brought with them amongst other gifts the flag under which the Roumanian volunteers fought on the Italian front.

**Further Explosions.**

To-day at 11.30 a.m. a number of violent explosions were heard all over Bucharest. They took place at the Chitila-Chiajna forts, ten kilometres from Bucharest, and recall what happened two months ago at another fort near Bucharest. In the present case, a dump of 150 waggon-loads of all kinds of explosives—the larger part left behind by the German and Russian Armies in a deteriorated condition—were being sorted out by a number of soldiers, when by accident a case dropped to the ground and exploded. The rest of the dump also exploded, blowing up the entire fort. Minor explosions from shrapnel-shells and hand-grenades are still continuing and will do so for many more days, for the forest close to the forts is on fire and is spreading the disaster. Owing to the danger the authorities have not yet been able to approach the *débris* for further investigations. Many of the houses and factories on the outskirts of Bucharest have been damaged by pieces of shrapnel and concrete. Up to now there are rumours of fifteen dead, fifteen wounded, and about twenty missing, presumably buried under the ruins of the forts.

**General News.**

M. Take Jonescu returned to Bucharest on October 11, after a two months' stay abroad.

M. Argetoianu, Minister of the Interior, also returned from abroad last week, and M. Titulescu, Minister of Finance, is expected back towards the end of this week.

M. Emanoil Porumbaru, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, under the Liberal Government at the time when Roumania entered the war, died on October 11, at the age of 76. He will be accorded a national funeral.

The law for compulsory school attendance has recently been introduced in Bessarabia, so that from October the parents of children who do not attend school regularly will be fined two lei per day for every child. This is still a very small fine considering the present high cost of agricultural labour.

A railway collision took place on Thursday last at Topletz stations on the Orshova-Temesvar line, owing, it is said, to the negligence of the railway officials of that station in allowing a Bucharest passenger train to enter the line already occupied by a goods train. The two engines and three trucks were badly damaged. There was fortunately nobody killed, but a dozen passengers were more or less severely injured. The railway officials responsible for the collision have been arrested.

The controversy over some three hundred Roumanian subjects forcibly detained in Budapest having now been satisfactorily settled, the Roumanian Consul at Budapest is once more affixing the *visé* on Hungarian passports for Roumania.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October 16.*

**The New British Minister.**

The Honourable W. A. F. Erskine, presented his credentials as Minister Plenipontenary and Envoy Extraordinary to King Boris on Wednesday, the 12th. The occasion was marked by the usual ceremonial, and two State carriages, accompanied by an escort of cavalry, were sent to bring Mr. Erskine and his staff from the British Legation to the Royal Palace. M. Tourlakoff, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, was in attendance on the King, whose reply to the somewhat short address of the British Minister was couched in the usual terms.

Some of the Sofia newspapers have commented on the apparent coldness of the new Minister's address, and have judged it an opportune moment for reviewing the relations between Great Britain and Bulgaria. For it is generally agreed that relations are good, and although one newspaper says that no undue warmth has been shown by Great Britain towards Bulgaria since the Armistice, the same newspaper seems to forget that it is only three years ago since we were at war, and even the notoriously " quick to forget " English race take a little time to get over the surprise that was caused by the decision of ex-King Ferdinand and his Cabinet to enter the war on the side of Germany. It is considered, however, that there are indications in the recent tone of the English Press that public opinion is gradually beginning to weary of a pro-Greek policy, and is asking what we shall gain by encouraging the Venizelist dream of a Greater Greece. Public opinion usually has its way in the long run, and it will surely do no harm if in the future we hold out a rather more helpful hand towards our ex-foe, who still cherishes a great admiration and respect for the country that did so much to free her from the yoke of the Turk.

**The Trial of the Radoslavoff Cabinet.**

The trial of the Cabinet of M. Radoslavoff, which was in power when war was declared in September 1915 has begun. The charge against the accused is that they were responsible for plunging the country into a war which has led to such disastrous consequences, and some of the ex-Ministers are accused of corruption. Two military officers, General Jekoff, late Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and General Boyajieff, First Army Commander, are also being tried ; so the total number of accused is brought up to thirteen, of whom nine were actually present, the absentees being M. Radoslavoff and Boyajieff (who are in Germany and Austria respectively, and refuse to return), and M. Bakaloff, ex-Minister of Commerce, who is ill, whilst General Jekoff was en route for Bulgaria and arrived yesterday. The trial is being held in the " Slavianska Beseda " which in ordinary times is a theatre ; there are seven Crown Judges convened to try the accused ; and the former are assisted by a male jury of twelve persons, who were specially elected by the people. Eleven of the twelve jurymen are peasants, and it was a somewhat curious sight to witness the swearing-in of the jury, who, attired in their picturesque peasant costume, formed an expectant circle around the officiating priest. The most interesting figure among the accused is M. Toncheff, ex-Finance Minister, who, besides being charged with having been responsible for the catastrophe, has to face grave charges of alleged bribery and corruption. It is said that M. Toncheff is the richest man in Bulgaria, but nevertheless his local bank account shows a credit balance of only 200 levas, and it would appear that all his reputed wealth is safely out of the country.

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Whilst everyone is agreed that the trial of the Radoslavoff Cabinet was necessary, it is at the same time greatly to be regretted that M. Radoslavoff himself has been able to take refuge in Germany. He was Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs when war broke out, and was very largely responsible for making the ex-King decide to throw in his lot with Germany. He will be tried *in contumaciam*. The action of General Jekoff in returning of his own free will is in striking contrast with the attitude of M. Radoslavoff, and quite a wave of popular enthusiasm has spread over the country at the behaviour of the late Generalissimo. Jekoff has being living in dire poverty abroad, and although he is expected to make some startling revelations concerning the later stages of the war, it is not likely that these will affect to any great extent the views of the Judges towards him. The prosecution is in the hands of M.M. Yaneff and Stoyanoff, and it is understood that a great many witnesses, including M. Malinoff, who was Prime Minister at the time of the Armistice, will be called upon to give evidence.

**General News.**

M. Stambolisky returned to Bulgaria from Geneva yesterday and has gone away to the village of Pavlienki, where the celebration of the jubilee of M. Tsanko Bakaloff, the 'Poet Minister' is being held.

A considerable amount of wheat has recently been bought by the Co-operative Societies of the Communists in Bulgaria. This wheat is intended for the starving Russian people. The Bulgarian Communists are evidently well supplied with money, as they are paying a high price for the grain they have bought; and have thus come in for some criticism from the Bourgeois parties, who point out that a short time ago the Communists were protesting against the increased price of bread in Bulgaria, and now it is they who are forcing up the price owing to the fancy prices they are willing to pay.

## GREECE.

*Athens, October* 15.

**The British Football Club.**

At a meeting held this week at the British Club here, it was decided to continue the football club which had a very successful season last year. The British Minister, Earl Granville, was elected Hon. President, and Admiral Smith one of the vice-Presidents. Commander Rode was elected Captain, and Mr. J. H. Clarke vice-captain of the team, which will again compete in the League instituted by Colonel Mayes last year. Last season the Club finished third in the League, and would, in all probability have obtained a better position but for the weakening of the team owing to absentees in one of the most important matches.

While the loss of such sterling players as Messrs. S. S. Scott, H. Bates, and W. Morton, who have returned or are shortly returning to England, is much to be regretted, it is hoped that the new Naval Mission, which is to arrive about the middle of November, will provide some good recruits, and that the British will succeed in carrying off the honours this year. The thanks of all are due to Commander Rode for the manner in which he looked after the Club last season, and his election as captain for the present season was a very popular one.

**Punishment of General Dousmanis.**

The Chief of Staff, General Dousmanis, upon taking up his appointment in Athens after his return from the Asia Minor front, published an "Ordre du Jour" which, however, was not approved by the Government, for it was considered, in some of its terms, as contravening military discipline. The Minister of War promptly obtained the King's signature to a Royal Decree placing General Dousmanis on the retired list. At the same time the Chief of the Army Recruiting Department, Colonel Spyropoulos, published an open letter accusing the Commandant of the Military region of Athens of arbitrarily arresting persons whose military status had been satisfactorily established, and sending them by the first steamer to the Asia Minor front. As a result of this the Government decided to punish Colonel Spyropoulos by placing him on the retired list.

**M. Stergiadis.**

The High Commissioner of Greece at Smyrna, M. Stergiadis, who had come to Athens to collaborate with the Government with regard to the measures to be taken for the administrative organisation of the occupied regions in Asia Minor, has returned to Smyrna. He has been given full powers to enforce a system of administration which would be considered suitable for the newly occupied territories. These have been divided into thirty-six districts or "Kazas," each of which will be placed under the administration of a sub-prefect who will be nominated by the High Commissioner himself, and chosen from amongst the most capable officials at his disposal.

**Personal.**

Rear Admiral Aubrey Smith, who is replacing Admiral Kelly as Head of the British Naval Mission to Greece, arrived in Athens last week. He was presented to the Minister of Marine, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs by Admiral Kelly on Monday. The latter is leaving Athens either to-day or tomorrow.

Prince Andrew, accompanied by his two daughters, has left for Corfu.

The General Manager of the Bank of Athens, M. John Eliasco, has returned from Western Europe, and has resumed his duties at the Bank.

M. Costas Eliasco, sub-Manager of the Bank of Athens, has left for Paris.

## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, October* 13.

**A Critical Time.**

The situation is very interesting and even critical. The Chamber has reassembled after its holiday, and has held some agitated sittings, its legislative activities being

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carried on amidst difficulties, and with minds preoccupied by the political situation, which has lost nothing of its seriousness.

Albania has won the sympathy of the Assembly of the the League of Nations, as Lord Robert Cecil announced publicly at the sitting of October 2; and the assurance is a great moral help to the Albanians, who have noted with satisfaction the statement regarding the moderation of their demands. Unfortunately, however, the Assembly has no power in the matter, the Council of the League having handed this matter over to the Conference of Ambassadors; and all that has been gained at Geneva is the despatch of a Commission to conduct enquiries on the spot. Such a commission would have been very useful if it had been sent at once, but apparently it will not leave Geneva until November 1, and will not begin to function until after the Ambassadors' Conference has taken its decision. Meanwhile the state of uncertainty continues, with the inevitable crop of rumours attaching to it. Great demonstrations have taken place against any eventual yielding of Albanian territory. Any territorial rectification or any granting of rights over the country to Italy would be opposed to the last, and any Government that should agree to them would risk being overthrown—when the country might drift into a state of anarchy.

### Serbs Invade Albania.

Some twenty days ago grave events began to develop on the Serbo-Albanian frontier. The Serbs opened an attack—with artillery and with ex-Russian soldiers of General Wrangel's Army—on the Albanian villages of Aras, Dardha, Muher and Singa. The Serbians represented to the League of Nations that these villages lie beyond what they call the Armistice Line, while the Albanians maintain that they are and always have been under Albanian administration. At the time of writing the Serbs are attacking fresh positions.

*Tirana, October 20.*

### The New Government.

The new Cabinet has just been formed, the downfall of the old one being due to the difficulties caused by the uncertain political situation and particularly by Serbian activities on the frontier. Moreover, Ilias Bey Vrioni had long wished to retire from office owing to his bad health. The task of forming the new Cabinet has fallen upon Pandeli Evangeli, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is now President of the Council and holds the portfolio for Foreign Affairs; M. Zogolli becomes Minister of War, M. Michel Mosi of Public Instruction, M. Bayran Fevzi of the Interior, M. Constantin Tasi of Justice, M. Ahmed Dakli of Finance, and M. Zia Dibra of Public Works.

With the exception of M. Pandeli Evangeli and M. Zogolli all these men are young and have only just come into prominence. The character of the new Government is democratic and liberal. To-day the Premier sketched out his programme before Parliament; he, like the old Cabinet, proclaims the maintenance of the Albanian frontiers of 1913.

### Serbian Attacks.

In spite of the representations made to Belgrade by Great Britain, France, and Italy, the Serbs have continued their activities on the frontier. Yesterday they took possession of Oboti on the Boyana, seven kilometres from Skutari, thus cutting the communications between the town and the sea by the river. On the Eastern side they have invaded the whole of the Malissia, which forms the prefecture of Buria. The population is fleeing panic-stricken to Skutari.

Here the thought is expressed that the comedy played by the Great Powers in their denial of the Albanian frontiers has begun to change into tragedy, and it is even asked whether it is not these Powers themselves who are encouraging the Serbs to invade Albania. The winter is approaching and the Albanians find themselves exposed to terrible sufferings.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, October 4.*

### The Question of Hotels.

The scarcity of good hotels has always been one of the principal reasons why so few travellers comparatively have visited the island. For Europeans it can never compete with other resorts until more hotels are established. As far back as 1882 an Englishman from Alexandria with an ample backing, came over to arrange for the construction of one that would suit the requirements of the British Colony in Egypt, and matters were proceeding satisfactorily when the Arabi outbreak and its consequences put an end to the scheme. The late Mr. George Nungovich of hotel fame in Cairo, who was a Cypriot, was prepared to build and run a large hotel on Mt. Troodos, but only on conditions which the local authorities could not concede. Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son would have included Cyprus in some of their programmes, had island circumstances been less behind the age. This year there has been some talk of schemes which would place Cyprus on a level with other countries as regards up-to-date hotels. During the summer some 3,000 visitors have sought rest and change in the island. Some have failed to find suitable accommodation, others have complained of discomfort and lack of proper supplies; and others again of exorbitant charges and grasping landlords. It will be time to say more as to the development of a tourist trade when some more hotels are built. There is no reason why Cypriot capital should not be invested in the enterprise. For the present the influx of visitors is only during the heat of summer, *i.e.*, for three or four months; so that hotel keepers have to make what profit they can in that period. But in Spring and Autumn travelling in the island is delightful, and the winter climate is admirable, so that, if all goes well with the island, hotels ought to do well enough as soon as their existence and the many attractions of Cyprus become better known. Better steam communication is also required, and this should come concurrently with trade expansion. It is to be hoped that the needs of Cyprus will not be overlooked in connection with Mr. Churchill's schemes of Crown Colony developments.

### Letter from M. J. Gennadius.

The Nicosia *Voice of Cyprus* (*Phone tes Kyprou*), published lately extracts from a letter it has received from M. J. Gennadius, late Greek Minister in London, regarding the preservation of objects of antiquity, especially those of Christian epochs, which should not be allowed to leave the island. He refers to various objects sold at auction even quite recently in London which were evidently obtained from Cyprus, including Greek ecclesiastical manuscripts. "Do not," he says "blame the alien plunderings. Everyone is justified in buying any object of value that is offered for sale. Rather blame and punish the priests and superintendents of churches which they have sacrilegiously robbed, and the monks who do nothing themselves, but sell away what is valuable in the holy monastery which shelters and nourishes them." Such plundering still goes on. "If we ourselves" he says, "show such indifference, who shall respect our national aspirations?"

### The Government School of Agriculture.

The Government is doing its best to induce suitable students to enter this school at Nicosia. The synopsis of studies for a three years' course is published. Boys of 15 and upwards are admitted. Preference is given to those who have already received a good education in colleges and gymnasia, and all must have been educated up to a certain standard. The school provides lodging and light, and 12 piastres (1s. 4d.) a day. Studies for the coming term begin on October 15. When more is done for agriculture in general, the prospects of pupils should be brighter than they are at present.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## "BEDOUIN."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—As I have been, in my time, among those who thought that the word Bedouin was already a plural, until I learnt that it was derived from a French form of the Arabic singular, I hope you will permit me to substantiate my letter printed in your last issue (p. 483). I have consulted the Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic, Prof. A. A. Bevan, and he has kindly allowed me to quote his statement:

"With regard to the origin of the French Bédouin, it is ,of course, well known thet there exists in Arabic a plural termination *-in*, and that in *literary* Arabic the word *badawi* would form a genitive and accusative plural *badawiyina* or *badawiyin*. But in modern times the plural of *badawi* seems to be *bidwan* (a so-called "broken" plural), and accordingly it seems to me evident that the French Bedouin is from the singular *badawi*, just as the French *Rabbini* corresponds to the Hebrew *Rabbi*, and the French *Moghrebin* to the Arabic *Magharbi*."

I am, etc.,
STANLEY A. COOK.

26, Lensfield Road, Cambridge.

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*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—In justice to your correspondent, "S.A.C." in to-day's issue, I must say he is correct. "Bedouin" is a French singular form, the plural of which is "Bedouins."

The Arabic singular Badawi or Badawi, makes its plural Badawiyoun in the nominative case, and Badawiyin in the accusative and genitive, which *colloquially* is shortened into "Badawin," but never in *writing*. In writing we mostly say "Arab Al-badu."

The French may originally have taken this colloquial form, and forgot that it was the original of their Bedouin.

In the same way the French Academy is exercised over their definition of "Midinettes," whereas it is a survival of "Medinet," a pure Arabic word for maiden.

I am, etc.,
A. SEFI.

School of Oriental Studies, October 20, 1920.

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## THE CASE OF THE DODECANESE.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—I protest most vigorously against the expulsion of His Grace, Kyrios Apostolos, Metropolitan of Rhodes and Primate of the Dodecanese. This new pattern of Italian misrule in the Dodecanese reminds us of Germany's treatment of Abbé Wetterlé and Cardinal Mercier. The Metropolitan has been exiled to Patmos (the island of the Apocalypse) because he abstained from being present at the reception of the Crown Prince of Italy on his arrival at Rhodes. In such case, the Italians ought to exile all the Greeks of Rhodes, because, as I understand, with the exception of the Turks and the Jews not a single Greek of the town of Rhodes and the forty-four villages of the island took part inthe feasts which were held in honour of the Prince of Piedmont.

A month ago, when Count Bosdari, the new Governor, visited the Dodecanese he was presented by the inhabitants with votes not of welcome but of protest against the Italian occupation. Now, it has been the turn of the young heir of King Vittorio to know the truth himself; that his countrymen are not wanted in the Dodecanese.

I am, etc.,
Theodore D. Moscona.

Dodecanesian Delegation, Manchester, October 21.

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## A SUGGESTED ANGLO-PERSIAN POLICY.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The denunciation of the Anglo-Persian Agreement of August 9, 1919, the return of the British Financial Adviser, the victorious resistance of the Turks in Asia Minor (which has again raised the prestige of Turkish nationalism), the new political situation in Afghanistan, the intrigues which the Turks are carrying on in that country, as well as in India, and the ever growing threat of Bolshevism, have led me to make the following remarks on the present situation.

In a work on European Policy in Persia (1) which I recently published, I considered in detail the policy of Great Britain, and I unfortunately arrived at the conclusion that British diplomacy has frequently taken a wrong course in Persia. I have endeavoured to find the cause of the failure, which was, perhaps, due to force of circumstances. In the presence of rival Powers such as Russia and Germany, England was sometimes obliged to sacrifice us Persians to secure her own interests. But once the Russian and German Empires were broken, we believed that the British Government would in all sincerity give us real support, both in our and her own interests. What has been done? The Congress of Paris was prevented from hearing the Persian Delegation, and there was concluded the well-known Agreement of August 9, 1919. This diplomatic instrument was useless and prejudicial to British interests—useless, because Great Britain could have derived all the economic and other advantages without the Agreement, and without this Agreement the friendship of Great Britain and Persia would have been strengthened; prejudicial, because it raised public opinion in Persia and elsewhere against Great Britain, and thus helped to bring about its failure.

To sum up the situation, the Agreement of 1919 has been denounced, the English Financial Adviser has been released and with him have disappeared the last traces of the Treaty. Persia who had hitherto considered Great Britain as a friend, is to-day thoroughly annoyed. There is abundant proof that the policy followed by the British Foreign Office since 1919 has not been the best. The same remark can be said of the Persian Government. Let us for the moment draw conclusions from the past with regard to future policy.

Speaking frankly Persia is to-day surrounded by four neighbours in regarding whom the Teheran Government must adopt a definite policy for a long period. The neighbours are Russia, Turkey, Afghanistan and the British Empire, without mentioning Armenia, the Baku State or the so-called "Azerbaijan Republic," and the Kingdom of Irak. Russia certainly is a permanent danger to Persia, since its frontiers adjoin, and it is a Power which naturally expands. And after all it is not expected that the lamb can form an alliance with the wolf. Turkey, I wish to say frankly, is the greatest danger Persia has yet experienced. She is a permanent national peril to us. Since the legendary wars between Turan and Iran, sung by Ferdousy, to the invasions of Tamerlan and Gengis Khan and the contests of Safavis with the Ottomans, the Turco-Mongols have been considered as our hereditary enemies. But to-day the Turkish danger is greater than ever, manifesting itself under the forms of *Panturanianism* and *Panislamism*, which are one. If the Afghans and Indian Mohammedans are led by the Panturanians of Angora, Persians will have nothing to do with them. The object of the Turkish Nationalists is to suppress Armenia, to incorporate the "Republic of Baku" which they have purposely called "Azerbaijan" in order to confound it gradually with the Persian province of Azerbaijan, to pass the Caspian Sea, to annex in one way or the other Turkestan and the "Turkish" portion of Afghanistan. The remaining parts of Persia and Afghanistan will then become vassal States, satellites of "Great Turkey." The Turkish danger is not merely a temporary political threat, it is a national danger for all the Iranian peoples: Persians, Afghans, Kurds, Baluchs, Tats, Tajiks, etc.

Afghanistan is the Eastern neighbour of Persia. Inhabited by a people of Iranian race and language it cannot be regarded with distrust. The only disquieting thing is the Turkish influence at the Court of Kabul. The Turanian danger threatens Afghanistan as well as Persia. They are the two great representatives and defenders of the Iranian race. But the Afghans are perpetually told that the Persians are Shiahs whilst they are Sunnis like the Turks. The name of "Panislamism" is used to destroy the roots of what might be called "Paniranism" which is the union (I mean 'moral' and not 'political') of all Iranians in the presence of the Turkish danger.

The fourth neighbour is the British Empire, but this does not mean England. For India cannot be considered an extension of Great Britain; it does not stand in the same position as the Caucasus and even Turkestan in regard to Turkey and Russia. It is not unknown that to-day certain Indians are working with foreign help to overthrow British rule in India, and if allowed to expand, it is possible to foresee a separation. Neither Persia nor Afghanistan, in my opinion, has any interest in helping to bring about this eventuality. The departure of the English from India

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would mean civil war in this vast country, troubles on our frontiers, and serious injury to our trade and to our whole economic system. Neither Persia nor Afghanistan must have any political or territorial ambition in regard to India. The energy and activity of the two countries should be devoted to internal reforms, to public education, and so on. For to-day a nation is great only through a degree of higher moral and material civilisation.

Since Persia does not desire to see the position of Great Britain in India shaken, and since England has every interest in making Persia a friend and fellow-worker, it becomes evident that a new political relationship between the two nations must be inaugurated. The present state of things in Persia necessitates the help of England, and the latter in her own interest should take the opportunity and follow an entirely frank and friendly line of conduct. Had not the English by the Agreement of 1919 excited Persia, she would have demanded in preference to any other Power British advisers for a large number of departments. We proved this in 1911 when we asked for the services of Major Stokes, British military attaché in Teheran.

We hope that the British Government will form a truer conception of its real interests, which in my opinion are identical with those of Persia, and on the other hand that the Government of Teheran, looking ahead and giving up the "hand to mouth policy" will adopt a more truly rational course, and that the two Governments will endeavour to conclude a new treaty which will not infringe on the self-respect of Persia and will enable her to work peacefully on for her regeneration.

I am, etc.,
Dr. Mahmoud Afschar.

118 Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.

(1) "Politique Europeenne en Perse."—(*London: Lusac & Co*)

(Our correspondent inveighs against the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1919, but neither in his letter nor in his recently published book does he substantiate his objection. The Agreement was a perfectly natural method of recording a friendly arrangement between the two countries. Dr. Afschar makes a quite unjustifiable insinuation in suggesting that "Great Britain could have derived all the economic and other advantages without the agreement." Great Britain sought no advantages and stood to derive no advantages from the agreement other than the indirect benefit accruing from a stable and progressive Persia. There was not a word nor a clause in the Agreement which was not entirely in harmony with the recommendations that Dr. Afschar now makes in the last paragraph of his letter. The Agreement did not raise public opinion in Persia against Great Britain; but public opinion in Persia, having taken a strong anti-British line, fastened upon the Agreement, and its denunciation provided the Persians with the only definite political goal which they were capable of holding before themselves. Dr. Afschar in his "Politique Européenne en Perse" made himself the spokesman of this foolish policy.

We gather from his letter that he has now realized that such a policy can only lead Persia more deeply into the morass of her own undoing, and that Great Britain alone has the goodwill and the power to save Persia from herself. On this point we are in entire agreement with him, as he is echoing what "The Near East" has always maintained. We would suggest, however, that Dr. Afschar will be rendering his country a greater service by preaching to his own countrymen and proclaiming among them his conversion rather than by pressing advice upon Great Britain. The next move is with Persia. Ed.)

## THE AROMOUNI OR KUTZO-VLACHS.

The traveller in Macedonia often sees swarthy men, of light but active build, usually engaged in wandering, or in tending flocks, in picturesque and peculiar costume. If he asks what they are he will be told "Aromouni," so that he frequently confuses them with the Romani, or Gipsies. They are, however, no relation of the Chinganieh, but are better known as Kutzo-Vlachs or Tsintsars. The former word means Lame Vlachs, that is, they are not true Roumanians, while the latter is an imitation of their language in which the sound "ts" occurs so frequently. But as both these names, which are constantly used by their neighbours the Greeks and the Slavs, are contemptuous, it is better to follow Cviyitch, and call them by the name which they use themselves, Aromouni, which means simply Romans, as does Roumanian, with whom they are akin.

Apart from the work of Thompson and Wace, and passing references to them in books on the Balkans, as, for instance, in Odysseus' classical "Turkey in Europe," there is little about them in English. This is strange, because they are a most interesting race. They are the survivors of the ancient Thracian tribes who were civilised by the Roman conquest and accepted the Latin language, of which their present-day speech is a descendant. There is an oft-quoted record of a muleteer in one of Rome's countless expeditions in the Balkans crying out to a comrade: "Torna, torna, fratre!" which is usually interpreted as meaning "Look round, brother!" but it more probably means "it is turning, brother," *i.e.*, the saddle is slipping round, for then as to-day, the Aromounes were specialists in pack-transport, which is still the main means of carrying goods in the Balkan peninsula.

They are a people almost without a national sense, a strange phenomenon, especially in the Balkans, where ethnic passions are so fierce. Their nearest approach to an appearance on the stage of history is in the XIIth Century, when a blend of Vlachs and Bulgars founded the Asen dynasty of Bulgaria, but here they are absorbed in the history of that Slavo-Tatar state. Formerly they extended over all the central and eastern Balkans, touching on the west the Illyrian tribes who survive in the Albanians of to-day. They formed a majority of the population in Thessaly and Aetolia, which were once known as Great and Little Valachia. There is a White Valachia in the northern part of the peninsula. They were known in Thrace in the XIIIth Century, and are recorded as early as the XIth in the Dobruja, where they connected up with their kinsmen the Roumanians. In mediaeval documents they are referred to as *Vlachs*, *Vlah* or *Vlasi*, which is connected by some with the Teutonic word *Welsch*, and our *Welsh*, meaning Strangers. To this day the Poles call the Italians Wlochy and Italy Wloszka. They are frequently referred to in ancient chronicles as dwelling in the mountain of southern Serbia and near Prizren. But in the Middle Ages the name of Vlah had already begun to lose its ethnical sense and come simply to mean shepherd, and was indiscriminately applied by the Turks to Greeks, Aromouns, and Slavs alike.

They are disappearing because they have been for centuries absorbed by their neighbours and so lost their identity. They seldom accept Islam, though there is a small colony of Mohammedan Vlachs in Eastern Macedonia near Meglen, who mingled with the Pachenegs, a Tatar tribe, and turned Mohammedan about two centuries ago. They have been largely assimilated by the Greeks and by the Serbs and Macedonian Slavs. Cviyitch has pointed out that of all Balkan peoples, it is the Aromouns and the Greeks who have been most profoundly impressed by the old civilisation of Byzantium, and to-day they betray many of its modern characteristics. They are most numerous in the Pindar mountains, where in the XVIIIth Century there were over half a million of them. To-day there are but about 150,000 or 160,000 left in their old stronghold. A few more are scattered about the mountains of the southern portion of the peninsula, from the Stara Planina in Serbia, and in Bulgaria to the Peloponnese. In the Sredna Gora in Central Bulgaria we find traces of an Aromoun colony, which was finally absorbed in the XIXth Century: they have left their impression in the place names of Latin sound, as Bunaya, Ursulica and others and in the type of village seen at Klisura, Kotel, Zheravna, and also on the mentality of the natives, who are far more vivacious, music-loving and imaginative than the stolid Bulgars of Tatar origin.

They are the last surviving purely European nomads, for the Kalmycks of Eastern Russia can be regarded as Asiatics, and are mostly engaged in cattle-breeding. Their headquarters are usually situated at an altitude of from 800 to 1,000 metres, and consists of closely-packed villages, where they spend the summer months, and leave their womenfolk and children when the men go down to the plains in the autumn, covering vast distances either to graze their flocks, or in petty trading, the *pechalba*. They reach the shores of the Aegean, and more rarely the Adriatic, and the plains of Greece. A few occur along the highways of the Balkans, engaged in petty commerce or plying the trade of inn-keeper, like the Greeks.

Though light of build, and very different from the heavily-framed Slav, they are lithe and active. In the great labour camps employed by the British Army in Macedonia, an infusion of Aromouns in winter had a

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marked effect upon the work, for they were far more energetic and hard-working than the half-starved Greek refugees from Thrace and Anatolia who formed the bulk of the labour. These had but the vaguest idea of how to use a pick and shovel, but some Aromouns set them the example, and taught them how to throw a spadeful of earth over their shoulders. When they returned to their eyries in the spring, they were missed by the British sappers in charge. The younger ones, lithe lissom lads, with springy, elastic walk of mountaineers, reminded one of athletic English schoolboys.

Such culture as they have is almost entirely Greek, and they all speak Greek as well as their own language. During the ten years or so before the Balkan wars, Roumania, not wishing to be excluded from the great game of propaganda which was being so vigorously played in Turkish Macedonia, opened a few schools and taught them that they were Roumanians, but the total influence has been almost negligible. Their language is a variant of Roumanian, with a large admixture of Greek and Turkish words, but much less Slav, and is really a pure Latin dialect.

They marry young, and the bride is usually considerably older than the bridegroom. One shock-haired youth in a British camp once asked for a week-end leave. "What for?" enquired his officer. "To get married" replied the boy. "But you are only a child!" "I am fifteen" remonstrated the lad. "And how old is the bride?" asked the Englishman curiously. "Twenty. Why, if I waited till I were an old man of twenty, no girl would look at me" said the boy, "and besides, I want a woman who can look after me." The next day the wedding procession passed the camp. The bride in all her glory was riding a tiny donkey. On the third day the bridegroom was back in camp. He had sent his bride back to her people for a month, while he earned some more drachmae by his *pechalba*.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

### The Opera Season.

The opera season in London was begun on October 7 by the Carl Rosa Company at Covent Garden with a performance of Saint-Saens' "Samson and Deliah." It is said that this opera was chosen as a *première* on account of its popularity in this country, but why it should be popular is difficult indeed to discover. There is practically no music in it that is really individual, and nothing at all, apart from an aria or two, that is memorable. Its attractiveness must therefore be in its non-musical side, a side on which, it must be confessed, the management had not exercised too much imagination, though at once the exception must be made of the final note of the drama, in which Samson pushes down the walls of the temple and the Philistines perish in its ruins. This climax was wonderfully staged and retrieved the opera of its monotony. As a whole the performance was quite adequate, though certain weaknesses such as the lack of tone in the choral singing and in the representation of Abimelech could have been more easily forgiven if the opera itself had been first-rate, for the company knows its repertoire thoroughly.

### Pianists.

Bluntly, I was disappointed in Mr. Herbert Fryer's pianoforte playing at his recital at the Æolian Hall, on October 19. At the last Bach Festival he played splendidly, but here in a Chopin programme dullness reigned almost supreme There are certain things to be said of him, however; he had recently injured his finger, and the instrument he was using was an inferior one. His pianoforte had little beauty of tone, and, though perhaps Mr. Fryer was too sparing in his use of the sustaining pedal, the response of this member, most important in Chopin, was extremely poor. It is better to wait until his following recitals on November 9 and 15, to write at greater length.

Miss Mabel Dawkins, who gave a recital at the Æolian Hall on October 19, belongs to that type of young pianist, unhappily fast increasing, which should not perform in public at all. That she had received sound technical tuition was possible, but of musical intelligence there was scarcely the slightest trace. Beethoven's Sonata in E flat (Op. 81.a.) was done perfunctorily and with no architectural sense, and coming after a vapid "Ballade" of Tobias Matthay, its effect was doubly unpleasant. Debussy's two "Arabesques" were remarkable for their perversions of the rhythm, though it was not unamusing to watch Miss Dawkins' sprints down the straight whenever a *stringendo* passage was approached. She was assisted by Captain Heyner, who sang some English songs pleasantly enough, but with hardly enough art to dispel the prevailing gloom.

### John Coates.

It is doubtful whether the greatness of John Coates is sufficiently recognised in this country. His art in singing and his efforts to advance the cause of song are not easily paralleled in any country. I do not pretend that such a recital as he gave at the Chelsea Town Hall on October 18—the third recital devoted to the songs of twenty English contemporary composers—had not many points of weakness, but the defects arose rather from generosity than from misconception or shortcomings. It is extraordinary how he can make a bad thing seem good, though one has learned now to suspect his powers of wizardry. There were bad songs in his recital, *e.g.* Cowen's "At the mid-hour of night," Herbert Brewer's "An idyll," and Landon Ronald's "Love in Dreams," but he easily persuaded his audience that this was not so. The most interesting of his newer songs was Orry Corjeag's setting of A. E. Housman's magnificent "Epitaph" (Ypres No. 1), a setting almost inevitably inferior to the verse but sincerely attempting to the proud strength of the poem. Another unpublished song was Hurlstone's "That time is dead for ever," which has a striking, recurrent conception and a few good points of detail, but as a whole was disappointingly poor. In other songs, like "Immanence" or "An inconsequent ballad," the accompanist did not play up to the singer, and their effects were consequently spoiled. The one point of violent disagreement which I found with the solo artist was in Mallinson's "Eldorado," his interpretation of which I thought a monstrous imposition. For the sake of some magic painting of the word "Eldorado" he was content to wreck the onward rhythm of the song. But these things are insignificent compared with his larger successes. It is at once a pleasure and an education to hear him, and I may note here that his next English song recital will be at the same hall on November 8, when he will sing old songs of the Tudor, Elizabethan, and Stuart period before Purcell.

### General News.

On November 2, at the Æolian Hall, Costopol Aïdonne d'Etolie, the Roumanian prima donna, will give a song-recital. Mlle. d'Etolie showed musical ability at a very early age, and began her studies in pianoforte and singing at the Bucharest Conservatoire. She was taught by Mme. Carlotta Leria, who was a pupil of Mme. Viardot Garcia. In 1913 she went to the Imperial Academy at Vienna, and made her first appearance as "Marguerite" in "Faust." She has since appeared in Breslau, Charlottenburg, and Munich, and of course, has given many recitals in Roumania itself. On December 6, 1915, she had the honour of singing before Her Majesty the Queen of Roumania, and the Crown Princess of Greece.

Her programme, which contains songs in English, French, Italian, Roumanian and Greek, is an unusually interesting one. Her enterprise is particularly notable in putting down Roumanian and Greek songs which are unknown to English audiences. The two Roumanian songs, "Mi-e dor" and "Flueras" are by Andreescu-Jassy; and it was under the young composer's baton that Mlle. d'Etolie gave, with orchestra, the first its first performance. Andreescu-Jassy, a protegé of Coquelin, has written symphonies, but possibly his best known work is a symphonic poem called "The Dreamer of Dreams," and inspired by a romance written by "Carmen Sylva," who, it will be remembered also prompted the writing of one of Arnold Bax's early, yet beautiful, orchestral works. The two Greek songs, by Xantopoulo and Samara respectively, are called "Diati" and "Mana ke ios," and have been chosen to illustrate the vivid differences in individual treatment of popular songs. Samara, who died a few years ago, is considered the best Greek composer. He studied chiefly in Italy, and has written, among other things, some operas.

ANDANTE.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## "LAUGHING AT OURSELVES."

**"THE CIVILIAN'S SOUTH INDIA." By "Civilian." (London: John Lane. 12s. 6d. net.)**

We can recommend this book as pleasant reading. It consists of a cheerful description of every-day life in the Madras Presidency, and the writer has escaped most of the dangers into which Anglo-Indians attempting similar tasks are accustomed to fall. There is practically nothing of politics, only the indispensable minimum of administrative detail, not too much about sport, and on the other hand the descriptions of scenery are unusually convincing. The author has adopted the difficult method of picture-making which may be called humorous exaggeration, but his choice is justified by success. One of Elia's Caledonian antipathies might contend with strict accuracy that many of the statements which he makes are, taken by themselves, untrue; yet to the discerning reader the cumulative effect of exaggeration and paradox is a definite picture, which is probably very near the truth. Above all, the book is cheerful, and, for ourselves, we assent with the utmost cordiality to the concluding apologia, "Let us at least be thankful that we can laugh at ourselves, for then we are the less likely to be laughed at by others."

## A COMEDY ROYAL.

**"EUDOCIA." By Eden Philpotts, (London: Heinemann, 7s. 9d. net)**

"History is but a reverberation; and the forces that brought down the Byzantines similarly combined against against all earlier civilisations and will resolve all later . . . The Comedy is not, therefore, archaic; but read in the light of to-day, alive—at least in spirit."

Thus Mr. Eden Phillpotts in the Foreword to his latest book, which deals with events of Christian Constantinople in the days that followed the death of the great Constantine. To those readers (among whom the reviewer is one) who have grown to regard the West Country as Mr. Phillpotts' particular field of interest, it will seem strange to follow him to such scenes, and among such people; and it is certain that the author ran increased risks of failure in this type of romance by very reason of his fame in another. But he has not failed; the book contains passages which bear the impress of greatness even though the book is not in itself great. The opening chapter, where Sarus, the Jester, harangues Michael, the son of Constantine on the subject of court intrigue, and wherein many of the protagonists are introduced, is disappointing to the verge of dullness. Disappointing also is the first introduction of Eudocia, the Empress, and the splendour of her court. It lacks the mystic touch which carries with it the breath of the Orient, and lacking this no words may give it warmth. Gradually, however, such points are forgotten as the plot unfolds. The delineation and working of the various characters leave nothing to be desired excepting perhaps that of the central figure Eudocia. The vagueness, which, to our minds marked her entry, clings to her until the last. When the story opens plotters are already at work on a scheme for the deposition of the Empress in favour of the joint kingship of John Ducas, brother of the late Emperor, and Michael, youthful son of Eudocia. The Empress, being under oath made to her Royal spouse on his deathbed to forgo matrimony a second time, is powerless to satisfy by marriage the popular demand for a king; powerful factors led by the Patriarch maintain that only a male ruler can save the country from destruction. Foremost among the loyalist, Nicephorus, the Prime Minister, and Romanus Diogenes, idol of the Army, are indicted for treason and consigned to the fortress at Marmora, the former for having parleyed with Alp Arslan, leader of the Saracen foe the latter for having openly expressed the wish that he might marry the Empress—sworn to widowhood. Both are subsequently released, and from the time that Nicephorus returns to Court the book is irresistibly fascinating. In the chapter where this wily statesman debates with Xiphilus, the Patriarch, upon the morality of the vow extracted from the Empress at the death bed of her consort, Mr. Phillpotts has excelled himself. Bardas, brother of the Patriarch, has recently been promoted to open favour by Eudocia; Nicephorus, no longer holding office, but still pulling the strings of his country's destiny, sets out to fill the eyes of the plotting Patriarch with visions. How well he succeeded we must leave the reader to find out for himself, assuring him of an ample meed of excitement in his quest. We leave the book with a two-fold feeling of regret, sorry in the first place that the tale is over, sorry in the second place that Mr. Phillpotts, having done so much, did not exercise the little extra care which in our opinion would have placed this book high among the best of the decade.

## THE SCIENCE OF POLITICS.

**"PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL SCIENCE" By R. N. Gilchrist (London &c., Longmans Green and Co. 18s. net).**

Principal Gilchrist of Krishnagar offers this book primarily for the use of students of Indian Universities. The offering is substantial—eight hundred pages apart from the bibliography—and, so far as we can judge, the book contains practically everything which such students ought to know. We must however, leave the task of reviewing it in detail to specialist journals; it is definitely a text-book, and cannot be recommended to the general reader.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Strange Roads." By Maud Diver. "The Strong Hours." By Maud Diver (London: Constable and Co.) 4s. 6d. net each.

"Maki." By R. J. Minney. (London: John Lane Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"David the Son of Jesse." By Marjorie Strachey. (London: Jonathan Cape. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Sir Charles Stanford, Mus, Doc., M.A., D.C.L." By J. F. Porte. With Portrait and Musical Illustrations. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., 7s. 6d. net).

"A History of Sinai." By Lina Eckenstein. With maps and Illustrations. (London: S.P.C.K., 8s. 6d. net.)

"Marvels of the Animal World." By W. S. Berridge. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd., 7s. 6d. net.).

"The Leisure of an Egyptian Official." By the late Lord Edward Cecil, K.C.M.G., D.S.O. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd., 15s. net).

"Sisters' Quarters: Salonica." By Marguerite Fedden Illustrated by F. V. Carpentier, Lieut. R.F.C. With a foreword by General Sir Bryan Mahon, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., D.S.O. (London: Grant Richards, Ltd., 6s. net).

"The Influence of the Sea on the Political History of Japan.' By Vice-Admiral G. A. Ballard, C.B. (London: John Murray 18s. net.)

"Two Years in Kurdistan." By Captain W. R. Hay. (London: Sidgwick and Jackson, 21s. net.)

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**

October 27 (New Style).
October 14 (Old Style).
Safar 25, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 25, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes returned to London last week from Paris.

Dr. Kumamidi, the Yugoslav Minister of Finance, has arrived in London from Belgrade.

M. Yovanovitch, the Yugoslav Consul-General, and Madame Yovanovitch, arrived in London last week from Belgrade.

At University College last week Dr. Pinches, of the Department of Assyriology, lectured on "Babylonian Magic."

Sofia telegrams report that M. Dimitroff, the Bulgarian Minister of War, was assassinated while motoring to Kustendil.

The Persian Minister in London, Sir Davood Khan, paid a visit last week to the Bible House of the British and Foreign Bible Society, where he was received by Sir George Scott-Moncrieff.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly at Constantinople, between Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Bayfield Stokes, 3rd Skinner's Horse, and Olga, daughter of Lieutenant-General and Mrs. Postovski.

The engagement is announced of Major Alfred (Tab) Lethbridge, 54th Sikhs (Frontier Force), and Margery, eldest daughter of the Rev. G. H. Cockerton and Mrs. Cockerton, of Musbury, Devon.

Captain George Stuart Henderson, V.C. (2nd Manchester Regiment), of Mounthooley, Jedburgh, N.B., who was killed in action in Mesopotamia, left estate valued at £434.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes, the explorer and traveller, was married at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, ton October 22, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. McGrath, D.S.O., of the Royal Artillery.

Major-General Charles Smith McLean, of Oaksleigh Sarisbury Green, Hampshire, late H.M. Consul-General at Khorassan and Seistan,and an Indian Mutiny veteran died leaving £796.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Lahore in November, between Major W. K. P. Wilson, 30th Punjabs, and Aileen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Fagan, Lahore.

The opening meeting of the forthcoming session of the Royal Colonial Institute will be held on November, 8 when Lord Chelmsford, late Viceroy, will give an address on India.

The engagement is announced of Commander Bertram Hughes-Hallett, Royal Indian Marine, second son of the late Colonel Wyndham Hughes-Hallett, Indian Army, and the Hon. Frederica Somerset, second daughter o! Lord and Lady Raglan.

An engagement is announced between Stephen H. Longrigg, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Hemsley Longrigg, of 33, Talbot Road, Highgate, and Florence elder daughter of Mr. H. A. Anderson, C.S.I., of Lansdowne Crescent, Edinburgh.

The engagement is announced between Major H. C. F. Drader, M.C. (late Tank Corps), son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Drader, of Ploeste, Roumania, and Letitia Lilian, only daughter of Dr. A. E. Neale, WA.M.S., and Mrs. Neale, of Moscow Mansions, S.W.5.

Mr. Humphrey Bowman, C.B.E., Director of Education, Palestine Government, and Mrs. Bowman were among the passengers leaving Marseilles on the s.s. Caledonia, on October 23, and are expected in Jerusalem towards the end of the month.

The marriage was celebrated on October 20, at Christ Church, Luton, by the Rev. Canon Morgan Smith, between Richard Weymour Williams, Egyptian Civil Service, and Frances Folliott, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Austin, of Rye Hill, Luton.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Severin Oswald de Bilinski, C.B.E., Managing Director of the National Bank of Turkey, son of the late General de Bilinski and Mrs. de Bilinski of Constantinople and Cairo, and Adriana Hilda, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Liebbrandt of Cape Town, S. Africa.

The engagement is announced of Maud, the only daughter of W. G. Skipworth and the late Mrs. Skipworth, of Brookhurst, Slinfold, Sussex, and Captain J. H. Michell, 39th (K.G.O.) Central India Horse and Small Arms Staff, India, youngest son of the Rev. J. H. Michell, St. Sennen, Cornwall.

Mr. William King Wood, of Teheran, Persia, director of the Persian section of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, who saw service in the Boer War, and, during the recent war maintained telegraphic communication through Persia despite German opposition, left £2,906.

The engagement is announced between Captain A. E. Farwell, 15th Sikhs, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Farwell, I.A. and of Mrs. Manning-Kidd, Oxenways, Membury, Axminster, and Winefred, youngest daughter of Mr. J. Impey Scarborough, Coly House, Devonshire.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place in January, in India, between Captain A. Douglas Gordon, 16th Cavalry, Indian Army, second son of the late Mr. H. H. Gordon, and Mrs. Gordon, of Broughty Ferry, and Margaret, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Masefield, 9, Evelyn Gardens, S.W.

The engagement is announced of Captain R. G. Sanders, 38th Dogras, youngest son of Colonel G. L'H. Sanders, Indian Army (retired), and Mrs. Sanders, and Eileen, only daughter of Mr. Arthur Pickard, of White Lodge, Esher, and 60, Albert Hall Mansions, S.W.7., and the late Mrs. Pickard.

Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, the Indian delegate to the Washington Conference, will be accompanied by Mr. G. L. Corbett, Deputy-Secretary of the Government of India, as civil adviser, by Colonel K. Wigram as military adviser, and by Mr. G. S. Bajpai as secretary. The delegation was due to sail in the Olympic yesterday.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place at Lahore, between Major William Kenneth Pollexfen Wilson, son of Captain George Wilson C.I.E., R.I.M., and Mrs. Wilson, of Dyke House, Chancer-road, Bedford, and Alleen, daughter of Mr. Patrick James Fagan, C.S.I., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Punjab, and Mrs. Fagan.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on November 22, at St. Cuthbert's Church, Earl's Court, between Ernest Lionel Forward, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., youngest son of the late Samuel Forward, of

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Chard, Somerset, and Aileen Frances, only daughter of Charles Stewart Middlemiss, C.I.E., F.R.S., of Srinagar, India, and Mrs. Middlemiss, of Crowborough, Sussex.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on November 16, at Lucknow, India, between Major E. S. Harcourt, M.C., 7th Gurkha Rifles, son of the late Colonel G. J. Harcourt, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and of Mrs. Harcourt, 38, The Pryers, Hampstead, and Nancy, eldest daughter of Major-General Sir Edwin, and Lady Atkinson, Hythe, Kent.

A marriage will take place shortly in Egypt between Captain P. Kenneth Boulnois, N.C., R.E., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois, of 34, Evelyn Mansions, S.W.1., and Violet, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Charles W. Long, sometime M.P. for South Worcestershire, and Mrs. Long, of 38, Lowndes Square, S.W.1.

The engagement is announced of Leonard Middleton. I.C.S., Punjab, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Middleton, Acacia House, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, and Muriel Edith, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Charlton McKechney, Knole Cottage, Wimbledon Common. The marriage will take place on November 12, at Lahore.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Charles O. R. Mosse, M.C., 120th Rajputana Infantry son of the late Colonel Oliver Mosse, Indian Army, and Mrs. Mosse, and Marian (Molly), elder daughter of Sir J. and Lady Barber, of Ootacamund, S. India. The marriage will take place at St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund, on November 9.

The engagement is announced between Major Frederick B. Geidt, M.C., late R.F.A., second son of the late Mr. Justice B. G. Geidt, I.C.S., of the High Court, Calcutta, and step-son of Mrs. Geidt, of 167, Victoria Street, S.W., and Audrey Willmer, second daughter of Dr. Percival White, M.V.O., and Mrs. Percival White, of Becketts, Hartley, Wintney, Hants.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Owen Cecil Kirkpatrick, Corrie, M.C., Vice-President of the Palestine Court of Appeal, only son of Mr. J. O. Corrie, F.R.A.S., of Lincoln's Inn, and 95, Church Road, Upper Norwood, and Ivy Isabel, youngest daughter of the late Henry Digges La Touche, M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, P.W.S., Madras, India, and Mrs. Henry Diggs La Touche, of Lansdown, Bath.

The Bishop of Gibraltar has started on an eight months tour through his very scattered diocese, which includes the whole of South Europe and Asia Minor. The Bishop has recently sent to Roumania an itinerating chaplain, who will have under his care not only the British in Bucharest, but also those working at the Danubian ports, and on the oilfields, and in other parts of Roumania.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Hugh Stanton Chatfield, barrister-at-law, Inner Temple, and of Cotton Hill, Trevandrum, South India, younger son of Mr. Kyrle M. Chatfield, of The Argoed, Penalt, Monmouth, and Miss Edith Mary Moore, younger daughter of the late Mr. John Moore, Wellington Park, Belfast, and Mrs. Moore, will take place at Christ Church, Newgate, on November 1.

Under the auspices of the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, a series of lectures will be delivered on Wednesday afternoons during the coming winter, among those announced being:—January 18, "Some Reflections on the Cavalry Campaign in Palestine," by Colonel-Commandant G. A. Weir, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanding 3rd Cavalry Brigade, and March 8, "The Development of Communications in the Middle East and their Strategic Importance," by Colonel W. M. St. G. Kirke, C.N., C.M.G., D.S.O., Deputy Director of Operations.

Captain H. E. Poynter has been appointed President of Baldwin's Canadian Steel Corporation, Toronto, and will be leaving for Canada shortly, accompanied by Mrs. Poynter. Before the war Mr. and Mrs. Poynter were resident in Constantinople, and they have travelled much in the Near East and in the Far East. Some of the experiences acquired on their travels and during their residence in Turkey are embodied in two charming books by Mrs. Poynter: "Around the Shores of Asia" and "When Turkey was Turkey," which were published this year and are proving extremely popular.

## APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS

Captain Bouboulis has been appointed Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation in London.

M. Lysimachos Caftanzoglu has been appointed Greek Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Madrid.

The Hungarian Official Journal publishes the agreement of the Government to the appointment of Mr. Laurence Milner Robinson as British Consul in Budapest.

Lieutenant-Commander S. H. S. Moxly has been appointed Naval Transport Officer in charge of Constantinople. He succeeds Lieutenant F. H. West, R.N.R., who has held the post temporarily.

## OBITUARY

Sir Joseph Frizelle, a former Chief Judge of the Chief Court of the Punjab, died recently at his residence at Jersey, in his eighty-first year. He passed the Indian Civil Service examination of 1862. After a brief period in the United Provinces, he was appointed to the Punjab Commission, in which he spent nearly thirty-three years. He reached the grade of Divisional Judge in 1884, and in May, 1889, he went to head-quarters as a Judge of the Chief, now the High Court of the province. Before his retirement at the close of 1898, he was for some months Chief Judge, and at the end of his services were rewarded with a knighthood.

The death has occurred at Keenthorne House, Fiddington, Somerset, of Thomas Withey Cuffe, Sheriff of Bombay of thirty-three years. Born in Somersetshire in 1852, Mr. Cuffe went out to Bombay as a young assistant in the firm of bankers and agents of which Sir H. Seymour King is the head. For many years he was an important member of the firm of King, King, and Co., Bombay, and for a great part of the time he served on the Bombay Municipal Corporation. He was chairman of its Statutory Standing Committee in 1901-2.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1921.


## THE PRINCE'S TOUR.

Once again the Prince of Wales has set out on an Empire tour, which will prove, we fervently hope, as interesting and inspiring to him as it must needs be important to India and to the whole British Commonwealth of Nations. From his visits to Canada and Australasia His Royal Highness returned an accredited Ambassador of Empire, and it is in the same exalted rôle, which he has made peculiarly his own, that he visits the Great Dependency at, perhaps, the most critical stage in its history. To the pride and pleasure with which the people of Great Britain followed his successful progress through each Dominion in turn will be added this time some measure of anxiety, not because there is less confidence in the powers of the Prince to win the hearts of all those with whom he comes in contact, but for fear lest unreasoning prejudice on the part of a few irreconcilables should detract, however slightly, from the maximum advantage that India stands to derive from the visit. For in the Prince's presence among them the peoples of India have a unique chance of strengthening the bond of their own unity. Their thoughts are turned towards self-government; but they know that divided against herself India cannot stand. Yet in her complexity of races, languages, religions, laws and institutions, there are no connecting links that would hold all together, if the country were left to itself. To-day, however, from every unit of that vast aggregation, lines, as it were, converge on the Imperial Crown and consequently on him, who, in the providence of God, is destined to assume it. The Prince's visit is to all sections of the community; one and all should feel that for the nonce no one stands between them and their future Sovereign. On that common ground, adequately developed, they can surely best establish the solidarity without which India cannot prosper. Let those of her people who pride themselves on their political knowledge and sagacity ponder these things.

For the rest it is to be hoped that in the varied programme of the tour due care has been taken that the high tension involved in State ceremonials and functions of a political character shall be adequately interspersed with periods of rest and relaxation. The ground to be covered is so vast, the phases of Indian life—not forgetting the British community—to be investigated so numerous, that it is impossible that the Prince should not feel at times the physical strain. But His Royal Highness will be followed throughout his long tour by the wishes and the prayers of the Empire that health and strength will attend him for the successful accomplishment of the high purpose on which he has embarked.

## A MOMENTOUS DECADE OF INDIAN HISTORY.

*(By Sir Valentine Chirol.)*

The ten years which lie between the Indian progress of the King and Queen at the end of 1911, and the impending visit of the Prince of Wales, have been no ordinary years in the history of the world or in the history of the Indian Empire. They have witnessed the Great War with all its cruel vicissitudes and triumphant close, but only the beginning of the vast changes conceived in the tortured womb of war. From the more subtle changes, not shown by violent transfers of territory or by huge war indemnities or by the crash of falling dynasties, the victors have been no more immune than the vanquished. But deep as are the honourable scars and grievous the burdens of war which the British people will bear for generations to come, they have at least emerged with an increased faith in the unity of the Empire and a quickened loyalty to the Crown as the symbol of Imperial unity, and in these no part of the Empire has been given a larger opportunity of sharing to the utmost of its capacity than India.

Only a decade ago the King-Emperor went out to receive in the pomp and circumstance of the great Delhi Durbar the homage of the Princes and peoples of a sub-continent which was still ruled mainly on autocratic lines as a mighty dependency of the British Crown, but still only a dependency, and to that extent still in a position of implied inferiority to the Oversea Dominions, which already enjoyed the higher privileges of self-government. Since then the world war has raged and been fought out. In the hour of destiny in 1914 India responded with a splendid outburst of enthusiasm to the call of the Empire. Her gallant army fought shoulder to shoulder with the British armies from our own islands and from all our oversea Dominions and possessions, and during the worst months of the critical winter 1914-1915, Indian troops filled, and were alone ready and equipped to fill, the desperate gaps on the Western front which, until the Kitchener armies and the Dominion contingents had time to train, there were none others to fill after our first expeditionary force of "Contemptibles" had been gloriously decimated in holding up the tremendous German onrush that was to have pulverised France. Later on, and on every far-flung front, Indian troops "did their bit," in East Africa and on the Canal, in Mesopotamia, and in Syria, where the Indian cavalry at last found their opportunity in the great sweep which broke the remnants of the Turkish armies. From first to last India had over a million men under arms. Nor was it on the battle-field alone that she did yeoman's work for the Empire. The Indian Legislative Council spontaneously proposed the grant of £100,000,000 towards Imperial war expenditure, and another £140,000,000 of Indian money went into Indian war-loans. India became one of the great sources of food-supply for the Allied armies, and her industries and natural resources of all sorts were stimulated and explored as never before under the pressure of war requirements. Without the intensive production of the Tata Iron and Steel Works, initiated, controlled and financed by Indian enterprise alone, the railways essential to the conduct of modern military operations on a vast scale could never have been laid in the waste region of Mesopotamia or across the waterless desert between Egypt and Palestine at a time when, apart from the submarine danger to transport from England, the British metallurgical industry was hard put to it to keep up with the colossal demands made upon it for the Western Front.

The British people and the British Government were not slow to acknowledge the value of India's contribution to the defence of the Empire, and of the loyal spirit in which it was made. At an early stage of the war the Prime Minister declared emphatically that Indian questions would have to be approached hence-

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forth "from a new angle of vision." That India was qualifying to occupy a new and higher place in the fabric of Empire was definitely recognised when at a moment of supreme stress. Indian representatives—on the first occasion the Maharajah of Bikanir for the Native States and for British India Sir Satyendra Sinha, (now Lord Sinha) the sober spokesman for many years past of Indian national aspirations—were invited to attend the two great War Councils of the Empire held in London, and to take their places beside British Ministers and the Prime Ministers of the self-governing Dominions.

No less significance was attached in India to the statements of British war-aims in which Ministers repeated with increasing emphasis that the life and death struggle of the Empire was essentially a struggle for liberty and for the right of every nation, great and small, freely to shape its own destinies. For at least a generation a class of Indians, numerically small but wielding an actual and potential influence over Indian public opinion far in excess of their mere numbers, had been demanding with increasing insistency the much larger share in the government and administration of their country which they believed themselves entitled to claim, not only in virtue of their own qualifications to share the responsibilities of Government, but on the strength of the many promises from time to time made to India by her British rulers. That class was above all others the offspring of British rule and of the Western education which British rule had imported nearly a century ago into India, with the deliberate object, in the eyes of many of the greatest British administrators of that period, of training the Indians to govern themselves. When the great storehouse of British literature was thrown open to Indians, and they began to study the evolution of Western civilisation, and more especially the history of the British people and of their political institutions broad-based on freedom, they were not slow to ask themselves and to ask their British rulers why India should be denied the application of the principles and methods on which the greatness of the British Empire had been built up. Such response as they elicited seemed even to the most moderate Indians unduly slow and reluctant, whilst the issue was obscured by the violent form which political agitation assumed under the impulse of a section compounded partly of reactionary and partly of revolutionary elements, bent not on reconciling British rule with a growing sense of Indian nationhood, but on eliminating it altogether and bringing India back to a more or less mythical "golden age" when, uncontaminated by the breath of Western civilisation, she was supposed to have been free and wise, and wealthy beyond all the nations of the earth.

Successive waves of political unrest rose and fell, and only subsided for a time even during the Great War, of which India was spared both the worst horrors and the stern discipline. But even the most extravagant forms of political agitation could not seriously detract from the solid value of her war-services, maintained throughout at the same high level, which showed how real and widespread was the appreciation of what British rule had done and still meant for the peace and progress of her many and heterogeneous peoples. Never had the unifying effect of British rule upon India as a nation nor her title to rank as one of the nations of the Empire been so fully demonstrated as in the sustained effort which had united princes and peoples in the common cause of the Empire. At a time when the frightful ordeal of war was testing the relationship between all the component parts of the Empire, the way in which India had stood the test was enough to justify, at any rate from that point of view, her claim to be admitted to relationship of a higher status than she had hitherto enjoyed. So much a Government that represents the whole Empire was precluded from denying by the general principles which had been proclaimed to inspire British war-aims as well as by those which had always differentiated the purpose of British rule in India from mere domination.

At the same time conditions peculiar to India, the diversity of her races and creeds and customs, all strangely remote from our own, the backwardness of the vast majority of her population, the lack of training and experience in the conduct of public affairs, even amongst the classes that had been gradually drawn into the orbit of Western civilization, and the menacing attitude of irreconcilable factions made it impossible to relax wholly and abruptly the political tutelage in which India had been hitherto held.

A *via media* was sought in the famous declaration of August 20, 1917, which announced that the purpose of British policy in India was not only the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration, but also the greatest development of self-governing institutions in successive stages with a view to the progressive realization of responsible Government in India as an integral part of the British Empire. In pursuance of that declaration, the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Montagu, went out in the following winter to conduct jointly with the Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, an inquiry on the spot into the best means of translating into practice the policy which he had been authorized to lay before Parliament. The results of this inquiry—the first exhaustive inquiry into the state of India since with the transfer of India to the Crown after the Mutiny the grand inquests had been dropped which invariably preceded the periodical renewals of the East India Company's charter—were embodied in a Report which, in spite of all the abuse and even ridicule poured out upon it at home and in India by the stubborn advocates of "masterly inactivity," will certainly rank amongst the monumental landmarks of the constitutional development of the British Empire. It was the basis of the Government of India Act of 1919, which, whilst reserving to the Supreme Government and within their own sphere to the Provincial Governments the power to assert in the last resort the authority with which they remain invested in discharge of their responsibility to the British Parliament for the peace, welfare and security of India, has created all-Indian and Provincial representative assemblies, elected on the broadest franchise at present practicable and has assigned in the provinces a number of important branches of the administration to Indian Ministers who are themselves answerable to their own Provincial Councils and therefore to the large Indian majority that sit in them.

This constitution is one of the boldest of the many bold experiments which make up the unique history of the British *raj* since the charter granted by Queen Elizabeth in the last year of her reign encouraged a handful of London "merchant-venturers" to cross unexplored seas and to found on the remote and then almost unknown shores of India, a few small trading settlements destined to grow into the British Indian Empire. Welcomed by the bulk of the educated classes as a great instalment of the promised boon of self-Government within the Empire, it has aroused all the hostile forces inveterately opposed to the British connection and to the civilisation which it connotes into an unprecedented frenzy of resistance, which has taken shape in the "Non-co-operation" movement. Despite the sinister features of an agitation that appeals chiefly to the religious emotions and the economic grievances of the ignorant masses, there is ample reason to hope that good will ultimately come out of evil. For the extravagant doctrines preached by such strange bedfellows as Mr. Gandhi, the Hindu saint and prophet, and the Mohammedan *Khilafat* agitators, have been already so often followed by deplorable outbreaks of violence that they have driven in a deep wedge between the Indians who put their trust in peaceful constitutional progress, and those who clamour for a complete and immediate severance of every tie between India and a civilisation no less "satanic" than the Government for which it stands. So far "Non-co-operation" has failed repeatedly. The elections for the popular assemblies, which they tried hard to kill in the womb by an organised boycott

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of fierce denunciation and intimidation were duly held and in most parts of the country with more conspicuous success than might have been expected from a largely inexperienced electorate. The Assemblies themselves, on the whole fairly representative of all creeds and races and classes and interests, except the "Non-co-operators" excluded by their own default, met in due course, and were opened in the name and on behalf of the King-Emperor by the Duke of Connaught who was eminently fitted by his old acquaintance with India, and his singular tact and kindliness to discharge a right royal mission. It was a great historic moment when, on February 9 last, at the opening of the All-Indian Legislature in Delhi, His Royal Highness read out the generous message in which the Sovereign, courageously ignoring the disloyal implications which had not long ago attached to the word *Swaraj*, himself employed it and gave it a new meaning. "For years—it may be for generations—patriotic and loyal Indians have dreamed of *Swaraj* for their motherland. To-day you have the beginnings of *Swaraj* within my Empire, and the widest scope and ample opportunity for progress to the liberty which my other Dominions enjoy." From that moment India ceased to be a mere Dependency of the Crown, for the Sovereign himself had admitted it explicitly to partnership with his *other* Dominions. Whilst the creation of a Council of Princes marks so far only a pious endeavour to draw the Native States as a whole into closer communion with the rest of British India, directly administered by the Supreme Government, the new legislative bodies of British India have already given remarkable proofs of ability, moderation and self restraint in the transaction of parliamentary business during their two first sessions. With the presence of three Indian members in the Viceroy's Executive Council, and of Indian Ministers in every Provincial Government, as well as of large Indian majorities in every legislative body, Indians feel that henceforth they will have in the shaping of policy sometning of the influence possessed by the peoples of the self-governing Dominions. At the same time their sense of partnership has been confirmed at the Imperial Conference, or Cabinet, recently held in London, where not only did Indian representatives sit side by side with British and Dominion Ministers as at the previous War Councils and at the Paris Peace Conference, but for the first time one of the Indian representatives, Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, was a distinguished member of the new Indian Legislature called into being by the great Government of India Act of 1919, the first charter of Indian self-government.

It is to this new India, no longer as in 1911 a mere dependency, however eminent, but a partner, albeit still a junior partner in the British Empire that the heir to the Throne goes out now on his own embassy of royal good-will—a fitting sequel to the embassies on which he had previously proceeded to the older Dominions which have already learnt to combine approved loyalty to the Crown with a growing sense of their own distinct nationhood. At home and in every part of the Empire which he has already visited his many endearing qualities have won for him an unusual measure of personal affection. They cannot fail to do so in India too amongst people quick to respond to the appeal of a frank and generous disposition and imbued at the same time by all their religious traditions with a peculiar reverence for the almost divine attributes of royalty. Above all the Prince of Wales who has been reared in the democratic atmosphere of these islands, and has acquired during his strenuous years of war-service in France the habits of broad and genial comradeship, which are bred of common partnership in a tremendous ordeal, is thus pre-eminently qualified to stimulate between men of all races and classes, Indians and Europeans, the spirit of genuine and close co-operation and of equality in public endeavour, upon which must in the long run depend the success of a great constitutional experiment destined to bring India, despite the many peculiar difficulties still to be surmounted, into full and equal association with the great democracies of the British Empire.

## YOUNG INDIA AND OLD.

(*By Janus.*)

*Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,*
*But to be young was very Heaven.*

So wrote Wordsworth, looking back to the days when as a mere lad he had watched the re-birth of a great nation, and so, when they are a little older, will say many young Indians who at the moment are in a somewhat critical mood, and inclined to belittle all that has been done in the course of the last four momentous years. When the vision clears, they will see that these years have marked a definite breach with the past, and have opened up for India a future of unlimited possibilities; and from this point of view the visit of the Prince of Wales is appropriately timed. One can read in the Indian chronicles of princes in past ages who have come to spy out the riches of countries which they hoped to make their own; but here we have a Prince, a true representative of the time, coming to learn something of the burden he must expect to shoulder, the burden of the Empire as it has developed since the days when Queen Victoria assumed for the British race the direct sovereignty over India. A young man is meeting a young nation, and we older men may be allowed to express the hope that the meeting will prove of lasting benefit to both.

As my name implies, it is my habit to look back as well as forward, and it is only by looking back that one can see the recent constitutional changes in a true perspective. Not to go too far, let us take the story of the last seven centuries, a consistent record of despotic rule. In the north of India we may think of Alauddin or Firoz Shah, of Akbar or Aurangzeb; in the south, of anyone from Harihara to Haidar Ali; rulers have differed in race and temperament, but all were despots, and, though subjects might grumble, they had only the choice between submission and rebellion. The Dutch diarist, writing of an outrage committed by order of Shahjahan, recorded that all India was scandalised, but none dare speak his mind, and the phrase may serve as the epitome, and the epitaph, of the epoch. Nor did the establishment of British rule result in an immediate change. The Company was not less despotic than its predecessors: Queen Victoria was a despot, and while Indians in the last century acquired the right, and to some extent the habit, of speaking their minds, it was long before they asked for anything more. There was no demand for a change when King Edward visited India as Prince of Wales; the demand was scarcely audible when Prince Albert Victor followed in his father's footsteps; even in the present century a liberal statesman could win widespread approval by denying the suitability to India of parliamentary institutions. To-day the rudiments of true parliaments are in being, and that is the really significant thing, a conscious and deliberate break with that tradition of despotism which is the only political inheritance of the country, and by far the greatest political event since Mahmud of Ghazni proved to demonstration that the days of India's isolation had gone by. Mahmud and his successors taught India to obey foreigners: England has ordered Indians to learn to govern themselves.

I am not at the moment concerned with the wisdom of this fundamental change. I know that some self-constituted authorities, sinners as well as saints, consider it a great mistake, and hold that Indians would prefer a continuance of despotism, in which either the saints or the sinners should wield the sceptre. I think myself that both classes are in the wrong, and that the change was in essence right, but the point is that it has been made, and we have to see what it involves. The word democracy has acquired a new significance since the days when *demos* actually governed; no large civilised State is, or can be, governed directly by its

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# THE PRINCE AND INDIA

**1921** **1922**

*Photo by Vandyk.*

**H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.**

*Visits of Princes do not stand for boons and holidays in the twentieth century, whatever they may have connoted in the past. Princes work hard in these days, rather harder perhaps than most of us, and the real significance of the impending celebrations lies, to my mind, in the fact that they constitute a call to the young men to devote themselves to hard, unselfish work, inspired by the confident hope that, if everyone does his best, the new India may be a better country than the old.—JANUS, in "Young India and Old."*

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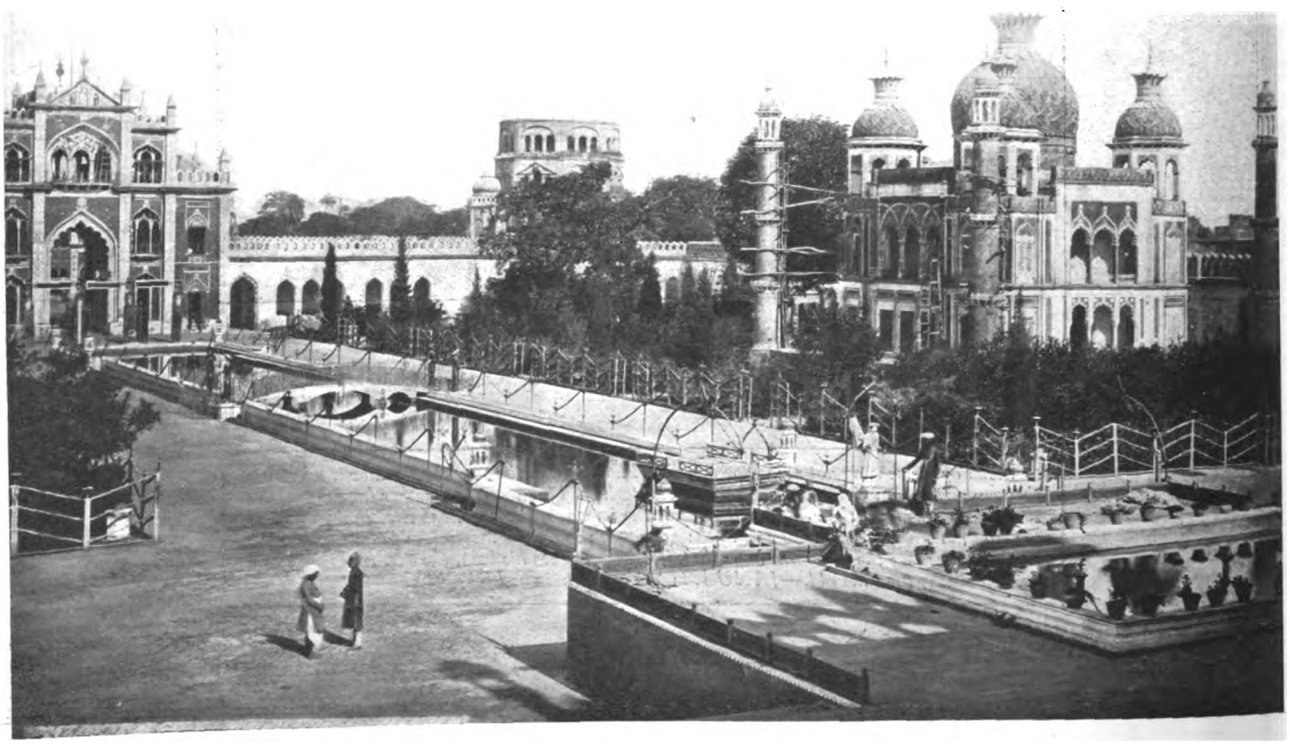
CALCUTTA: DALHOUSIE SQUARE.

THE KUTAB MINAR.

LAHORE: RANJIT SINGH'S TOMB.



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**IN HONOUR OF THE PRINCE OF WALES, 1876.**

*From a photograph of the oil-painting of the "Elephant Procession through the streets of Jaipur, on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII.) to that State, in 1876," by the Russian Artist Vassili Verestchagin.* *Reference to this picture will be found on page 529.*

**BENARES: THE MOSQUE OF AURUNGZEB.**

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people, and the term now means that the people decide on the broad lines of general policy, choose representatives to see that those lines are followed, and dismiss them summarily if they fail to do so. The essence of the institution, and the whole secret of its success, lie in the free interchange of knowledge and the free play of opinion between the representatives and their constituents. Divisions and elections are not everything; ministers must often bow to the general feeling before it has found formal expression; and popular representatives are more often engaged in controlling a ministry than in turning it out of office.

To say this is to bring out the vast amount of work which has still to be done before it can be said that India has learned to govern herself. In every province ministers are now putting forward policies, and that is undoubtedly a great advance; but, even when policies are approved by representatives, can anyone be confident that they are supported by the constituencies, or by the masses who are excluded from the list of voters? At present an Indian province is like a body without a nervous system: the brain is functioning actively, but it is not yet in a position either to receive impressions from outside, or to direct and harmonise the movements of the limbs. Apart from a few representatives of special interests, scarcely a member can be sure that he knows what his constituents really want; most of them assume that they know, and accept their own idiosyncrasies as the fruits of popular inspiration; but that is a very dangerous thing to do, and after a short experience of electioneering, they will find, what politicians in other countries have found, that, if they are to do any good, they must be learning and teaching for a large part of their time.

Now this is where the young men come in, for they have to take a large share in creating the nervous system of the body politic. Only a few of them can hope to become actual legislators, but nearly all of them can look forward to doing useful and necessary work as intermediaries between representatives and the mass of their constituents. That work has two sides. The men who have enjoyed the privilege of a good education must use it for the benefit of the much larger number who have had no such opportunities; they must go among the people, must teach and persuade, must help to form sound opinion, must carry knowledge, and inspiration born of knowledge, from the universities to the streets and the fields. But at the same time they must gather new knowledge in the fields and in the streets, until they can make known the wants of the people in the seats of learning and political activity. They must transmit knowledge constantly in both directions, until it can be said that classes and masses understand each other much more thoroughly than is now the case; it is only in this way that a nation can be organised for democracy, and it is the young men who must do most of the necessary work.

The ordinary young man, immersed in the life of his college, will probably say that all this is for the future, when he shall have taken his degree and begun life in earnest. That is a very common mistake. It is skilled work that is wanted, and skilled work has to be learned, so that those who mean to do it must begin to qualify themselves at once. They may believe that they know already how the masses live, and think, and feel; but if they are to do any good, they must know the Why as well as the How. Why are Indian peasants poor? Why do Indian brains prefer buying and selling to making things for sale? Why is capital still so shy? Why do the villages distrust the towns? Why are their schools so often failures? Why is the death-rate so high? The amount of nonsense that is talked and written nowadays on these subjects, and a dozen others, shows at any rate that knowledge of them is not universally diffused, but its possession is essential, and it can be gained only by a careful study of the past. That is the necessary foundation for useful political work, and the sooner it is laid the better. Study by all means the records of the far-away times when India was isolated and self-contained; but study also the causes which destroyed that condition once for all. Study in much greater detail the dark centuries which lie between, unpalatable as the story of Indian decadence must be; and learn to regard each successive century as more important than the last. If history is to be a guide and a guard through the untrodden jungle of the future, Akbar must count for more than Asoka, and Thomason for more than Todar Mal; it is on these lines that the old India can be used to help in building up the young nation, and without its help little real progress will be made.

All this means hard work? That is exactly my point, and now is the time to urge it. Visits of Princes do not stand for boons and holidays in the twentieth century, whatever they may have connoted in the past. Princes work hard in these days, rather harder perhaps than most of us, and the real significance of the impending celebrations lies, to my mind, in the fact that they constitute a call to the young men to devote themselves to hard, unselfish work, inspired by the confident hope that, if everyone does his best, the new India may be a better country than the old.

## THE PRINCE'S PROGRAMME.

The following is the official programme of the Prince of Wales' tour after leaving these shores:—

The Prince will visit Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, and Aden on the way to India. The arrival in India is timed for November 17. H.R.H. will disembark at Bombay. The itinerary of his tour in India is as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| November | 17 | Bombay (a visit to Poona will be made.) |
| ,, | 23 | Baroda. |
| ,, | 25 | Udaipur. |
| ,, | 28 | Ajmere. |
| ,, | 29 | Jodhpur. |
| December | 1 | Bikanir. |
| ,, | 7 | Bharatpur. |
| ,, | 9 | Lucknow (a visit to Allahabad will be made) |
| ,, | 13 | Benares. |
| ,, | 14 | Nepal. |
| ,, | 22 | Patna. |
| ,, | 24 | Calcutta. |
| January | 2 | Rangoon (a visit will be made to Mandalay) |
| ,, | 13 | Madras. |
| ,, | 18 | Bangalore. |
| ,, | 19 | Mysore. |
| ,, | 25 | Hyderabad. |
| ,, | 30 | Nagpur. |
| February | 1 | Indore (a visit will be made to Mhow) |
| ,, | 4 | Bhopal. |
| ,, | 8 | Gwalior. |
| ,, | 13 | Agra (a visit to Aligarh will be made on the journey from Agra to Delhi). |
| ,, | 14 | Delhi. |
| ,, | 22 | Patiala (a visit to Jullunder will be made on the journey from Patiala to Lahore). |
| ,, | 25 | Lahore (a visit to Sialkot will be made on the journey from Lahore to Jammu). |
| March | 2 | Jammu (a visit to Jhelum will be made on the journey from Jammu to Peshawar). |
| ,, | 4 | Peshawar. |
| ,, | 8 | Rawalpindi (a visit to Kapurthala will be made on the journey from Rawalpindi to Dehra Dun). |
| ,, | 13 | Dehra Dun. |
| ,, | 13 | Gajraula. |
| ,, | 17 | Karachi. |

H.R.H. will embark from Karachi for Colombo on the afternoon of March 17.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

## The Future of India.

In the *Asiatic Review* for October Sir Verney Lovett K.C.S.I., has an important article which he calls "The Rebellion in India." He begins by sketching the history of events up to the recent Moplah riots, and shows particularly how the Government after Amritsar has shrunk from any methods that might be called repressive and how to-day apparently its "long-suffering is at last worn out." But in spite of appearances in India he has hope :—

Now, we shall not understand Indian affairs unless we realize that peace and order in the great sub-continent depend principally upon the prestige of the Central Administration, upon the honour or dishonour which attaches to the British name in India. *Whatever may take the place of that prestige in future there is nothing whatever that can take its place now.* If the district and police officers, who among multitudinous millions of all castes and creeds carry on the daily administration of the country, are regarded as the representatives of an effete Power, which may be constantly and openly derided and slandered with impunity, their tasks will become impossible. The Moplah rising, which presents marked features of its own, but is undoubtedly the result of the Gandhi-cum-Khilafat agitation, shows conclusively what may take place. The present Legislative Councils are at present islands in a vast ocean of multitudinous peoples. They form a facade. To assume that a solid fabric of responsible parliamentary government exists behind the facade is to assume what is not the case. If such a fabric is to rise gradually, the new legislators must act whole-heartedly on the excellent advice recently delivered to some of their number at Bombay by Mr. A. F. Whyte, President of the Legislative Assembly, who impressed upon his hearers that harmony between non-officials and officials on the Councils was *not* all that the situation required. The political education of the people of India would only be built up by the maintenance of close and constant touch between representatives and their constitutencies, by intensive non-official propaganda of a salutary kind, by hard, unselfish labour on the part of the former. And here we approach the root of the matter. The real battle of the future will be won or lost among the masses of the general population. Mr. Gandhi and his accomplices see this clearly. They are losing no time and are working hard. They have collected some hundred thousand pounds for the financing of their campaign. What have the constitutionalists done? Are they working hard? Have they collected money? Are they in districts and cities, by press and platform, combating strenuously the efforts of the paid agitators who on July 12 last, were denounced by a British member of the Bengal Legislative Council as "cold-blooded murderers and a menace to society?" If they are, Mr. Whyte's advice is superfluous. If they are not, we shall gain nothing by imagining that they are. Let us hope at any rate that they are making substantial beginnings. The need is urgent. But if they are doing little, we must recognize that when once Mr. Gandhi and his principal coadjutors began their intensive campaign among the masses, and the Government of India still accepted the hypocritical plea that non-violence was inculcated, the burden that fell on the Moderates was one that only a great leader of men could have sustained.

The Moplah rebellion is the last of three recent warnings. The first was the Arrah riots, which occurred in October, 1917 and have been described by me elsewhere. They consisted of fierce organized attacks by Hindus on Mohammedans over a widespread area of Bihar and of days of mob ascendancy. They had been prepared with care and skill. The rioters were possessed with the idea that British rule was in the throes of dissolution.

The next warning was the riots of April, 1919, the incidents of which are well known. It was then widely believed, in the Punjab at any rate, that the war had left Great Britain weak and exhausted. The third warning is the Moplah revolt. It has shown us the result of deliberate and open inculcation of the combined theories that British is responsible for the woes of Turkey, and that British power in India is detestable and is on its deathbed.

In spite of variations of scene, method, and occasion, all these risings, as well as a number of minor incidents, have owed much inspiration to a belief that British rule in India is moribund. That belief has been a strong plank in the agitator's platform. It is true that British rule in India in the old sense is gone. But if the new British-cum-Indian rule does not contain sufficient of the old quality to add the assurance that is needed to the arguments of the Moderates and to arrest the further progress of the preachers of sedition and revolt, the Reforms are certainly doomed.

Let us hope for better things.

## Bolshevism in the Middle East.

Writing in the *Contemporary Review* for October on "The Bolshevist Menace in the Middle East," Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah begins by frankly admitting the success of Bolshevism in the Middle East :—

No good purpose is to be served by denying that Bolshevism has achieved at least a temporary triumph in the Middle East. In Afghanistan, for example, it has secured a firm foundation, and has gained concessions hitherto impossible to British diplomacy. In order that we shall be able to confront its strategems when they impinge more closely upon our own interests—as they undoubtedly will at no distant date—it behoves us to scrutinise them in detail. During a recent prolonged sojourn in Afghanistan and Bokhara, I made a personal examination of Bolshevist methods, official and otherwise, and must confess to a certain admiration for the very thorough manner in which the Russians have adapted themselves to the work of proselytism among populations so difficult and intractable. But the whole effort of Communist Russia is vitiated by a dishonesty of purpose which, in the event, must spell failure, gigantic and overwhelming.

He proceeds to an examination of the "hopeless" conditions of Persia, Bokhara, and Turkestan; and finally of Afghanistan :—

Bolshevist endeavour has been quite as active in Afghanistan as it has in Turkestan. The High Court officials have been overwhelmed with the "attentions" of M. Suritz, the Bolshevist envoy, and his Aide-de-Camp, Colonel Rex, who are closely in touch with the Sirdar Ali Mahomed Beg Turzi, General Nadi Khan, Jamal Pasha, and Abdur Raheem Khan, the envoy of the new Bokharan Republic. It was this junta, indeed, which was responsible for bringing about the recent revolt among the Afridis, and the election of the notorious Mullah Said Akbar as the "tribal Amir" of that people. They are also known to be in touch with Kemal Pasha in Anatolia, whom they have requested to aid them in the formation of a large army recruited from the frontier tribes, and to send as many officers as he can spare for that purpose. One of the results of this ill-omened association has been the recently ratified Russo-Afghan treaty by which the Reds have received the right to establish Russian consulates and trading posts at the most important strategic centres in Afghanistan, and it is significant that to these are to be attached military agents. Indeed, Afghanistan bids fair to fall under the Bolshevist yoke, as has Bokhara, at no distant date.

And he concludes with a hint of the possibilities of the future :—

The Afghans are scarcely to be blamed for their acquiesence in Bolshevist endeavours when it is remembered that their refusal to countenance these meant actual invasion and ruin. They retain their old dependence, but there is little doubt that they are becoming tired of Soviet interference in their affairs. In this, it seems to me, lies Britain's opportunity to check the tide of Red aggression ere it overflow her Indian Empire. There is still time to approach Afghanistan with overtures which would certainly wreck Soviet schemes against India. But a clear-cut policy towards Turkey, the head and fount of Islam, is required before anything specific can be attempted in this direction, and the question of Waziristan must also be considered before any *rapprochement* is possible.

## The Dead Sea.

In the *Fortnightly Review* for October, Mr. A. J. Liversedge has written an article upon "The Dead Sea and a Biblical Prophecy: A Project for Zionism." He begins by sketching the quite new idea of converting the Dead Sea into a useful and beneficial water—quite new, that is, apart from a reference to the subject in the Book of Ezekiel (Chapter XLVII). After giving the prophet's "vision of the future Sanctuary and organisation of his restored people," the author concludes

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with a description of his own vision and an appeal to the Zionist movement :—

The Prophet refers to two views of the transforming water; both, in his vision, flow from the East. It might perhaps at some period be found worth while to make two separate connections from the Jordan Valley to the Mediterranean; but the conception of the "double stream" would be realised essentially by making a channel to the head of the Gulf of Akabah as well as one to the Mediterranean. He sees the shores of the new river covered with luxuriant vegetation; the picture might be completely realised in all essentials. The new sea, or river, or strait, or whatever it might be called, would certainly flow through some stretches of desert in the southern part; but otherwise it would be overlooked by high lands where systematic cultivation might produce wonderful results. The new water would be comparable not with such a desert channel as the Suez Canel, but rather with the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmora and the Bosphorus, with this difference, that its climatic conditions would be even more favourable to luxuriant growth. The entire margin of the new water "on this side and on that side," to use the language of the prophet, from the southern end of the Dead Sea round to Haifa, where touch with the Mediterranean would doubtless be made, would admit of profitable cultivation—there might presently be found along it some of the richest vineyards, orchards and fields in the world, flanked by numerous forests on the mountain slopes. Nor would there be any reason why the southern portion should not also become the centre of a rich agricultural region, where a new and still more famous Petra might arise. Prosperous towns and villages might dot the margin of this new channel throughout its length; important ports would develop at its extremities; while Jerusalem herself might have another at her gates. Finally, while the new channel would not be likely to enter into formal competition with the Suez Canal, it would, as a matter of fact, provide an alternative route which in circumstances easily conceivable might prove of very considerable value.

This vision of "healing waters" set out by Ezekiel 2,500 years ago suggests many speculations which it would be interesting to pursue if space permitted. Ezekiel spent much of his life as a captive of the Babylonians among a people of great intelligence and high scientific attainments. Had they recognised the raised beaches of the Jordan Valley standing high among the level of the water of the Dead Sea, and concluded from their observations that at one time the entire valley was filled with water? Or had they some intuitive or instructive knowledge of a remote geologic past when a great sea occupied that region? Or had legends of such a sea come down to them from primitive human inhabitants who had occupied those regions during, say, the Glacial Period? And did Ezekiel, who was certain, from the position he held during his captivity, to be acquainted with those legends or familiar with that knowledge, merely reason that what had been in the past might return? Or did he owe his "vision" of a great material transformation which is certain to be made by human agency, sooner or later, to some supernatural inspiration? However these questions may be answered, the vision does admit of practical realisation in the manner which has been indicated in these notes.

It is not possible to give here particulars of any useful estimate of the probable cost of constructing this new maritime channel. The cost need not be large; even though a considerable amount would be required by way of compensation for disturbance of the inhabitants of Tiberias, for example, and of scattered hamlets, which would be submerged; and for their removal and resettlement on sites above the new water level. It is possible that some of the work of excavation might be effected by the aid of electrical power developed by water brought fron the Mediterranean. This water, after having served its purpose in the power stations, would pour down into the Dead Sea or into some portion of the Jordan valley and thus begin the filling up of those depressions, which would necessarily be a slow and prolonged operation. In any case, the entire cost of constructing the necessary works would be more than recouped by the appreciation which would speedily develop in the value of the land which would form the borders of the new water; apart from the economic value of the general stimulus to industry, to social progress and intellectual development throughout the entire country traversed by it, which the new water would most certainly provide.

During the Great War the present writer had special opportunities of witnessing the splendid patriotism, as British citizens of distinguished members of the Jewish people, some of whom are associated with Zionism; and would like here, by way of some acknowledgement of that self-sacrificing patriotism, to offer and commend the project which has been roughly sketched in this writing to the authorities of the Zionist movement, in the confident assurance that it will one day be taken up and carried to a successful issue, with great and lasting benefits to mankind

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*The Sphinx* has produced a very attractive "Special Egypt. Tourist Number," profusely illustrated and very attractively made up. Pictures and letterpress are calculated to appeal to the class of Tourist that is most welcome in Egypt, and most sides of life beside the Nile as seen by the winter visitor are touched upon. We are glad to notice that the "Moslem Architecture in Cairo," too often ignored, is dealt with at some length, by Mrs. A. L. Devonshire; and that Mr. Rene Francis, whose name is familiar to many of our readers, contributes a couple of articles, on "The Wonders of the Nile" and "The Art of Ancient Egypt."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

A Persian political and economic mission has arrived at Baku with a view to concluding political and economic teaties with the Soviet Government of the Azerbaijan Republic.

A mission from the Azerbaijan Government, states Reuter, has arrived at Angora. It is composed of 36 persons.

Lloyd's agent at Malta quotes a wireless message from the British Naval Attaché at Rome stating that the Italian Secretary of Marine reports that the Italian war vessel Roma collided with and sank the British steamer Zurialon (bound from Braila for Antwerp) on October 15, 36.22 N., 22.54½ E. The crew were saved.

George Hirst and Wilfrid Rhodes, the well-known Yorkshire cricketers, left Huddersfield last week for India to fulfil an engagement with the Maharaja of Patiala.

The latest reports from Malabar show that the summary courts have up to now dealt with 3,815 cases, of which 1,336 have resulted in committal to the session and 2,024 in sentences of two years' imprisonment, while the remainder of the prisoners with the exception of 39 acquittals, were sentenced to lesser terms.

A crowd of Greek residents welcomed M. Veniselos when he landed at New York from the Aquitania with his bride.

Kunhakauer, Secretary of the Khalifate Committee at Tanur, who was charged with waging war against the King-Emperor, has been sentenced, a Calicut telegram states, by a special tribunal to be hanged.

## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

In a special supplement in this issue we publish a portrait of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and a number of illustrations typical of Indian life and scenery.

Of the latter the most notable is the reproduction of the picture by the Russian painter, Vassili Verestchagin, who perished in the Russo-Japanese War. It represents the "Elephant Procession through the streets of Jaipur, on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII) to that State in 1876." We are indebted to the Marquis Curzon of Kedleston for this reproduction from the only photograph believed to be in existence of Verestchagin's remarkable painting. The original picture, of vast dimensions, was exhibited in London in 1882 and passed into the hands of an American collector. Purchased from him by H. H. the Maharaja of Jaipur, it was presented by the latter to the State collection destined for the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, where it now hangs. This Hall, which owes its conception to Lord Curzon twenty years ago, and is Calcutta's most magnificent building, is to be opened by the Prince of Wales during Christmas week.


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## THE CARAVANSERAI

*Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day.*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*

—OMAR KHAYYAM—

A correspondent in Egypt writes:—"An American ship passed through the Canal recently, called the Dryden. It is not known whether this name was bestowed on the ship out of compliment to the great English satirist, or whether it is a covert reference to the state of America, where it is said the people are so dry that they have to pin their stamps on the letters. Anyhow, the name on an American ship has a sinister significance."

Another correspondent in Egypt sends me a little story of the Labour M.P.s' visit to that country, which has found its way into the local English Press, and has tickled the fancy of the British colony not a little. The Labour men, it seems, had for a fellow-passenger on the boat which took them to Egypt a certain Englishman, who formerly held a high position in Egypt and now holds a still higher one in Palestine. (His name would be familiar to most readers of *The Near East* if I mentioned it; but as I have no permission to do so, I refrain.) This Englishman frequently talked with the 'Labour' men; and towards the end of the voyage he contrived to turn the conversation onto the subject of mining and the miners' life, conditions of work, and so forth. Finally, he suggested that he would like to spend a fortnight or three weeks in one of the mining areas, in order to study the subject on the spot. At once the Labour M.P.'s pointed out, with a directness peculiarly their own, that three or four weeks was far too short a time to gain any correct idea of the subject. Then a bland smile spread over the Official's face. 'And let me see,' said he, 'is it three, or four weeks, that you expect to spend in Egypt?'

An Englishman, Frenchman, German, and Pole, were once asked to write an essay upon "The Elephant." The Englishman was no great hand with his pen, but he remembered he had used his gun to good effect while hunting this particular creature in the wilds of Africa, and in a short time produced an entertaining volume of sporting reminiscences entitled "The Bagging of an Elephant." The Frenchman, who had never seen an elephant in his life, hurried to the Zoo, there to exercise his very perceptive abilities in observation of the elephant's domestic habits; he was able, therefore, to publish within a few weeks a rather intimate sketch of "The Elephant and his *amours*." And of the German it is scarcely necessary to write. Though he, too, had never seen an elephant in the flesh, he had of course read much of the animal; and this knowledge he supplemented with an eight months' course of intensive study of the subject, burying himself the while in the profoundest and dustiest libraries. Thus, after much labour, he too proudly announced his work, a colossal tome: "A Preliminary Treatise on the Elephant." As for the Pole, he had neither seen nor read of the elephant, but by means of a magnificently prolonged indulgence of the most striking of his national virtues, the will to overcome all obstacles, he brought forth his book: "The Elephant and the Polish Question!"

**Corsair.**

### DESERT FLYING.

In a lecture before the Royal Aeronautical Society on October 6, Air Commodore H. R. M. Brooke-Popham, vice-chairman of the Society, gave a description of the new desert air route between Cairo and Baghdad. He mentioned that the original survey party who went in cars to map out the route actually marked it out, for they followed carefully in one another's tracks, with the result that there remains stretching away into the desert before the eyes of the pilot setting out on his journey a ribbon-like guide to his destination. When the original party set out there were no maps of this part of the desert. Wireless telegraphy played a romantic part in the survey work.

The Royal Air Force appeared to be doing good work in improving British prestige among the natives. A friendly sheikh who had been wounded by a raiding party from another tribe was met by a British convoy in the middle of the desert, and within a few hours the sheikh was safely in hospital in Baghdad with his injuries under examination by X-ray. A few days later when one of our aeroplanes was damaged in landing at the same oasis, a flight of six other machines was sent out from Baghdad with spares, and the whole party had to camp for the night. At sunset five natives on camels appeared and silently took up positions round the camp, where they remained until dawn. It subsequently turned out that they were from the wounded sheikh tribe, and, hearing that the Air Force was in some sort of trouble, had come to see that they were not molested.

Commodore Brooke-Popham also dealt with the various difficulties to be overcome in flying aeroplanes in tropical climates. He expressed the opinion that machines built, as at present, of wood are satisfactory so long as they are only to be flown in Egypt or Mesopotamia; but for machines flying regularly between England and these countries metal construction would probably be necessary.

The memorial plaque to Admiral Lord Beresford was unveiled on October 11, in the Crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral by Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Beatty, First Sea Lord of the Admiralty. The inscription on the memorial records the gallant Admiral's diverse distinctions thus:—

**Charles William de la Boer Beresford,**
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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**The Government's Policy.**

The proposals outlined by the Prime Minister for dealing with the critical situation arising mainly from the adverse exchanges in his speech at the re-opening of Parliament followed in the main the expected lines. Besides what may be termed direct aid for unemployment the proposals include the amendment of the export credits scheme, the extension of credit for engineering contracts, and Government assistance in connection with the raising of loans where the application of such loans is calculated to promote employment in this country. How far these proposals will enable British industry to tide over the period that still separates us from something approaching normal conditions must remain to be seen. *Prima facie* they seem calculated to achieve that purpose.

**Export Credits.**

The most important proposal is, of course, that dealing with export credits. As Mr. Lloyd George pointed out, there is no doubt that the world needs British goods, but owing to the adverse exchanges it is impossible at present for buyers and sellers to come together. The existing export credits scheme has largely failed to meet the emergency. Under that scheme the Government guaranteed 85 per cent of the cost of goods with recourse against the exporter for half the risk. It is now proposed that the Government guarantee should be increased to 100 per cent., and that the exporter should be liable on recourse for 57½ per cent. This amendment, it is maintained, and with justice should remove the obstacle to trading at this end.

**The Question of Security.**

One of the main reasons why the export credits scheme has not been a success has been the question of the deposit by importers in a bank of a sufficient sum to cover the transaction. While the exchanges were fairly steady as they were a year ago this was possible, but at the present time it will be readily realised that anything of the kind is quite out of the question. Apart from the handicap of having to immobilise credit for long periods no trader is able to meet the constant demand for increased cover caused by continued fluctuations in the exchanges. Of course no one could foresee a year or more ago how things would turn out, and it was natural to suppose that with occasional variations the tendency of the exchanges would be towards a gradual appreciation.

**Bonds, Bank Guarantees, and Currency.**

The question of security was dealt with at length by Mr. Lloyd George, who pointed out that at first the importer "had some reserve for security in one way or another, but it has all gone." He went on to explain that they were left with three kinds of security—Government bonds, guarantee by the banks of payment in sterling, and the currency of the importing country. As regards the first he remarked on the failure of the League of Nations to bring the Ter Meulen scheme into operation up to the present, while as regards the second it scarcely needs explaining that banks are unlikely to show any great anxiety to guarantee payment in sterling. The third security, the currency, needs no comment. As Mr. Lloyd George said, in giving examples of the fluctuations of the exchanges "it is obvious that neither exporter nor importer can build up a trade on that acrobatic basis."

**At the Exporter's Risk.**

The Prime Minister summed the question up by saying that it came to be a matter of the exporter's risk, which presumably means that in transactions under the new scheme the importer will not be compelled to furnish security as before. Of course the risk in trading on such lines must be very considerable, and there are bound to be losses, but the Government very naturally take the view that it is a question of deciding which is the greater risk—trade and employment or unemployment.

**Improved Position of Tea Industry.**

A very interesting review of the outlook for the tea and rubber industries was given by Mr. Clark at the general meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield Ltd., a report of which will be found on another page in this issue. As regards tea he pointed out that producing costs have fallen, while market prices have improved so that the majority of companies are no longer making heavy losses. Further the statistical position has improved. He estimated the probable world's production of tea in 1921 at about 600 million pounds as against a probable consumption of about 700 million pounds, "while during the past six months the stocks in the United Kingdom have been eaten into just about to the extent of 50 million pounds."

**Promising Outlook.**

It is as Mr. Clark says a very remarkable fact that the consumption of the various markets should have increased sufficiently to enable the absorption of 700 million pounds of tea while Russia still remains practically out of the market and other outlets are not yet available. These facts should give shareholders who have seen their securities depreciate so greatly considerable encouragement. There may be a long

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period to wait before all countries are able to take their requirements, but when that happens the position will simply be, as I have had occasion to point out before in these columns, that unless the present plantations have been greatly increased there will ultimately be something approaching a shortage.

**The Rubber Industry.**

An encouraging review of the outlook for the rubber industry was given by Mr. Clark. He expressed doubt whether the actual consumption of rubber has ever been going on faster than during the past year, and thought it safe to conclude that "by the end of this year the invisible stocks, both of raw and manufactured rubber will have been used up to the fullest extent possible, and that next year the demand for raw rubber must again be fully equal to the actual consumption, and amount to not less than 300,000 tons, and very possibly to 350,000 tons."

**Need for Rubber Expanding.**

As illustrating the extent to which the world's real need of rubber is expanding he pointed out that while just before the war there were about 2,000,000 cars running there are now 12,000,000. "I know of no source of rubber consumption," he added "that can be said to be declining, but, on the other hand, there are constantly new uses being added to those already in existence, and I have no doubt as to the ultimate soundness and value of the rubber producing industry."

**Commentator.**

## "THE FUTURE OF COTTON."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—I read with interest Mr. de Segundo's article in your issue of October 20, entitled "The Future of Cotton: Will a Substitute be Found?" There has been at least one previous article by the same writer on the use of the same material which he here suggests but as a substitute for paper pulp.

This material is the fibre cut from the cotton seed, and known as Linters and Cotton Hull Fibre. The fibre itself is obviously an ideal material for making paper and artificial silk, as Mr. de Segundo points out, but is useful in many other directions for instance, in making celluloid, films, and in the plastic moulding trade. The difficulty has been to produce an absolutely clean and white pulp.

The article continues "Thus a very large supply of suitable material for the production of viscose is rendered potentially available and active steps are now being taken for the establishment of these machines (machines for removing residual cotton fibres from the seed) in Great Britain, the United States, India, and other cotton growing countries."

All these developments appear to be on sound lines, but while awaiting the production which will some day be available it is a matter of considerable importance to those who are interested in this question to know that already a perfect material of this kind absolutely clean and white is being produced in large quantities, and is being sold here in England.

Papers of the highest grade, and celluloid made from this material, are available. Pending the organisation of the industry in our Colonies, when no doubt the Empire will produce all the necessary pulp of this nature, there is no need to wait for the potentially available supplies—they are here now. The pulp is being used in increasing quantities. Yours faithfully,

H. C. de J. du Vallon.

26 and 27, Bush Lane, London, E.C.4.

October 21.

## THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

It seems only a very little time since the last British Industries Fair was held, but already, as the announcement on the opposite page indicates, we can begin to think about the next of these welcome annual events.

Each year in the brief history of the fair has marked an advance towards the ideal of a really comprehensive exhibition of the potentialities of British manufacturers. Progress was naturally slow during the war period which saw the birth of the fair, but it has been rapid since 1918 when at last it became possible to include the chief branches of British industry, and those who visit the coming fair may expect without fear of disappointment to be shown a wider range of manufactures than they could see anywhere else in the world.

The fair in its short career has known many habitations, none of them permanent. The London Docks, the Crystal Palace, the White City have all housed it in turn; it has been centred in London; then on account of its remarkable growth at three centres, London, Birmingham, and Glasgow. In 1922 there is to be a new arrangement. Glasgow drops out, and the exhibits at that centre, with the exception of textiles (which for once will be omitted) will be shown at Birmingham. The advantage of the change from the buyer's point of view will be obvious. However convenient the dates a task of extreme difficulty was clearly imposed on any visitor who wished to see all three sections of the fair. Confined to London and Birmingham the buyer will have his work much simplified. This change is not permanent, for the intention is to hold the fair after 1923 in the buildings that are to be constructed at Wembley to house the British Empire Exhibition of that year.

The "slump" was nearing it worst when the fair was held in February, and the congestion in foreign markets and the general economic outlook naturally affected the attendance and the amount of business transacted. It was nevertheless a very fair success. Next spring, judging by present indications, conditions in general should be much more favourable. The opinion is widely held that we have seen the worst of the trade depression. Certainly stocks in a number of centres are rapidly diminishing, and will have to be replenished, while the new export credits scheme should enable buyers and sellers to come to business despite the adverse exchanges. It may be hoped by then, too, that if the Ter Meulen scheme is not actually in operation there will at least be definite signs of its pending ultilisation by some of the countries with whom we are now almost unable to trade. Whether that is so or not it is certainly possible to look forward to next February with a very fair degree of confidence.

The range of exhibits at the Fair, which has come to merit the title of the successor to Leipzic, is too well-known to the majority of buyers the world over to need recapitulation. They know by previous experience that they will be certain to find just what they want either at the White City or at Birmingham, and withal so well arranged that there is no need for them to spend hours at one of the sections of the Fair in searching for what they want, as all the exhibits are carefully arranged in classes so as to simplify inspection. Given no untoward developments next spring will be the first occasion in the history of the Fair in which conditions have really favoured the presence of buyers in large numbers and it may be expected that all records for attendance and business will be broken.

The City of Bombay Improvement Trust 4 per cent. Guaranteed Debentures of 1900. Coupons due on November 1 will be paid on and after that date at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 9 Gracechurch-street, E.C.

Spaghetti and other similar alimentary pastes may be exported from Algeria to all destinations until the end of the year up to a maximum of 1,200 metric tons.

It is announced that the Roumanian Army is being supplied by France with clothing in exchange for petrol; 25,000 tons of oil have already been shipped to France in this connection.

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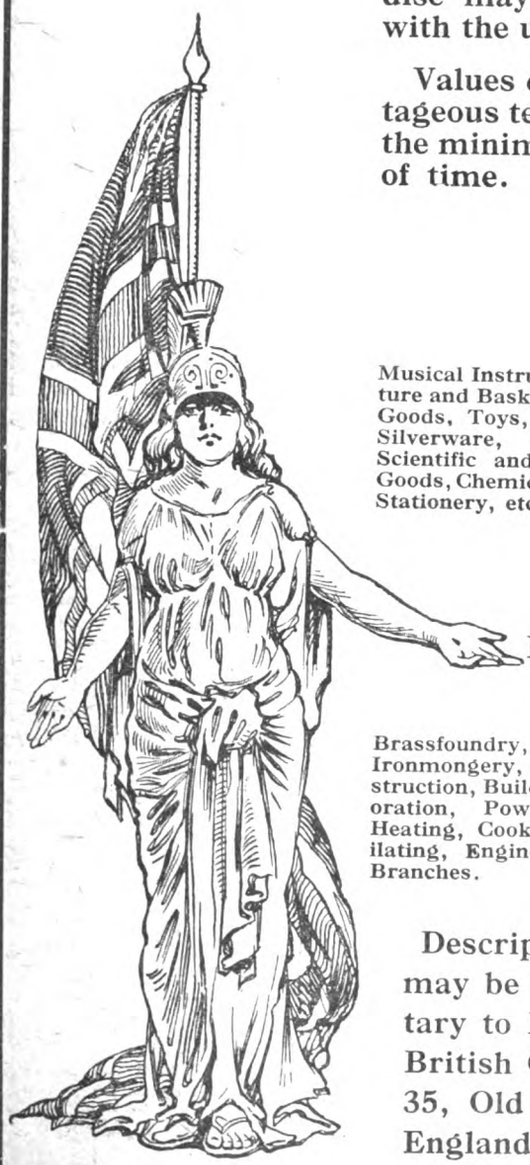

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS,

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, October 12.*

**Roumano-Austrian Economic Convention.**

On September 30, the Roumano-Austrian Economic Convention was signed at Vienna by the respective delegates. This is the first economic convention concluded by Roumania with one of the former enemy States, and is based on the most favoured nation clause. The convention will come into force 15 days after it has been ratified by the two Parliaments, and is to run for a period of one year. In the course of next month Roumania expects to conclude an economic convention with Spain.

**Further Credit for Reconstruction.**

The Ministry of Communications has been granted a further credit of 400 million lei to be used for the following purposes:—10 million lei for the alteration of the gauge of the Ungheni-Chisinau Railway line in Bessarabia; 90 million lei for the repair of railway bridges; 80 million lei for the repair of railway tracks; 125 million lei for the improvement of railway work-shops; 47, 500,000 lei for the repair of vessels belonging to the State shipping lines and the hydraulic service; 18,500,000 lei for wireless telegraphy; 9 million lei for aviation; 20 million lei for postal, telegraph and telephone services.

**The "Gold Lei."**

In my last letter I mentioned that according to the new import regime the duty tax for certain luxury goods will have to be paid in "gold lei." This means that one gold lei will be equal to 20 lei. This calculation is based on the present rate of the dollar as compared to the lei, and will remain in force until November 1, when it will be modified should a change in the rate of exchange have taken place.

**Miscellaneous.**

As a result of the unfavourable rate of exchange, and in order to encourage home industry, the Roumanian War Office has decided to place an order for one million metres of cloth for army requirements with local manufacturers.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October 16.*

**Bulgarian Debts to England.**

Mr. Egerton Grey, the Treasury official entrusted with the collection and general administration of the Bulgarian debts to England, has been on a short visit to Sofia and has gone back to London with the intention of sending a representative to Sofia who will work in conjunction with M. Stoyanoff, Director of the Public Debt. Mr. Grey met a number of Ministers, financiers, and business men, and stated before leaving that Bulgaria was showing more proofs of good will and honesty in the paying of her debts than any of the other ex-enemy countries. Whilst it is satisfactory to record this tribute on the part of Mr. Grey, it is equally unsatisfactory to note that no arrangement has as yet been come to whereby the sequestration of Bulgarian property and money in England may be terminated. As is well known both France and Italy have raised the sequestration, but we persist in our present attitude, and seem to regard the action taken by our late Allies as foolish and ill advised, whereas in reality it is a clever diplomatic move, which, without entailing much loss to the two countries concerned, has enabled them to gain a considerable amount of prestige in local business and financial circles.

**New Import Duties.**

The new import Tariff which will shortly come into force will have the effect of practically putting a stop to the import of motor cars as there is to be a tax on them of 50 per cent. *ad valorem*. There is also a great increase in the taxes levied on such articles as tea, coffee, and other foodstuffs. The aim of this legislation is to ensure a better balancing of the Budget and to encourage local manufactures.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, October 11.*

**Vexatious Trade Restrictions.**

Much annoyance has been caused to Smyrna grain dealers by the refusal of the Greeks to allow barley and wheat to be despatched to Smyrna. Permission to bring down considerable quantities of barley was accorded to the leading British firms by the Greek authorities in Smyrna, but at the last moment the Military authorities at Ouchak refused to allow the waggons to leave. The various Chambers of Commerce have protested against this useless step which is paralysing trade, and have shown that there are ample stocks for the use of the Greek Army without holding up the entire crop.

## EGYPT.

*Port Said, October 7.*

**Shipping Outlook.**

There are various signs here that whatever the state of trade is at home the shipping is improving. Vessels passing through the Canal are noticeably deeper in the water than they were six months ago, and the number appears to be greater.

## GREECE

*Athens, October, 15.*

**Reconstruction of Salonika**

According to information supplied by the Ministry of Communications, the Government has decided to expedite the application of certain measures for the reconstruction of Salonika. The work in connection with the drawing up of the plans of the town is nearing completion, and it is hoped that the sale of plots of ground will shortly commence. It has also been decided to build a new custom house near the railway station, in order to facilitate commerce with Serbia.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest. Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £ ... | 25.22½ | 82–93 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 260–270 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 22.43 | 650–690 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4½ |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 55.05–55.25 |
| Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 530–543 |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 870–890 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 42.86 2-3 | 3.92–3.93⅛ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 54.15–54.40 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 360–390 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 100–100¾ |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ .... | 25.22½ | 500–600 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 51 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 7,000-8,000 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 15,000-18,000 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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## COMMERCE IN THE SUDAN.

### Handicaps of Traders.

*(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)*

There is little doubt that all traders throughout the world are subjected to petty annoyances and restrictions by their respective Governments, and that the official mind is rather inclined to regard the merchant in the light of a perpetual grumbler, and is liable to give very cursory attention to the various complaints and petitions that are put forward from time to time. The usual channel for the ventilation of trade grievances is the Chamber of Commerce, which, if a sufficiently strong body, can make the necessary representations to the Government immediately concerned or failing that, have recourse to Consular assistance. The Sudan trader, however, is resident in a Condominium, in which no consular representation is allowed, and which is still subject to the Proclamation of Martial Law, which does not appear to have been repealed since its inception at the re-occupation of the country. During the war, censorship was so strict that the Sudan Chamber of Commerce *Journal*, which should be regarded in the light of a privileged publication, was treated in the same manner as news publications displayed for sale at the various stationers and bookstalls. It is only comparatively recently that the *Journal* has been freed from restriction, and as a consequence it is only within the last year or so that the grievances of the commercial community have become more widely known. The country is still in a stage of transition from military to civil rule, and it is only natural that in certain quarters the trading community is looked on as a necessary evil resulting from the too rapid development of the conquered territory. Happily this state of affairs is becoming less apparent every year, but it must be generally conceded by all residents that administrative methods could be much improved were some attention paid to the opinion of the merchants as regards certain regulations which undoubtedly hamper the import and export trade of the country.

In this respect a series of interesting points were raised at the general meeting of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce held in April this year. The members present were unanimous in condemning the excessive freight and passenger rates charged by the Government Railways and steamers. In certain cases the rates for produce have been materially reduced. As an instance a rebate of PT 100. per ton was granted on *dhurrah feterita* destined for export. This did much to stimulate trade in this particular commodity, but any grateful recognition for the reduction was more or less nullified by the length of time occupied in obtaining a refund from the railways, the method practised being that the railways insisted on full freight being paid at the time of loading consignments—the rebate to be made on evidence of shipment from Port Sudan. Actually the refund in many cases was not made until two months after the merchandise had left the port. In the case of a merchant obtaining financial assistance from his bankers this would entail a loss of interest at from 7 per cent. to 8 per cent. per annum, which, in some instances brought to the notice of the writer, meant an appreciable loss as the rebate due ran into several thousand pounds. As regards passenger fares, on the basis obtaining on the Egyptian State Railways the fare from Shellal to Khartoum would be some £E.7. instead of over £E.20. as at present. Freight rates are on the whole equally disproportionate. In January last as an example a Ford Car in its case was sent from Alexandria to Khartoum. The freight on the Egyptian State Railways as far as Shellal amounted to £E.9. for a distance of roughly 680 miles, from Shellal to Khartoum—approximately 800 miles—the freight was some £E.24. Another continual source of complaint is the question of liability of the railways as regards produce carried at 7th class or "owner's risk" rates. Naturally the railways refuse to accept any responsibility for loss or shortages of goods booked on these conditions, but on the other hand it is manifestly unreasonable that a shortage of say 32 sacks out of 100, or as far as that goes a shortage of the whole consignment of 100 sacks, should be borne by the unfortunate exporter. The regulations are framed in such a way that there is a distinct incentive to dishonest employees of the Department to profit by their elasticity and make away with small lots from each of these consignments at owner's risk, knowing that the onus of proving such thefts revolves on the consignor and that the likelihood of detection at wayside stations at night is practically nil. During the recent heavy rains very considerable damage was sustained through the lack of tarpaulins and shortage of covered wagons. There is no doubt that merchants would gladly pay a few piastres extra for the hire of tarpaulins and although the subject has been brought up repeatedly by various individuals and the Chamber of Commerce, there has hitherto been no indication that these will be provided in the future.

In regard to imports from Egypt via Halfa—under existing regulations goods are inspected there and dues collected. No goods may be forwarded unless accompanied by a trader's invoice, and as these are for the most part sent direct to the consignee in Khartoum or elsewhere in the interior, a very great deal of unnecessary delay is occasioned in forwarding the consignments to their ultimate destinations. This procedure is said to be due to the existing dual Customs control at Halfa, the trader's invoice being required by both Egyptian and Sudan Customs. It may be noted that there is no storage accommodation at all at Halfa the incoming and outgoing consignments being left for considerable periods on the foreshore of the river, depending on the congestion of traffic or non-arrival of the all-needful trader's invoice, and naturally there is every risk of deterioration of the goods. It has been suggested frequently that through consignments should be inspected at Khartoum and all necessary dues paid there. For reasons best known to themselves the authorities refuse to countenance such a course, and seem unwilling to give any explanation as to their not being desirous to give way.

A great deal of discontent has been manifested with regard to the Dam construction. Hitherto the public have not been enlightened in any way as to the precise nature of the scheme evolved. No official information has been given out as to whether the native or other owners of tracts in the 300,000 feddans to be affected are to be permitted to cultivate their land in their own way, or whether such cultivation is to be supervised by the Government or the Sudan Plantations Syndicate. There appears to be a very great deal of unnecessary secrecy maintained on this subject, so much so that it is necessary to obtain special permits even to visit the works. The mercantile community complain that no tenders are put out in respect of the supply of material etc. for the construction and that all purchases are made privately. The contention put forward some time ago that there are no firms capable of tendering in the Sudan does not hold good any longer in view of the fact that the Associated British Manufacturers and other important engineering firms are now represented in the country. In view of the excellent work carried out by the Department for Overseas Trade, it is regrettable that a Commercial Agent has not hitherto been appointed for the Sudan. There is very little doubt that British trade has benefited much from the appointment of a similar official in Egypt.

Amongst other disabilities I may mention the entire lack of any legislation in regard to the registration of companies, and the necessity of an official translation office where the precise shades of meaning of certain Arabic phrases and terms could be clearly defined, since, as may be readily understood, in the case of a disputed contract, a very great deal would depend on the interpretation.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

## COAL CARBONISATION.

Quite recently extraordinary progress appears to have been made in connection with the low temperature carbonisation process of dealing with coal. This particular method of working, as distinct from the high temperature methods adopted by our gas works and coke ovens, is by no means new, as it has in fact been working for some ten or twelve years, though not to anything like the efficiency possible, and it was known and in the experimental stage for at least an equal length of time before that. In fact I remember the opening of one of the most ambitious, and for a time most successful, schemes of the old coalite enterprise, the plant at Plymouth.

The trouble with the coalite or low temperature process was purely mechanical. As every engineer knows coal when subjected to heat commences to expand, this expansion being about at a maximum at from 700 to 750 degrees Fahr, which is just the temperature required for the most efficient carbonisation in the low temperature retorts. Now when a large mass of solid coal expands something has to give way; if on the other hand the coal mass is not solid, it swells and gains and crushes itself under that heat into something about as hard and solid as stone. If the work of temperature raising is carried out in a retort, the mass of coal slack used in the coalite process cakes together like concrete, and, in short, although there was no trouble in making coalite there was a very real and serious trouble in getting it out of the retort. In fact, some time back coalite was being produced and marketed, some 100,000 tons in all being sold, but the retorts were unsatisfactory. The coalite had to be forced, perhaps "rammed" would be a better word, out of the retorts, and this not only caused long delays in connection with recharging the retorts but a good deal of the heat stored up which could otherwise have been used for roasting or at least pre-heating the following charge had to be wasted. As a matter of fact the molten coalite had actually to be crushed out of the retorts, and consequently such fuel as did discharge in solid form was inclined to be friable, and was not, therefore, suitable for rough handling.

**An Interesting Visit.**

A few days ago I was asked to go down to Barnsley to inspect a low temperature carbonisation plant in operation, to examine it closely in every engineering, chemical, and mechanical detail, and to give my considered opinion as to its design and construction, and also as to the efficiency and economy of the working arrangements. The invitation came from Messrs. Close Bros and Co., who, having operated the plant successfully and continuously for nearly three months, and believing as a result that there is nothing less than absolute certainty of success ahead, are now desirous of letting everybody know what a good thing coalite is and how extremely well the low temperature process is working.

In an experimental manner and a laboratory no one with a requisite knowledge disputes that the following results can be obtained by this process from one ton of average small slack coal:—14 cwts. of smokeless fuel, known as coalite; 16 to 18 gals. of tar oil, which can be split into lubricating and Diesel engine oils; 6,000 cubic feet of gas of a calorific value of 700 British thermal units per cubic foot; 14 lbs. of sulphate of ammonia, which, as everyone knows, is a particularly valuable fertiliser; and from two to three gallons of pure motor spirit.

No one questions that if these substances, in the quantities mentioned, can be produced on a commercial scale, enormous benefits to the world in general, and to this country in particular, will result. But it has never till now been possible to carry out this process on a profitable commercial basis. More specifically, it has been rightly doubted in the past whether the smokeless fuel made in the retorts can, as mentioned above, be discharged sufficiently rapidly from the apparatus, when constructed on a commercial scale, and further, whether, when so discharged, it would not prove to be of such a character that it would break up into dust under pressure or rough usage. In other words, whether it could be carried in trucks, whether it would withstand the vibration of a railway journey, and whether it could be handled as easily and as roughly as coal. From my visit to the Low Temperature Carbonisation Co's. works at Barugh, near Barnsley, I am able to assure my readers that all difficulties have been overcome and the last problem has been solved.

**Some Details.**

In connection with the process, the most important thing is that small and dust coal of low value is converted by the process into a valuable fuel, and in the course of this a number of extremely valuable products, as gas, motor spirit, and fertiliser, to say nothing of oils, are recovered.

Of all the coal mined in this country roughly one-third is "slack," or small coal, that will pass through a sieve with a moderately fine mesh. Of this slack there are two main sub-divisions, coking and non-coking slack. The latter is unsuitable for gas works or coke ovens, and can be used only to a limited extent for heating or steam raising purposes. It is consequently a drug on the market, and is regarded as a waste product. In normal times most of this is left down the mines and used for filling up the old workings, and is left in the "gob." The coking slack is a trifle more valuable as it can be used for the production of coke for blast furnace work. It is, however, not readily saleable and a good deal is consequently not brought to the surface. That which is, can be sold for a few shillings a ton.

Coalite is made from a mixture of two parts of non-coking with one part of coking slack, and as it is a perfect fuel for both domestic and industrial purposes, being absolutely uniform in texture and quality, it sells readily at a price closely approximating to that of best household coal.

The fuel is entirely smokeless. I have not only used it myself but have seen it burning in small and large domestic grates, and in the boilers and industrial plants, and can personally testify as to its value. About half a ton of coalite is equal in bulk to one ton of coal, will last as long in the fires as one ton of coal and give out about as much radiant heat. It consequently shows nearly 50 per cent. saving as compared with coal, a fact which speaks for itself.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## MOTOR-SHIP v. STEAMSHIP.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Port Said, October 7.*

It is often asserted, and sometimes justifiably, that British shipowners are slow to adopt anything new until it has been thoroughly tested and tried by other countries, and this is well illustrated in regard to motor-ships, for the Scandinavian and Danish firms are far ahead of our own in the adoption of this class of vessel. So far the only English company trading out this way that seems to have gone in at all seriously for them is the Glen Line, and as far as we have been able to ascertain the management appear to be satisfied with their step. It is obvious that in case of high prices or a shortage of oil a motor-ship that only uses say twenty tons a day is a better proposition than a steamship that burns forty tons a day, even though the initial cost of the motor-ship's engines is much higher.

## RECORD RUN TO EGYPT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Port Said, October 7.*

The s.s. Troilus belonging to the Ocean Steamship Company, better known perhaps as the Blue Funnel Line, has passed through here recently. She has created somewhat of a record in getting to Port Said from Liverpool in one hour under nine days. She is the latest of that line, and is on her maiden trip. With a length of 460 feet and a gross tonnage of 7,500 she makes an ideal cargo carrier, and is fitted with most of the latest improvements; water-tight doors in the bulkhead below that can be closed in case of emergency by the officer on the bridge, and also very efficient gear for the quick handling of cargo. She has also a new type of rounded bow, which, in case of collision with another ship, reduces very considerably the risk of fatal damage. In fact it may be safely said, that a ship struck by this type of bow would in all probability be able to get to port, whereas the same impact by one of the old type of sharp bows, would sink her at once. In case, however, that the Troilus is the rammed instead of the rammer, she is fitted in the highest part of the ship, nearly on a level with the bridge, with a complete installation of motors and pumps, so that, if the engine-room were flooded, these motor-pumps could keep the water under control, and at the same time furnish power to keep the wireless going at full strength.

Her engines are compound geared turbines, which have obviously done well to have got the ship here in record time. Her "astern" turbine is able to develop about 80 per cent. of the power of the "ahead" ones, which is a vast improvement on previous geared turbines, which could often only give 50 per cent., and sometimes as low as 40 per cent. of the ahead power, for going astern.

It would be a good thing if underwriters took note of this sort of thing, which is done by a firm which insures their own ships There might be fewer total losses of ships, and lives, if such precautions were made compulsory. There is already a vast difference in the number of fatal casualties happening to Greek ships, since the underwriters refused to insure them, and if they adopt the same attitude to certain types of tramp steamers, it would be of benefit to everybody.


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**CIRCASSIA, FEBRUARY 10th**

**Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,**
**16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.**


## NEW STEAMER FOR ROUMANIA.

The s.s. Prahova, which was recently launched from the Walker Shipyard, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been constructed by Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., to the order of La Première Société Nationale de Navigation Maritime, Roumania, represented in this country by Director General Commander Cesar Boerescu. The naming ceremony was performed by Madame M. T. G. Dinescu, wife of the Resident Inspector.

The principal dimensions of the vessel are :—Length overall, 372 ft.; length between perpendiculars, 360 ft.; breadth extreme, 51 ft.; breadth moulded, 50 ft. 9 inches.; depth moulded to upper deck, 24 ft., 9 inches. The vessel is designed for a speed on trial of 10 knots with deadweight of 6,235 tons. It is a single screw vessel, and had been built under special survey to approved plans for Lloyds Classification—100 A.1.

The cellular double bottoms are arranged for carrying water ballast, and to extend from the well in the after tunnel recess to the fore peak bulkhead, divided by water tight transverse floors. The fore and after peaks also serve as ballast tanks arranged to be filled and emptied by a donkey pump. The upper deck, poop bridge and forecastle decks are all of steel. Fresh water tanks are provided of a total capacity of 4,000 gallons; each tank being provided with suitable arrangements for filling emptying and cleaning.

The vessel has two masts, with telescopic pitch pine top masts, and on each side of each mast two pitch pine derricks capable of lifting 5 tons are fitted, in addition to two derricks placed on the bridge capable of lifting two tons. It is provided with a windlass of the horizontal direct steam type in addition to 10 winches of the double cylinder horizontal type. Pumping and piping arrangements are replete in every respect. The electric lighting installation comprises a direct coupled generating plant with vertical single cylinder engine and dynamo of the multipolar type of ample power to run the whole plant at one time.

The propelling machinery is of the triple expansion type with cylinders 24 inches—39 inches, and 65-1-2 inches;stroke 45 inches. There are three boilers of the cylindrical multiple type 12 feet 9 inches external diameter by 11 feet. 6 inches long, constructed to stand a working pressure of 180 lbs. per square inch; the total heating surface being 5,200 sq. ft.

## DANUBE-ELBE NAVIGATION SCHEME.

The Prague papers announce that the Czechoslovak Government is negotiating with an English financial group with a view to forming a company, which, assisted and supervised by the Government, would be entrusted with the whole navigation on the Elbe and Danube. Besides stipulating for facilities in the transport of goods from the Czechoslovak Elbe and other ports to Bratislava on the Danube, the English group suggested the advisability of hiring the Czechoslovak State Railways for a number of years. The details of the offer, however, are not yet known, but it is stated that, as regards tariffs, the authority of the State would not be superseded.

## NEW PASSENGER SERVICE TO THE FAR EAST.

The Ellerman and Bucknall Line are inaugurating a new passenger service to the Straits, China and Japan. The first departure will be the s.s. City of Manchester, calling at Plymouth for passengers on December 2, to be followed by the new twin s crew Turbine steamer City of Simla, 10,500 tons, about a month later. The City of Simla is fitted with all modern improvements and has accommodation for 200 first class passengers, and 60 second class. Her up-to-date accommodation includes brass bedsteads in many of the cabins, another feature being the provision of outside cabins only.

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## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 8).

*Anchor Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Malia for Calcutta (Manchester, November 5); s.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 5) ; s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 6) ; s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 15) ; s.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 5).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 9).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Mackay for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 3) ; s.s. Clan MacQuarrie for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, November 4).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk and Batoum (Liverpool, October 29) ; s.s. Cypria for Genoa, Leghorn Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Swansea, November 15).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Estrellano for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Liverpool, November 5).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 8) ; s.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 24).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. Melford Hall for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, October 31) ; s.s. City of Marseilles for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, November 12) ; s.s. Kosmo for Malabar Coast ports, (Liverpool, November 21).

*Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Amarapoora for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 2) ; s.s. Chindwin for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 16).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Peruviana for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, November 5).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Limoges for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Jaffa, Beyrout and Cyprus (Liverpool, November 4) ; s.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria (with transhipment to Morocco, Algeria, Cyprus, and Syrian Coast ports) (Liverpool, November 5).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 4) ; s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, November 11).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Margha for Colombo Madras and Calcutta (London, October 28) ; s.s. Merkara for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 4) ; s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 11) ; s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 18) ; s.s. Nerbudda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 26).

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On account of insufficient fodder in some parts of Roumania the export of oilcakes has been prohibited.

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The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended September 30 amounted to £E12,844 ; total for year £E172,241.


# WONDERFUL EXHIBITS
AT THE
# Brewery Exhibition
**(Royal Agricultural Hall, Oct 29th to Nov 4th).**
## FLUGEL SODA FOUNTAINS
**Stand—152, Row Z.**

Actual working models will be on view showing how the finest aerated fruit drinks are automatically manufactured at a minimum of cost and trouble. The Flugel Soda Fountains automatically filter every drop of water, and each drop is aerated while it is being filtered. Every one interested in the production and sale of mineral water drinks should ensure seeing this remarkable machine, and if unable to visit this exhibition they should send for the special free illustrated booklet (now ready) giving a full description of these exhibits. You will be more than interested. Write to:
**FLUGEL & Co., Ltd., (Dept. N40): 69, Green Lanes, London, N: 16:** and mark the envelope "Exhibition."


## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.*

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)*

**Egypt.**

Blind Tape.—The Inspector of Buildings, West Division, 32 Boulevard de Ramleh, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 2,500 linear metres of blind tape 2½ centimetres wide. October 31.

Pumps.—The Director-General, State Domains (Commercial Service), invites tenders for the supply of three centrifugal pumps of 13 and 14 inches complete. October 31.

Canal and Drain Clearance.—The Inspector of Irrigation, 3rd Circle, Alexandria, invites tenders for the winter clearance of canals and drains in Beheira Province. November 2.

Pumping.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of installation of pumping plant at Atf Pumping Station. December 31.

Oil Fuel.—The Technical Secretary, Petroleum Office, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of oil fuel to various Government Departments. November 1.

Canal and Drain Clearance.—The Mudir of Gharbiya Province Tanta, invites tenders for winter clearances and repairs, Gharbiya Province, excluding Zifta District 1921-1922. November 5.

Canal and Drain Clearance.—The Mudir of Minufiya Province, Shibîn el Kom, invites tenders for winter clearances and repairs, Minufiya Province and Zifta District, 1921-1922. November 5.

Clothing, etc.—The Lunacy Division, Abbassiya, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers brushes, and other household necessaries required for Abbassiya and Khanka Asylums for one year from April 1, 1922, November 21.

Paper and Stationery.—The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of paper, stationery, and general office material required by the Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, for the year 1922—1923. December 15. (D.O.T.)

**Malta.**

Conveyance of Mails.—Sealed tenders will be received at the Office of H.M. Treasury, Malta, up to 4 p.m. on November 30, 1921, for the service of the conveyance of mails between Malta and a port in Sicily or the Continent of Europe for a period of six years, (*a*) twice weekly, (*b*) three times weekly, provided that either party can terminate the contract by giving six months' notice on the expiration of the first three years. Tenderers will give the following particulars :—(*a*) Days of the week and hours of proposed arrivals and departures at Malta and at specified ports abroad. (*b*) Gross and net tonnage of steamers, speed, passenger and other accommodation. (*c*) Amount of annual subsidy required. (*d*) Date of commencement of service. Copies of conditions of contract and forms of tender may be obtained on application at the Treasury Office, Malta, or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London S.W. The Government will consider any other conditions which tenderers may propose. No tender will be considered unless it is signed by the tenderer and by a suitable guarantor, residing in these Islands, for the due performance of the contract, and unless it is accompanied by a deposit of £500, which in the case of unsuccessful tenderers will be returned as soon as a contract is completed within the term fixed in para. 8 hereof. In the case of the successful tenderer the deposit shall be returned after the signature of the contract. The tenderer whose offer is accepted shall forfeit the deposit of £500 should he or his surety fail to sign the contract within eight days from the date of an intimation given to them to that effect, and fail to deposit with the Government of Malta, within eight days from the date of acceptance of the tender, a sum of two thousand pounds (£2,000) as security for the due performance of the contract.

**Yugoslavia.**

Paper.—The Director of Government Monopolies, Belgrade invites tenders for the supply of 180,000 kilogrammes of paper on reels for packing tobacco. November 1 (D.O.T.).

Army Clothing.—The Army Clothing Department of the Yugoslav State, Ministry of War and Marine, invites tenders for the supply of 120,000 army blankets, third class. Tenders will be received by the Army Clothing Department, Donji Grad, Belgrade, where samples of the blankets required may also be inspected. November 10. (D.O.T).

**India.**

Rails and Fishplates.—The South Indian Railway Company Ltd., invites tenders for the supply of 60lbs. per yard B.S. Bull-headed rails and fishplates ; 90lbs. ditto ; fishplates for 41½lb. flat-bottomed rails. Specifications and forms of tender can be obtained from the Company's Offices, 91, Petty France, Westminster.

Paint, etc.—The East Indian Railway Company invites tenders for the supply and delivery of Paints, &c., wood screws, nails, &c., bunting, 20 bogie carriages. Tenders for paints, wood, screws, nails and bunting close on November 2, and tenders for bogie carriages close on November 9.

Condensing Plant, etc.—The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation invites tenders for the supply and erection at Cossipore generating station of (1) one 15,000 kw. turbo-alternator and condensing plant, and (2) two water-tube boilers each with evaporation of 60,000lb. per hour. November 9.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Further Decline in Prices.

Sugar.—British refined has continued in fair demand at the revised rates. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 40s., while Czecho-Slovakian is unchanged at 20s. 6d. Other transactions include white Mauritius at 43s. 6d., a decline of 1s., and white Java at 47s. 3d. a drop of 1s. 3d.

Coffee.—A quiet tone has prevailed. Costa Rica has been done round about 126s., while Santos has come to business at 55s. and Indian at 100s. Futures are:—December 47s, March 48s. 3d., May 48s. 4½d., July 50s., September 50s. 3d.

Oilseeds.—The market has been dull. Indian linseed is 1s. 3d. down at 15s. 3d., while La Plata has shed a similar amount at 14s. Rapeseed has been firm with Toria at 19s. 3d., and Brown Cawnpore at 18s. 6d. Cottonseed has been inactive, with Indian 1s. 3d. down at 8s., and Sakellaridis at 11s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—A weak tendency has ruled. Linseed oil is 3s. 6d. down at 26s., while for November-December 25s. 3d. is quoted and for January-April 26s. 6d. Rape oil has been quiet, with crude at 52s. and the refined variety at 56s. Cotton oil has been quiet. Refined common edible has come to business at 57s., while Egyptian crude has been done at 47s., and deodorised at 62s. American turpentine is 65s.

Oilcakes.—The market has been weak. Linseed cake has been done at 275s, while cottonseed cake has come to business at 190s. Other quotations include 300s. for arachis cake, and 160s. for palm kernel.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 8 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amounts to 111,640 bags compared with 65,220 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 104,640 bags as against 59,220 bags for the same period last year and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 8,000 bags as compared with 6,000 bags for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to date total 117,346 loads, as against 119,305 loads for last year. The total estimated sales are 115,346 loads as compared with 116,305 loads for 1920, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 2,000 loads against 3,000 loads for last year.

Shipments.—The s.s. Trentino which sailed on September 26 for Liverpool and Glasgow has on board 32,362 boxes of sultanas, 831 cases of figs , 1,511 boxes of figs, and 29,216 bags of figs for Liverpool ; and 29,321 boxes of sultanas, 136 cases of figs, and 13,552 bags of figs for Glasgow.

Markets. The sultana market closed very quiet for the week ended October 1. ' Early this week, however, the exchanges commenced marking some sensational fluctuations, sterling from 650-660 running up to 695-700. Dealers attempted to put up prices in local currency, but shippers, discouraged by news of falling prices abroad, refused to follow the advance, and the market speedily relapsed. The advance in foreign exchange has been partly maintained, and the market remains very disorganised, business becoming more than ever a gamble on exchange. It is impossible to forecast the future of exchanges, and shippers are generally at a loss on what basis to reckon their prices for forward deliveries. Owing to the heavy stock of sultanas, however, prices must continue declining.

Figs are a steady market, the rise in exchange stimulating business. About 80 per cent of the yield has been marketed, and stocks remaining, of sound undamaged fruit, are light. Statistically the outlook is encouraging.

## BUSREH DATES.

The bazaars in Busreh and Ashar (says the *Times of Mesopotamia* of September 4) are rather excited at present concerning a scheme for the limitation of date exports which, we believe, is now being considered by some of our leading exporting firms. In view of the interest aroused locally by this subject, it might be advisable for somebody to make a statement on the necessity of the steps which are proposed, and which will probably be put into operation if the firms concerned succeed in coming to an agreement for the sharing of the spoils. Nobody can object to the exporters looking after their own interests. A considerable proportion of the consignments which they sent to London last year remains unsold, and a repetition of that state of affairs would, in the long run, have most deleterious effects on Busreh's staple trade. It is only natural that the growers should grumble. But it must be remembered that they reaped a rich harvest during the war, when dates could not be produced in sufficient quantities to meet the emergency demand. Experience has shown that that demand has not been maintained. It strikes us, by the way, that a good deal could be done to popularise the consumption of dates in Britain and the rest of Europe by a judicious advertising campaign in the popular press. Many of us remember the fillip that was given to the use of currants a year or two before the war by advertisements (usually disguised as articles in " Aunt Nellie's column " and the like !) proclaiming the excellencies of currants. No firm's name appeared in these advertisements, which were paid for by a combine interested in the exploitation of the commodity in question. Why not try the same remedy for the admitted falling-off in the demand for dates? Many housewives in England would appreciate a reminder concerning the superb qualities of the date as a proteid, its lusciousness its purity and freedom from disease, and—above all—its cheapness.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon : ( Continental ), 144s. 6d. cwt. ( Canadian ), 110s. cwt. ; ( American ), 90s. cwt. ; Butter ( Danish ), 229s. cwt. ; ( Australian ), 180s. cwt. ; ( New Zealand) 96s. cwt. ; lard 79s. 3d. cwt. ; eggs : ( Danish ), 34s. per 120 ; ( Styrian ), 21s. 6d. per 120 ; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt. ; cloves ( Zanzibar ), 1s. 3¾d. lb. ; cocoa ( Ceylon, good to fine ), 87s. cwt. ; coffee ( Costa Rica ), 152s. 6d. cwt. ; ( East India ), 130s. cwt. ; ( Central American ), 120s. cwt. ; ( Jamaica ), 68s. 6d. cwt. ; ( Mocha longberry ), 114s. cwt. ; ( Santos superior ), 63s. 6d. cwt. ; ginger ( washed Cochin ), 56s. 3d. cwt. ; nutmegs ( 110's to 80's ), 1s. lb. ; pepper ( Muntok white ) 8½d. lb. ; ( Singapore black ), 4d. lb. ; pimento, 2½d. lb. ; raisins ( Valencias ), 141s. 6d. cwt. ; sultanas ( Smyrna ), 120s. cwt. ; currants ( Vostizza ), 70s. cwt. ; ( Amalias ), 53s. cwt. ; sugar ( Tate's cubes ), 53s. 6d cwt. ; ( Lyle's granulated ), 50s. 7½d. cwt. ; ( Mauritius crystals ), 45s. 6d. cwt. ; ( West India crystallized ), 42s. cwt. ; ( Centrifugal in bond ). 16s. 6d. cwt. ; tapioca ( fair Singapore ), 1¾d. lb. ; sago ( small pearl ), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour, 17s. 3d. cwt. ; rice ( Rangoon No. 2 ), 19s. 6d. cwt. ; ( bran Rangoon ), £8 2s. 6dl ton ; cinnamon ( firsts ), 1s. 1½d. lb. ; mace ( fair Singapore ), 1s. 2½d. lb. ; tea: (Indian, common to good common), 9½d. lb.; ( medium to good ), 1s. 4½d. lb. ; ( fine to finest ), 2s. 7½d. lb. ; Ceylon ( common to good common ), 10½d. lb. ; ( medium to good), 1s. 5d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common ), 7¼d. lb. ; wheat : ( English white ), 46s. 6d. qr. ; ( La Plata, ex ship ), 82s. qr. ; ( Australian ), 57s. 6d. qr. ; barley ( malting ), 60s. qr. ; barley ( feeding ), 40s. qr. ; oats ( English ), 28s. qr. ; oats ( La Plata ex ship), 26s. 6d. qr. ; maize ( mixed American ), 33s. qr. ; maize ( La Plata ). 33s. 3d. qr. ; flour 50s. 6d. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton ; antimony ( English Regulus ), £39 10s ton ; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper ( standard ), £67 13s. 9d. ton ; copper ( electro ), £75 10s. ton ; gold bars 106s. 5d. oz. ; iron ( No. 3 Cleveland ), 120s ton ; hematite ( mixed number ), 136s. 3d. ton ; galvanized sheets ( 24 G), £18 15s. ton ; lead ( soft foreign ), £23 15s. ton ; manganese Poti. 1s. 1½d. unit ; molybdenite, 40s. unit ; nickel, £190 ton ; platinum, 382s. 6d. oz. ; plumbago, £20 ton ; quicksilver, £9 18s. 9d. bottle ; silver bars 42½d. oz. ; spelter ( G.O.B. ), £26 13s. 9d. ton ; tin ( standard ), £155 7s. 6d. ton ; wolfram, 12s. 10½d. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton ; tin plates ( 20 x 14 ), 21s. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric 66s. cwt. ; oxalic, 9d. lb. ; citric, 2s. 5½d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 5½d. lb. ; ammonia ( sulphate ), £14 9s. ton. ; arsenic ( white powdered ), £33 15s. ton ; benzole (standard ), 2s. 5d. gallon ; bleaching powder ( 35 per cent ), £15 15s. ton ; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt ; cream of tartar, 131s. 3d. cwt ; potassium : bi-chromate, 9¾d. lb. ; chlorate, 6d. lb. ; caustic, £29 ton ; permanganate, 1s 0½d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2d. lb. ; sulphate ( 90 per cent. ) £16 10s. ton ; Sodium : crystals, 14os. ton; bi-carbonate, £12 5s. ton. ; bi-chromate, 7d. lb. ; alkali ( 58 per cent. ) £9 5s. ton ; chlorate 4d. lb. ; caustic ( 70 per cent.) £24 10s. ton ; hyposulphate £18 10s. ton ; prussiate, 8¾d. lb. ; nitrate, £14 16s. 3d. ton ; glycerine ( crude 80 per cent. ) £80 ton ; glycerine ( industrial 1260 per cent. ) £110 ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 7½d. lb ; quinine, 4s. 0½d. oz. ; red lead, £38 5s. ton ; white dry lead, £41 5s. ton ; white ground lead, £51 ton ; sulphate of copper, £31 ton, sulphate of iron 117s. 6d. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton ( American ), 13.00d. lb. ; cotton ( Egyptian Sakel ), 24.00d. lb. ; Oilseeds : Linseed ( La Plata ), £14 15s. ton. ; cotton ( Egyptian ), £12 10s. ton ; palm kernals, £18 5s. ton ; castor seed ( Bombay ), £21 15s. ton ; Calcutta, £16 ton ; rape ( Toria ), £19 ton ; sesame seed ( China ), £32 ton ; soya beans, £15 ton ; Oils : Linseed £29 15s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon ), £47 10s. ton ; cotton crude, £49 10s. ton ; ground nut, £55 ton ; olive ( Levant ), £78 15s. ton ; palm, £36 17 6d. ton ; rape ( crude ), £52 10s. ton ; soya, £41 10s. ton ; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; fuel oil ( ex tank ), £3 15s ton ; Rubber : Plantation ( No 1 crepe ), 9¼d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 9¼d. lb. ; fine hard para, 1s. 1½d. lb.

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# COMPANY MEETING.

## HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD.

### Outlook for Tea and Rubber.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield Ltd., was held on October 21, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. C. Heath Clark, the Chairman of the company presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. C. Cleveland-Stevens, D.Sc.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: A year ago, when I presided over our meeting, acting for our Chairman, Mr. George Croll, who was then absent owing to illness, I quite expected that I was doing so for the last time. Unfortunately Mr. Croll's illness has proved of longer duration than any of us at that time imagined was at all probable, and his colleagues have thought it best to act in accordance with his expressed desire, and have accepted his resignation of the Chairmanship. As the other members of the Board pressed me to continue to act as their Chairman, I have consented to resume my old position for the present.

**The Past Year.**

The past year has been the most anxious and difficult that I remember in the history of our business. We have not only had to contend with an altogether unprecedented slump in the prices of the produce in the production of which we are mainly interested but, in addition, on the merchant side of our business we have had to face an enormously heavy depreciation of stocks, aggravated by the inability of customers to take up and pay for consignments ordered. We have also encountered further difficulties connected with violent fluctuations in exchange. Having faced very heavy losses from these and other causes, and having written down the stocks to replacement values, we have, I think, no need to be ashamed of the final result as shown in our Profit and Loss Account for the year.

**The Balance Sheet.**

Dealing with the figures in the balance sheet, the only change in the capital of the company is an increase to the extent of 7,020 deferred ordinary shares. The reserves stand at £473,000, as against £459,000 last year, the sundry liabilities have been reduced to the extent of about £260,000 since a year ago.

On the assets side of the balance sheet, there is an increase of about £140,000 under the heading of freehold and leasehold property, in consequence of our having paid for commitments previously entered into. Stocks show a reduction of about £35,000 as compared with a year ago, and are taken at replacement value. Loans to companies are £39,000 less; bills receivable are £70,000 less; and sundry debtors are £229,000 less.

Our investments amount to £1,413,000—an increase of about £145,000 since a year ago. The book values have not been changed, but remain at "cost or under" as in previous years. The value, if measured by the Stock Exchange quotations, in cases where there are such quotations, would show a considerable amount of depreciation, but, having regard to the favourable basis upon which our holdings were originally acquired, the directors have no doubt that the depreciation will disappear whenever the industries with which we are connected recover from the present crisis.

**Profit and Loss Account.**

Turning now to the profit and loss account, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, the balance at credit of the account is £202,339 18s. 8d. The dividends already declared amount to £157,514 12s., leaving an available balance of £44,525 6s. 8d. which the directors recommend should be carried forward to the current year. It has been our custom to recommend further dividends on the deferred ordinary and management shares, but, under the present uncertain conditions, we think it wise to conserve the resources of the company and to make no further distribution of profit among the holders of those classes of shares.

**The Tea Industry.**

The position of the tea industry has improved during recent months. The fall in the value of the rupee has reduced the production costs, and this has, in the cases of all the estates with which we are concerned, been accompanied by economies in management and working. The market prices for tea have somewhat improved also, so that at present the majority of tea companies are no longer making heavy losses.

The probable world's production of tea in 1921 will be, I think, round about 600 million pounds, as against a probable consumption of about 700 million pounds; and, during the past six months the stocks in the United Kingdom have been eaten into to just about the extent of 50 million pounds.

It is a remarkable fact that the consumption in our own and other markets should, during the past two or three years, have increased to an extent permitting the absorption of 700 million pounds of tea, although the Russian market, which in pre-war days took nearly 200 million pounds per annum, remains practically closed, as well as other smaller outlets. It would appear that, when business with these countries again becomes possible, the demand must go beyond the present limits of production. At the same time it would appear wise for tea producers to remember that that time has not yet arrived, and that, until it does, it may be possible in any season to produce a greater quantity of tea than can be marketed at a profit.

**The Rubber Industry.**

The rubber industry has been, and still is, passing through a very grave crisis, owing partly to the increased production of the past two years, and still more, I think, to the financial stress and general slump in the trade of the world. It is, however, one of the world's great industries, and an industry which is growing in importance every year. To-day the raw product is the chief commodity which the British Empire sells to America, and any improvement in its price tends to strengthen our exchange with the United States.

I doubt whether the actual consumption, by which I mean the using up of rubber, has ever been going on faster than during the past year. I think that what has happened is that, owing to the abnormal financial and trade conditions, the actual consumption has been provided for very largely from the invisible stocks in the hands of manufacturers, wholesale dealers and shopkeepers throughout the world, and that there has only been taken from the first-hand producers of raw rubber just sufficient to make up the difference between what was available from the invisible stocks and the actual consumption, leaving the balance of the year's production of raw rubber to accumulate and increase the stocks in London and other parts.

As a result of the restriction, voluntary and involuntary, it appears probable that the total production of raw rubber this year will not exceed 280,000 tons, and that the amount of raw rubber bought by manufacturers during the same period will be about 250,000 tons. I think it is safe to conclude that, by the end of this year, the invisible stocks, both of raw and manufactured rubber, will have been used up to the fullest extent possible, and that next year the demand for raw rubber must again be fully equal to the actual consumption and amount to not less than 300,000 and possibly to 350,000 tons.

The motor industry accounts for about two-thirds of the consumption. It is estimated that, just previously to the war, there were about two million cars running; that in 1918 the number had increased to between seven and eight million; and that to-day it has reached a total of twelve million. I know of no source of rubber consumption that can be said to be declining, but, on the other hand, there are constantly new uses being added to these already in existence, and I have no doubt as to the ultimate soundness and value of the rubber production industry.

To assist in meeting the crisis, the Rubber Growers Association has done a very great amount of work. If it had not been for their taking steps to organise restriction, the position would have been much worse than it is, and I hope that it may be possible for that Association to take the lead once more in organising some simple form of temporary restriction. If any large percentage of producers would agree to a cessation of tapping for a period of three months, it would force the present first-hand stocks of rubber rapidly into consumption, and if, as I believe, the demand will steadily improve, the whole industry might be once again upon a paying basis.

On the motion of the Chairman, the balance sheet made up as at June 30, 1921, and the reports of the directors and auditors were adopted.

Messrs. George Croll and E. Eric Miller were re-elected directors of the company, and Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., were re-appointed auditors to hold office until the next general meeting.

At the close of the ordinary general meeting, an extraordinary meeting of shareholders was held at which a resolution was passed altering the provisions contained in Article 92 of the Articles of Association.

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## THE FILM INDUSTRY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The motion picture field in Yugoslavia is ripe for exploitation says an American consular report. To-day there are eight principal firms importing and distributing films in Yugoslavia, most of them being agents for German concerns. No pictures are developed and printed in Yugoslavia, owing to lack of equipment and personnel, and no new companies are known to be forming.

The fact that a great percentage of the people are illiterate and know their country's history only through song and story should encourage films specializing in educational matter and featuring special phases of Yugoslav history. The climate of the country is exceptionally favourable to the taking and printing of pictures, the atmosphere being relatively dry and very clear the year round. Every type of scenic background is to be found within the comparatively short radius of the principal cities, There is also an abundance of untouched water power that could be utilised for a dependable supply of power and electric lighting.

It is estimated that there are about 400 motion-picture halls in Yugoslavia. Most films are importations from Italy, France, Germany, and Austria. Productions for export to Yugoslavia should be free from immoral suggestions and political colouring as stress is laid here by the local censors.

## ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING

The report of the Assam Railways and Trading Company for the year ending March 31, states that the capital expenditure amounted to £11,877, making £813,572. The gross earnings were Rs15.88.178, an increase of Rs1.08.358, and expenditure Rs2,59,699 increase Rs2,11,249. The output at collieries amounted to 274,909 tons, and sales to 293,111 tons. The profit amounted to £87,045. There has been brought into account £21,621, representing recoveries of income-tax, etc., made recently. After payment of Debenture interest and allowing for all Preference dividends there remained £17,498. Directors recommend a final dividend on "B" stock of 3 per cent., making 5 per cent for year, leaving £2,498 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty (if any). Meeting, Winchester House, E.C. November 2, noon.

## SUEZ CANAL COUPON DRAWING.

On November 3 next the Suez Cana Company will proceed to the final redemption drawing of 92,932 bills for coupons in arrears (says the Paris Correspondent of the *Financial Times*). These "bons" are at present negotiable on the Paris market, but will cease to be so from November 3. The bills or "bons" were brought into existence in 1874 to the number of 400,000 to represent seven coupons in arrears on 400,000 shares. Each coupon was of the value of 85 francs and the bills were for 85 frs each, bearing an annual interest of 4.25 frs gross. They are to be reimbursed at 85 frs less existing taxation, which will reduce the net amount to 78 frs 96 centimes. The latest quotation on the Paris markets is 82.50 frs, which is difficult to explain in view of the certainty of the "bons" being redeemed at a lower figure in a few days' time.


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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Dull Tendency Prevails,

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday Night.

A very dull tone has ruled during the greater part of this week, though towards the close there was a slight recovery. The weakness of the mark has been one of the principal adverse influences, while the troubles in Portugal have not been without their effect.

Gilt-edged securities close at about the same level as a week ago. Consols are unchanged at 48, 7-8, but War Loan Fives are 1-8 up at 90. Fundings are 3-8 lower at 72. In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are ¼ down at 68¾, but Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent, 1855 are unchanged at 66 and 69 respectively.

There is little fresh to report with regard to the Industrial group. Dullness has prevailed generally, and prices generally have shown a downward tendency. Business, however has been on the smallest possible scale. Iron and Steel shares have displayed weakness. In Shipping securities P. and O. Deferred are 5 lower at 340. Furness Withy at 23s. xd. are 1s. down, while Cunards have shed 1s. 3d. at 16s. 3d.

**Oils Still Dull.**

The position in the oil market is still very uncertain. Mexican Eagles are 11-32 down at 3,1-8. Anglo-Egyptian are 1-32 up at 1¼, but Roumanian Consolidated are 9d. lower at 7s. 3d. Steaua Romana have shed 6d. at 8s. 6d., while Phoenix are 1s. 3d. down at 6s. Burmahs are 3-32 up at 5,11-32, while Anglo-Persian Prefs are unchanged at 21s. 9d., Anglo Persian Second Prefs being 3d. lower at 21s. 9d. Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 13-16.

Bank shares have been rather weak. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 54, while Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are ¼ up at 55¼. Imperial Ottoman Banks are ½ down at 7, while National Bank of Egypts have shed ¾ at 19. Bank of Athens are 1-8 down at 2, but Ionians are unchanged at 3¼.

Interest in the Rubber market continues to be very restricted, but despite the poor outlook prices are now fairly steady.

**Greek Shares Weak.**

Pronounced weakness has developed in Greek securities. The 5 per cent. 1884 Loan is 5 down at 34, while the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan has shed 3 at 34. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is 2 lower at 33, while the 5 per cent. Funding Loan has lost 3 at 34. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is exceptionally 1 up at 40.

Land shares have been somewhat unsteady. Beheras are ¾ down at 10, but Behera Prefs are unchanged at 3¼. Egyptian Delta Lands have shed 9d. at 8s. 9d., but Egyptian Consolidated Lands are unchanged at 1s. New Egyptians are 1s. 6d. down at 24s., but Sidi Salems are unchanged at 1,1-8. Sudan Plantations are 1-16 down at 3, while Union Foncieres are the same at 2,7-8.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are ¼ down at 7, Egyptian Markets have shed 1s. 3d. at 18s. 9d., while Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 1s. 3d. down at 34s.

## FUTURE OF INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AT BANGALORE.

In consequence of representations from the standing committee of the Court of Visitors of the Institute of Science at Bangalore, India, the Viceroy has appointed a Committee of Enquiry to examine the working of the Institute with a view to making suggestions as to its future policy. The object of the Institute, as originally projected by the late Mr. J. N. Tata, was to encourage research in pure chemical and physical science, but it has, in the course of a comparatively short career, developed a distinct tendency towards the study of problems which are likely to lead to results of immediate economic value, rather than towards the pursuit of investigations of purely scientific interests. The main question now in issue is as to the lines on which its development is to proceed.

Sir William Pope, K.B.E., F.R.S., etc., Professor of Chemistry, Cambridge University, is to be chairman of the committee, and Sir Arthur Shipley, G.B.E., F.R.S., Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, and Sir Henry Hayden, C.S.I., C.I.E., D.Sc., F.R.S., late Director of the Geological Survey of India, are the members appointed from this country. They are sailing for India shortly and it is expected that the committee will commence its enquiry about the middle of November. The rest of the committee will be appointed in India.

## MAP OF EMPIRE'S METAL RESOURCES.

A map of the chief sources of metals in the British Empire with diagrams of production for 1918 has just been published for the Imperial Institute by Messrs. Geo. Philip and Son, Ltd. It has been prepared under the direction of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Imperial Institute, and is a new edition, much amplified, of a similar map issued by the Imperial Institute in 1918, which had a large sale. The present map consists of three sections, a general map of the world on Mercator's projection, a series of inset maps of British countries and a separate set of diagrams of metal production. On both general and inset maps British possessions are shown in red, mandated territories in light red, and foreign countries in yellow. Deposits of metals are indicated by special letters, and their approximate localities by symbols, of different colours, worked deposits being distinguished from unworked. The letters are sufficiently large to be visible several feet from the map. In the general map are tabular lists of the principal metallic deposits in each part of the Empire.

The inset maps, all drawn to a uniform scale of 160 miles to the inch, includes South Africa, British Columbia and Yukon, Eastern Canada, the British Isles, Southern India and Ceylon, Burma, British Malaya, Eastern Australia and New Zealand. The diagrams of production give the outputs of 18 principal metals in each country of the Empire for the year 1918, the amounts being illustrated proportionately by red coloured rectangular strips. The outputs of the world are similarly shown, the proportion of total British production being indicated.

## USE OF TRACTORS IN MOROCCO.

H.M. Agent and Consul General at Tangier reports to the department of Overseas Trade that by an "Arrete Viziriel" dated September 24th, it was decreed that the application of the bonus of 60 francs per hectare for the cultivation of land by motor traction, which was authorised on 15th September, 1920, with a view to encouraging this mode of cultivation, should be extended to December 31st, 1921.

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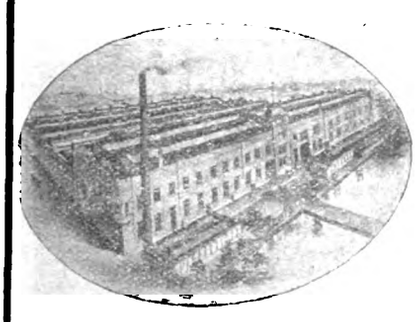
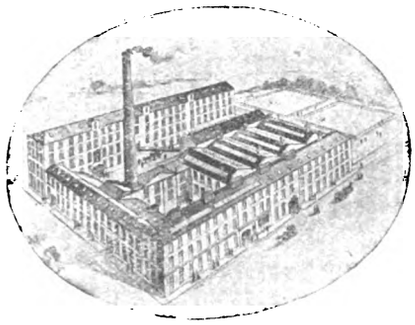
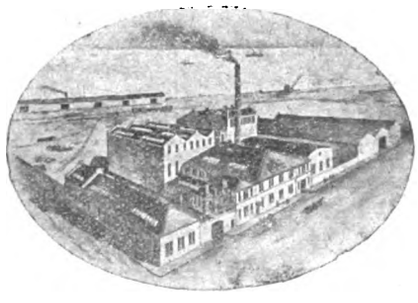

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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Manchester, Friday.*

The conditions prevailing throughout the market during the past week have not been at all satisfactory, and there has been a noticeable falling off in the amount of business passing. The fluctuations which have occurred in raw cotton rates have proved disconcerting, and buyers have naturally adopted a policy of caution. The ups and downs in the values of the raw material just came at a time when business appeared to be improving but during the week demand fell away. Another disturbing feature has been the depreciation in the Far Eastern exchanges. With regard to cloth not much business has been done for Egypt, and only a few miscellaneous transactions have been placed for the Constantinople. Quotations for Egyptians yarns have eased somewhat, and buyers have purchased very sparingly. The cloth demand for India has been on rather extensive lines, but sales of any weight have not been mentioned. Occasional transactions have been registered in shirtings, and in a few instances some fair orders have been placed for light cloths. Recent advices, however, received from our Dependency have not been at all encouraging, and in some quarters revival of demand is not anticipated until after the new year. No developments have taken place with regard to China, but some fair sales in a variety of fabrics have taken place. Not much business has been done for South Africa. The position of the market at the moment is not extremely bright, and many disturbing features still prevail. The general opinion however is that trade will gradually become better.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 20:—Business on the spot during the past week has been most unsatisfactory, an accumulation of "Bear" factors weighing heavily on all markets. Yesterday afternoon however, the belief that the American railway strike would be averted, and that the unemployment so rife in this country would soon be alleviated—this latter as a direct result of Mr. Lloyd George's speech—induced a more favourable opinion in New York, and, as usual, the recovery there was reflected to-day in Alexandria and Liverpool. In spite of this, however, prices here show a decline of, roughly, 2d. to 3d. per lb. on the week, and spinners show less inclination to buy than ever. The only features worthy of comment are the small but steady business which continues in Sudan cotton, and the customary "tag-end" of the season enquiry for Scarta Afrita cotton, the latter being chiefly for the Continent. Uppers are being strongly held in Alexandria, and the difference here between fully good fair Uppers and fully good fair Sakel is narrowing. C.i.f. business is still being done on a limited scale only, and Manchester reports, whilst indicating a considerable enquiry from India and China, have but few actual sales to advise—from India, at any rate, and are on the whole very unsettled. The trade in yarns is in a very poor way at the moment, and spinners are reported as "losing ground." Most sources agree, however, that there is plenty of business waiting—granted steady markets. There are a great many unsettled influences still to be cleared away, unfortunately, before really steady markets can be looked for, and for the present we are of the opinion that considerable fluctuations may be expected. Quotations of Sakellaridis, fair to good are reduced 300 points; fine 200 points; and extra fine 150 points on the week. Brown and Upper are 100 points lower. Estimated sales 1,600 bales (including 250 Soudan). Fully good fair Sakellaridis 24.50d.

A Czecho-Slovak firm is erecting a cloth weaving plant at Arad, Transylvania, which it is understood will employ 1,400 operatives.

The Bengal Dooars Railway announce a further dividend on ordinary stock of 3 per cent., less tax, making 6 per cent. for year to March 31 last.

Czecho-Slovakia has now concluded commercial treaties with all the Central European States, with the exception of Hungary, as well as with France and Italy.

## COTTON CULTIVATION IN THE SUDAN.

*(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)*

In view of the present prominence of the Sudan in the public eye as a potential cotton-growing country and the various controversies that have recently taken place regarding the engineering and economic aspects of the Gezireh projects, it is interesting to note that cotton has been grown in the country from very early times. It has not hitherto been possible to collate or publish in a connected form the various old annals of the country, but, as a result of recent researches into old and musty records, there is strong reason to believe that the growing of cotton for export purposes was introduced into Egypt very shortly after the conquest of the Sudan by that country. Jumel, an early French scientist and explorer, is known to have discovered round about the year 1822 a hitherto unknown plant in the garden of a certain Maho Bey, with which he made numerous experiments. For many years afterwards this plant was known as Mahoor Jumel's cotton, and it is on record that the original plant in Maho Bey's garden was grown from seed imported from the Sudan. These first cotton trees of the Sudan were perennials, and the present plant is merely another form of the same tree. For many years the Sudan-Abyssinian frontier was marked in a certain locality by a large cotton tree of this perennial type, which was a well known landmark in the vicinity and rejoiced in the name of Abu Masr (Father of Egypt).

The present cotton growing activity in the Gash Delta is another case of history repeating itself, as the potential value and possibilities of the district were fully recognised as early as 1873 when Ismail Pasha Ayoub erected a ginning factory at Kassala. Unfortunately the difficulty of finding adequate labour and supplies of fuel proved insurmountable, and after a very brief period of activity the factory was closed down and the cotton transported by caravan to Suakin. This proved a severe setback to the agriculturists of that period, and the cultivation steadily declined and became very desultory in character until a few years ago when a great revival took place. Now thanks to the great improvements effected by the Irrigation Department and the steady encouragement of the Government the district is in a flourishing condition, and it is estimated that eventually some 200,000 feddans will be under cultivation. The types grown are almost exclusively Sakellaridis and Afifi-Assili and compare very favourably with Egyptian types. The industry is at present heavily handicapped by the difficulties of transport and it is regrettable that the attempts at establishing motor transport between Kassala and Atbara have hitherto proved abortive from a commercial point of view.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 547—Vol XX. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *Hungary and the Little Entente.*

No single Government in the opinion of its fellows is above reproach to-day, and it is, therefore, meet that credit should be given where it is due. The Hungarian Government has been scrupulously correct in its attitude and action towards ex-King Charles' attempt to regain the throne. It lost no time in moving troops; it defeated the misguided Karlists, took the ex-King prisoner and held him at the disposal of the Allies. Up to this point nothing more could have been required of it, and it would have been unchivalrous and improper, if any communication in the nature of an ultimatum had been addressed to Budapest on the subject. Europe wants peace and good will these days, not sabre-rattling, and European affairs must be regarded from the standpoint of a group of nations confident of its strength to enforce peace, rather than from the nervous standpoint of a small country suspicious of its immediate neighbours. At the first news of ex-King Charles' escapade there may well have been a desire on the part of the Governments of Czecho-Slovakia, Roumania and Yugoslavia to exhibit the solidarity and usefulness of the Little Entente; but Dr. Benes must be too able a statesman to allow the agreement between the three countries to be unnecessarily strained by false cries of "Wolf." Long before mobilisation could take effect or any communication requiring an exchange of views between Prague, Bucharest and Belgrade could be sent to Budapest it was clear that Hungary was in no way responsible for the ex-King's foolishness.

### *The Fate of the Hapsburgs.*

Whatever may be the ultimate destination of ex-King Charles, there is no need for any sympathy to be wasted upon him. With a modicum of common sense he might have found himself back again on the throne of St. Stephen. He had merely to bide his time and satisfy the Allies of his good intentions; if an unmistakable call had reached him from Hungary, his return to Budapest would have followed as a matter of course. As things are, he has proved himself a nuisance to Europe and has rendered a grave disservice to his own country. In spite of all this, it might be well for the Allies to refrain from placing at this stage a veto on the whole House of Hapsburg as a result of one member's crime and folly. Their experience in interfering with the domestic affairs of Greece has not been a particularly happy one. It may be that the Magyar nation will be glad of the opportunity and rid themselves of the dynasty, in spite of the existence of a pro-Hapsburg clique in the capital and among the largest landowners. By common consent a republican form of government is unsuited to Magyar psychology, and a country is well advised to think twice before it exposes itself to the dangers and annoyance of rival dynasties. Of the ex-King Charles as a pretender to the throne the Allies can take charge; they will not wish to make themselves responsible for every member of the family for all time. If the Magyars decide that they can secure the sovereign they want among the Hapsburgs, it will be better to allow them to make their own choice rather than to disturb the country by imposing upon it a ruler whom they will regard as less desirable.

### *The Asia Minor Problem.*

The Greek Prime Minister and M. Baltazzi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, have arrived in London after a brief stay in Paris. Their mission is both a difficult and a delicate one, but there can be no doubt that in England they will find a desire to do everything possible to smooth their task. No good purpose, however, can be served by attempting to ignore facts. Since a Greek mission was last in London it has been proved conclusively that the Greeks are unable to coerce the Turks into submissiveness, and that any attempt to place Turks under Greek rule will embroil Great Britain with a considerable section of the Moslem world. A practical solution of the Asia Minor problem has to be found. The one that would cause least prejudice to Greek prestige would be that Greece should offer to retire from Asia Minor in favour of Great Britain. The British public has no desire for further commitments abroad, still less for another mandate, and there would doubtless be considerable reluctance in this country to accept the additional responsibility. But the measure of responsibility would be slight. Greece is mainly concerned for the safety of Christian minorities in Asia Minor; the Turks protest their ability, if left alone, to safeguard the interests of these minorities, and in regard to Cilicia, the French appear already to have taken them at their word. The presence of a British High Commissioner in an autonomous Smyrna would be an earnest of the Turks' ability to carry out their good intentions and would meet the fears of the Greeks. After a stated period

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of years it would be possible to take stock of the situation; if the Turks had made good, there would be no need for the British High Commissioner in Smyrna. Who can doubt that they will be more likely to live up to their pledges, if all chance of provocation is removed?

### *A Blessing Undisguised.*

The solution proposed above is made from a desire to serve the best interests of Greece. A form of military stalemate has been reached in Asia Minor, and both belligerents will probably assert their readiness to continue the campaign in the spring. Even if the Greek soldiers are proof against all personal considerations it is certain that the Government could not resume hostilities unless it has in the meantime secured a substantial loan. Even so the chances of reaching a definite conclusion would be no more favourable than they were this year. Greece, therefore, must extricate herself from the *impasse*, and for this reason we would commend the suggested solution to the consideration of her Delegates. As between Greece and the Allies bygones would be bygones; with the formal recognition of King Constantine and with the promise of a loan the mission of M. Gounaris would not have been in vain. Some political capital might be made out of the Asia Minor situation, but the Greek people as a whole would experience a sense of relief over its liberation from the burden of prolonged military service.

### *The Story of a Tour.*

The five Members of Parliament who have recently spent eighteen days in Egypt have embodied their experiences in a document entitled "Report on the present situation in Egypt." The report itself, however, declares that the tour was restricted to finding the reasons for the substitution of Adly Pasha for Zaghloul Pasha in the negotiations with the British Government. "Was it because the desire of the Egyptians for complete independence was diminished? Was it because Adly Pasha had displaced Zaghloul Pasha for the time being as the most powerful leader of Egyptian opinion? To these two questions and to these two questions only we sought the answers in Egypt." To these all-important questions our tourists very wisely avoid giving a specific answer, although Zaghloul Pasha spared neither money nor trouble to convince them that Egypt could not possibly get on without him. It may, of course, have been that the five Labour Members were in the predicament of the wise men of Gotham who went to sea in a bowl, and if their case had been stronger, their tale would have been longer. Quite possibly, before they reached Egypt, they had discovered that the reason why Adly Pasha and not Zaghloul Pasha headed the second Delegation to London lay in neither of the questions they had set themselves to answer, but in the simple fact that Zaghloul Pasha had refused to accept the responsibility of office, and then had refused to serve under the Prime Minister on the Delegation. Adly Pasha had not been "substituted" for Zaghloul Pasha; the latter of his own accord, whether from moral weakness or pique, had eliminated himself.

### *The Tourists' Recommendations.*

Having informed a fellow passenger on board the steamer on their way to Egypt that three weeks would be a wholly inadequate time within which to become acquainted with conditions in an English coal-mine, Zaghloul's five guests are a little uneasy in mind as to their claim to have gained an adequate knowledge of Egypt and of the views of the people in eighteen days. But they meet criticism with an analogy, and imagine visitors to England being "bear-led" and "spoon-fed" (these terms are implied, not used) with the same persistency as themselves, and they very rightly come to the conclusion that the visitors to England, having to choose between the rival claims of, let us say, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Clynes to be regarded as the idol of the Labour Party, would also give their vote to the man who had been their host and always at their right hand instead of to the unseen rival who had done nothing for them. For the rest, they state: "We returned from Egypt with our views unchanged and our belief unimpaired," and the solution of the Egyptian question, we are told, depends on the application of certain recommendations that they enunciated before the went to the country, and the salient points of which had already been laid down by Lord Milner. This seems a little unkind to Zaghloul Pasha and a poor return for his lavish outlay. The only consolation he has is in a further recommendation, which would give, as the proposers and he himself imagine, the leader of the extremists a chance of obtaining the post of Prime Minister which he rejected before. Of conditions in Egypt the "Report" says nothing. It is equally reticent as to the authors' opinion of Zaghloul Pasha. In this the Labour Members, who after all are no fools, show their shrewdness; for Zaghloul Pasha has sacrificed any reputation for statesmanship that he had through his pursuit of a personal quarrel with an abler man than himself, and it is wiser on the part of his guests merely to record that organised crowds shouted "Long live Zaghloul Pasha,' and to leave it at that.

### *Our Force in Irak.*

In the House of Commons last week the Under Secretary for the Colonies was able to announce that the garrison of Irak has been reduced by two-thirds, and that the country still remains tranquil. This is good news, and the public will share Mr. Wood's opinion that it reflects great credit on Sir Percy Cox, the High Commissioner, and on Sir Aylmer Haldane, the Commander-in-Chief. Nor must it be forgotten that credit should be given also to King Faisal, who since his arrival in the country has undoubtedly worked hard to create a peaceful atmosphere. The reduction of forces has, no doubt been effected after full consultation with the men on the spot; but it is to be hoped that no pressure of any kind has been put upon them to agree to the proposals merely in order to satisfy the clamour that has been raised in certain quarters for 'economy' in this region. The history of Irak shows that it has not been exactly a peacefull and in the past, and we cannot expect its inhabitants—a singularly, conservative people in such matters—to change their customs and habits all at once, even under the wonderful influence of Sir Percy Cox. Moreover, as our Allies, the French, are now reported to be handing over a quantity of war material to the Turkish Nationalists, and as the latter have certainly had their eye upon, and their agents in, Irak for some time, it would certainly be advisable to be prepared for developments in the North at any moment. For these reasons we hope that the garrison will not be reduced too quickly.

### *Kuchik Khan Worsted.*

The struggle between the Sardar Sipah and Kuchik Khan appears to be going all in favour of the former.

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The Jangali leader is reported to have fallen out with some of his principal supporters, with the result that they either deserted, or surrendered to the enemy without offering any effective resistance; and though he himself put up a stiff fight, as was to be expected of him, he was finally compelled to take refuge in flight. His stronghold is reported to have been captured, and he is said to have fled to Talish. It remains to be seen whether the War Minister's force will go on from success to success, and capture the famous "Jungle" leader, or whether a swift turn of Fortune's wheel may bring him to the top again. For as far as it is possible to judge the situation in Persia from the incomplete, and often contradictory, reports which reach us, it looks as if the country is in a state where literally anything may happen. It is even possible that the Persians may work out their own salvation.

### *Birth of a Roumanian Prince.*

The birth of an heir to the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania is an event on which both the Royal House and the nation may be sincerely congratulated. With the succession secured, as may be hoped, for two generations with Princes born on Roumanian soil, the dynasty, though foreign in origin, becomes wholly identified with the country, and the process of welding together Throne and people, begun under the ordeal of war, is completed. Now that her territories have been largely increased Roumania may have occasion to learn, as other countries have learned before her, what a valuable asset she has in the unifying influence of the Crown. The new Kingdom has yet to achieve political solidarity; but if the traditions of the Royal House, inaugurated by King Carol and "Carmen Sylva," and enhanced by King Ferdinand and Queen Marie in their whole-hearted and practical devotion to the country's service, become the guiding principle of succeeding occupants of the Throne, Roumania has every reason to face the future with confidence.

### *A Lead for India.*

The departure of the Prince of Wales for India was naturally the occasion for a large number of special articles in the English Press, but to our mind the most significant of them all was that which Mr. Sastri contributed to *The Times*, because it suggests that the great mass of sane and reasonable opinion has at last found the leader it has waited for so long. Mr. Sastri at least sees clearly that the pernicious doctrine of non-cooperation will not die of itself, but must be fought and killed, and the essence of his article is the call to fight. The moderate party must, as he says, overcome their fear and their apathy. They cannot afford to leave the field in possession of men who, merely because they are active and organised, have obtained an ascendancy to which they are not entitled, and who have thus been enabled to inflict on the innocent masses damages from which they might have been saved. This is straight talk, such as India needs just now; and we hope that when Mr. Sastri gets back from the Conference at Washington, he will remember that iteration is an essential part of leadership, and persist in his teaching until the lesson has been learned.

### *India in the Lords.*

The most noteworthy feature of last week's debate in the House of Lords was the straightforward speech in which Lord Chelmsford claimed as his own, and at the same time defended, the Fabian policy pursued by his Government in regard to the non-cooperation movement. Apart from this speech, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue, we were struck chiefly by the portentous language in which Lord Curzon condemned the discussion as inopportune. Matters of the utmost importance were, he said, the subject of constant communication between Simla and Whitehall; no statement could be made at the moment regarding them, but probably the opportunity would come during the present session; and meanwhile the debate could only do harm; particularly when telling sentences are cabled to India without their context. We wonder what will be the result of cabling these particular sentences. Judging by recent precedents, the whole country will conclude a fundamental change of policy is imminent, and that meanwhile the wisest course is to sit on the fence.

### *"Grit in the Bearings."*

Possibly the most useful part of the debate was the attention which was drawn to the delay in arranging for the retirement from India of those officers who feel that they cannot honestly work under the new Constitution. The principle was definitely fixed by the Joint Committee long ago, and there can be no question that, when a new and complicated machine was being started, every possible step should have been taken to ease its working from the outset. The election of last year was the very latest date at which the scheme of retirement should have been announced to the Services, if not to the public; yet according to Lord Lytton, the India Office is still boggling over the framing of a scale of pensions which would be fair, and not, he hoped, ungenerous, and mean. It strikes us as a first-rate administrative blunder, and if as is rumoured, the scheme, when it materialises, will give rise to trouble in the Legislative Assembly, the authorities will have only themselves to thank.

According to a report from Constantinople a **treaty of peace** has been signed at Kars by representatives of the Soviet Republic in Transcaucasia and the Nationalist Turks.


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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening.*

**The Rift within the Lute.**

Things seem to have quieted down on the Continent with the definite failure of the plot in Hungary—success might have led to a similar and more formidable attempt on the part of the Hohenzollerns—and the withdrawal of the German Cabinet's resignation. For these mercies at least we are thankful. But trouble, or at least the promise of trouble, has got worse at home.

The Unionist Die-hards (only they never really die) have definitely revolted, and put down a vote of censure on the Government for its negotiations with the Irish rebels; it appears that Mr. de Valera's telegram to the Pope was the last straw which broke the camel's temper. This afternoon there is to be a debate in the House, to which Mr. Lloyd George is to reply; there is no doubt whatever of the result.

The small band of malcontents has no leader; for with every respect to Sir John Butcher—who is a very pleasant fellow—he is not really the stuff of which leaders are made. Nor have they any big names n the camp; but they do represent a tangible section of opinion. They are the small part of the Tory milk in the Coalition pot that has boiled over, but the rest of the milk is getting uncomfortably warm.

Their case, such as it is, will be torn to pieces by Mr. Lloyd George; but with them, and those who sympathise with them, it is not so much a matter of reason as of faith. The Unionists as a whole are inarticulate but distrustful; they cannot explain in words the difference between black and white, but they know there is a difference, and they know the difference when they see it. They will be conquered, but resentful.

The political gossips are now busily speculating as to the chances of a reformed Conservative Party under Lord Birkenhead and Mr. Winston Churchill. The stock of both statesmen has appreciated a good deal this last two years, but I doubt if this particular Cabinet is likely to be formed within measurable distance. But, like one of those intriguing machines one sees on the meteorologists' counters, it is my business to record which way the wind blows, and it is blowing rather strongly in that direction just now.

**Ireland and Washington.**

The Irish negotiations are not dead; but they are only just alive. In the language of the zoologist, they are hibernating, and de Valera's telegram to the Vatican was the frost which nipped them untimely in the bud. The Government could not overlook his reiteration of independence and refusal of allegiance to the Crown; and although the Irish delegates are said to have made light of it, they were almost as embarrassed by the telegram as the Cabinet. It is rumoured that they would have liked to disown the telegram and their leader; but one cannot quite do that right in the middle of a discussion without making the mess worse than ever.

Accordingly the negotiations have been directed to another phase—the Ulster question, which is a more actual controversy than the quite theoretical discussion of momentary independence. Here it is very largely a question of the two counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh, which is about as complex a matter as the Upper Silesian problem. No solution appears to have been arrived at.

The prolongation of this preliminary state of the negotiations, combined with the check introduced by de Valera's indiscretion, makes it still uncertain whether the Prime Minister can go to America next week for the Washington Conference. It will be a thousand pities if he is prevented, but it is known that some sections of Irish and Irish-American opinion have no wish to see Mr. Lloyd George cross the Atlantic; these extremists do not desire any improvement in the relations between England and America.

**London Traffic.**

One result of the unemployment difficulty is that the London railways may be electrified. This sounds like a paradox, but it is not so in fact. Many of the suburban railways are awaiting electrification and enlargement; the schemes are ready, but the difficulty is to raise the capital. If the Government will guarantee the companies concerned against loss, the new capital they must raise will rank as a gilt-edged security paying a lower rate of interest, and the work—which would provide employment for many thousands of men for some years—could be put in hand at once.

It is proposed to electrify the South Eastern and Great Eastern suburban lines; and to extend the underground system from Wimbledon, where it at present ends, to Sutton. It would also help the Great Eastern very considerably with their already congested suburban traffic, which is increasing every day. The scheme seems a very hopeful one, and although the London County Council has objected to some of the conditions proposed by the Underground system on the plea that it is asking practically for a monopoly, public opinion on the whole seems in favour of the arrangement being made.

Unemployment is still bad, but in some quarters there is a belief that trade is a little better than it was. It would not, however, take very much to put us back into the Slough of Despond again, and some fears are expressed that the possible default of the German Government next January may cause a further wave of industrial depression. The movement for a cancellation of all war debts and indemnities, as the quickest way to a revival of trade, is, therefore, growing.

**Debts of Honour.**

A most astonishing decision has been given by the House of Lords this week, to the effect that betting by cheque is not legal, in the sense that the amount of the cheque can be recovered from the recipient—usually the bookmaker—within the statutory period of six years after the payment. The law, of course, does not recognise debts of honour, but public opinion does; and there will be very few cases in which a betting man will plead this decision, although the advertising bookmakers, I believe, are a little apprehensive. The real sting of the decision is that executors and trustees of an estate can recover money lost during the life of the wagerer after he is dead; and according to law, they not merely can, but must, so proceed to recover. Since it is impossible, even for the biggest "mug" that ever walked a racecourse, to guarantee that he will not die within six years of losing his money to Messrs. Sharper and Thimblerig, the results may yet be very interesting, and even gratifying to the legal profession.

**Einstein and Painleve.**

Some excitement has been caused in scientific circles by the very damaging logical criticism which M. Painlevé, the greatest of French mathematicians, has brought against the Einstein theory. According to Einstein,

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time and space are entirely relative. But M. Painlevé, addressing the Academy of Science last week, asserts that time and space have a real, and not merely phenomenal existence, since whatever mode of measuring or reasoning be adopted, the actual coincidence of two phenomena at a certain point and at a certain moment must always exist; this is, I take it, the "event" which is actual and real; and according to a certain school in psychology, the universe consists in a succession of events. Apparently each of those several and multitudinous events must be regarded as real. It is evident that there is much more to say upon this subject, but this is hardly the place to say it.

**Complaining of the Moon.**

As if there had not been enough to worry us at home and abroad of late, Professor Crommelin, usually one of the best behaved of astronomers, has chosen this particular time to startle us with the report that the moon has got out of gear. After a long and blameless course in the heavens, during which it has been as steady as a butler in a duke's family, it began to go wrong about 1894. For some years past, it appears, these reprehensible irregularities have been discussed in observatories, but astronomers, like burglars and other folk who work at night, are reticent folk. Now, however, that the moon has got so far wrong that the *Nautical Almanac* will have to be corrected, Professor Crommelin has decided to make this scandal in his family public. One gathers that matters may get worse before they get better, as there seems to be some unknown influence pulling the moon away from her proper course—a kind of celestial co-respondent with no sense of proper honour.

All the occultists and astrologers and the superstitious generally are greatly intrigued at the news, and we shall probably have many fantastic explanations. One can only hope that, after the recent eclipse, the moon will think better of it, and return to her proper duties by making up for lost time. At any rate, it is a relief to find that Professor Crommelin, on second thoughts, has decided that the *Daily Mail* has exaggerated the divagations of the proverbially inconstant moon.

**The Theatres.**

The autumn theatre season seems to have opened successfully. Most of the theatres are producing light but amusing stuff, but at the Playhouse Miss Gladys Cooper has at last got something worthy of her great gifts, in "The Sign on the Door." Mr. Bernard Shaw's latest, "Heartbreak House," is puzzling and amusing London as it was intended to; its real defect, as Mr. Walkley remarks, is that it does not take love seriously, and the stolid Englishman will continue to hold that Mr. Shaw is too brilliant to be sound. Meanwhile Mr. Oscar Asche has produced his third great spectacle. "Kismet" was a reasonably good play, beautifully staged, and it had a good run. "Chu Chin Chow," its successor, was a poor play magnificently staged, and it ran five years. "Cairo" is a still worse play still more magnificently staged, and is therefore likely to run still longer. It is a sensuous production, and one has to use one's opera glasses to discover that the characters have any clothes on; the critics professed to be shocked at the display, but their disapproval caused an immediate run on the box-office. It is understood that the Censor has requested Mr. Asche to spend a little more money on drapery, but not enough to damage the show, and it will soon settle down into one of the regular sights of the town after this preliminary advertisement. The plot does not matter.

**The Week's Books.**

Two amusing books of light reminiscences may be mentioned. "The Chronicles of a Gay Gordon" (Cassell) by Brigadier-General J. M. Gordon, are an interesting story of a life's wanderings; and even more attractive are the "Days and Ways of an Old Bohemian" (Murray) by Major Fitzroy Gardiner. This is, as the saying goes, full of good stories, but I will only quote one. Major Gardiner was Sir Herbert Tree's manager, or secretary—I am not quite sure of the precise term. Tree was a hopelessly extravagant producer, and Gardiner had once to make a great effort to cut down an elaborate spectacle which cost £190 every performance. He drew up a list of possible economies; Tree went through them carefully, disallowed one after another, and finally decided to supply a penny instead of a threepenny paper to the Green Room! They saved exactly a shilling a week.

The second volume of the "Naval History of the Great War" (Longmans) by Sir Julian S. Corbett, is even more interesting than its predecessor. It begins with the German raid on the Hartlepools and Scarborough in December, 1914—when both sides tried to come to grips and missed each other in the North Sea fog, and it contains a full account of the Dogger Bank fight, where the Blücher was sunk, but the Lion was heavily damaged, and goes on to the disastrous business of the naval operations in the Dardanelles in March, 1915. It is essentially a book for students, but many who merely want to read a fine story will do well to get it.

"The Days that are no more" (Nash and Grayson) is a volume of reminiscences by Princess Pauline Metternich. It is sure to be popular, for it has many interesting stories. One of the best is that of the great Prince Metternich: On the day that he was raised to the rank of Prince his valet asked him: "Will your Highness put on the same coat as his Excellency wore yesterday?"

"Jack London: the official Biography" (Mills and Boon) is a full length account of the popular American novelist, written by his wife. It is a record of a brave life which attained success over tremendous difficulties.

"A History of the Cambridge University Press" (Cambridge University Press) by S. C. Roberts, is a far more attractive book than it somehow sounds. In its first hundred years—it was established in 1521—the chief publications of the Press were theological, and it was somewhat suspect of the authorities, as Cambridge was a centre of Puritanism. Even the names of these works and their authors are now forgotten; but in the following century the Press had the honour of printing one of the earlier poems of Milton, and his press corrections are still a treasured possession of the University. From that time onwards the Press has been, and it still remains, one of the great headquarters of scholarly printing.

"Memories and Notes" (Arnold) by Sir Sidney Colvin, is a long-awaited book. Its distinguished author was a friend of many of the great Victorians, and his recollections include stories of Gladstone and Victor Hugo, Meredith and George Eliot. I like Gladstone's grim jest when suffering from lumbago—"I don't know whether to treat it by the method of conciliation or coercion." But better still is the seriousness with which G. H. Lewis took George Eliot. Some visitors called on that lady when she was writing "Middlemarch," and as they went out Lewis told them gleefully that 'Celia is going to have a baby.' After some searching of mind, they remembered that Celia was the heroine of "Middlemarch."

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## SUDAN.

*Khartoum, October 9.*

**Provincial News.**

News has arrived from Dongola Province that as the result of a fire at Kareima on the morning of the 4th inst, two of the passenger coaches, running on the Atbara-Kareima service were completely destroyed and a third coach badly damaged. Fortunately there was no loss of life and an inquiry is now being held into the cause of the fire.

A certain amount of excitement is reported from Makwar owing to disturbances between Italian artisans employed on the dam construction and native Province policemen. The Superintendent of Police was called in, but before he was able to ascertain the reason of the commotion a further struggle took place, which necessitated the arrest of three of the Italians, who were, however, immediately released on bail. An inquiry is now being held into the cause of the disturbance.

**Personalia.**

His Excellency the Governor-General and Lady Stack arrived in Egypt on October 10 and spent a few days at the Residency at Ramleh.

Monsieur J. Claessens, in charge of the Second Section, Agricultural Directorate, Belgian Congo Administration, was expected to leave Rejaf en route for Khartoum and Egypt on the 7th inst. Monsieur Claessens has been deputed to study methods of agriculture in the Sudan and Egypt.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, October 26.*

**The Karlist Adventure.**

Ex-King Karl's renewed adventure has, of course, been the sensation of the week. His return was immediately held to be a *casus belli*, and the Yugoslav Minister, Dr. Milan Miloyevitch, at once left Budapest. Mobilisation of the First and Fourth Army Districts (Novi Sad and Zagreb) was at once ordered, to protect the frontier from possible aggression, a blockade of the frontier declared, and the monitors sailed up the Danube and the Tisa. The Little Entente proved solid, and the Czecho-slovak and Roumanian Ministers called and announced their adhesion, and gratification was expressed at Poland's doing the same. The attitude of Italy caused suspicion, and the public were quite prepared for hostility in that quarter, when the Italian Minister announced that his Government was on the side of the Little Entente against any return of the Hapsburgs; although some of the papers insist on a sensational story of a secret agreement between Rome and Budapest.

It is stated that the Little Entente presented an ultimatum at Budapest, giving Karl two days to leave the country, with a threat of the three armies marching on the capital in the event of non-compliance.

The *démarche* of the British and French Ministers at Belgrade advising the Government to take no precipitate action without consulting the Big Entente, was an unpleasant surprise, for it is held here that the Great Powers have muddled the situation and by their lack of firmness, their dilatoriness, and their absence of policy, have endangered the peace of Central Europe; and now they try to prevent the parties who are directly interested and have the knowledge and power, from taking the necessary steps.

The news of Karl's arrest relieved the situation, but everybody is sick of this nonsense, and is determined that an end must be put to Karl's escapades and capacity for mischief. Switzerland is blamed for being so naive as to expect him to keep his promise.

**Some Results of the Coup.**

But it is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and Karl's adventure has had at least the benefit not only of throwing into relief the solidarity of the Little Entente and the sympathy of Poland, but it should dispel for ever the rumours of disunion in Yugoslavia. Public opinion in the West has been led by the demagogy of Raditch, the abstention of the Narodny Club, and of the Slovene Clericals from the Constituent Assembly, and the propaganda inspired by Italy and Hungary, to believe that the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is on the eve of resolving itself into its component parts. The mistake is pardonable enough, because in the bad old days, even Austria, in spite of her far-reaching system of spies, frequently was led to believe, owing to the vigour of domestic politics, that Serbia was divided against itself. There was an instance of this on the presentation of the famous ultimatum to Serbia. Of all M. Pashitch's political enemies, few were more bitter than Dr. V. Georgevitch, a famous Serbian statesman, who was at the time in Austria. When he read the news in the Press, and considered the possibility of Serbia's giving way to Austria's impossible demands, he exclaimed that if Pashitch yielded he would instantly fall under the bullets of an outraged populace in the middle of the Terazije. Party passions are stilled on these occasions, and exaggerated importance is attached to them in quieter days.

**A Proof of the Union.**

So now, when the threat of war appeared on the horizon, all parties rallied round the Government at Belgrade, for no one could tolerate a recrudescence of the Magyar danger. A Croatian lawyer has written the following expressly for THE NEAR EAST:—

"The news received of the arrival of Karl in Hungary has again disturbed public opinion in Yugoslavia, especially in Zagreb. Directly the news was received a great meeting was held in front of the University, where fiery speeches were made against Karl and against Hungary. The Government was called upon forthwith to take the most energetic measures to prevent the realisation of this new Hapsburg adventure, and to teach the Magyars that they must respect the Treaties of Trianon and St. Germain, for which Croats, Serbs and Slovenes have shed so much blood in their glorious past and present. The question arises again whether Karl's return to Hungary signifies the assertion of claims upon Croatia with Slavonia and Dalmatia. Since the Croatian Diet broke off all union between Croatia and Hungary on October 29, 1918, and therefore all connection with the person of the ruler, that would mean that the claims of the Hungarian king are counter to the will of the Croatian people, especially now, when the Yugoslav people is united into one sovereign national state of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. By this act of union there is broken off for ever all connection between Croatia and Hungary based upon earlier pragmatic sanctions, on which the Hapsburgs would certainly wish to base their plans and again restore by all possible manner of propaganda the integrity of the Magyar Crown of St. Stephen, which would endanger the consolidation of the young Yugoslav State. For this reason, the Croatian people welcomed the Government's measures of mobilisation, for it has always been penetrated with a deep-rooted love of freedom and the rights of mankind, and from the depths of its soul hostile to all foreign dominion. The Croat people in the present situation will take a most determined stand alongside the Serbs and Slovenes in the defence of its ideals, for which will fight with full realisation of their action the united ranks of peasantry, labour and townsfolk."

**The Relation of Croatia to Hungary.**

The union between Austria and Hungary depended on the Pragmatic Sanction of 1711, but that between Hungary and Croatia by another Pragmatic Sanction a year later, in 1712, dates back nearly ten centuries. The Pragmatic Sanction of 1711 was dissolved by the Budapest Parliament in 1918, and that of the 1912 by the Croatian Diet an October 29, 1918. Of course, the Diet was not by law competent, but it was a revolutionary act, the declared will of the people, which the people will defend by force—which is, of course, the last arbiter in these matters. Karl, at his coronation as King of Hungary, swore to defend the integrity of the Hungarian lands and the rights of the Crown of St. Stephen: this referred in particular to the Crown lands of the provinces of Sremska, Pozhezhka and Virovititza, with the towns respectively of Osijek, Pzhega and Vukover. In the

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old days, the eldest son of the dynasty of Arpad was always *Dux Croatiae*, afterwards altered to *Dux Pannoniae et Slavoniae*. This explains the extreme excitement caused in Croatia in particular at the return of Karl; for it involves a reassertion of his rights over Croatia, rights which the people will repudiate with armed force if necessary.

**A Destructive Fire at Belgrade.**

On the evening of the 24th. a fire broke out at the Central Store of the railway station at Belgrade. The fire brigade assisted by the public, the railway staff and a detachment of the troops and of cadets worked like Trojans, and by dint of extreme efforts and endurance, succeeded in saving the royal train, and large quantities of goods and barrels of benzine. The dwellers in the neighbourhood, in panic, carried out their household goods into the streets, but the fire was not allowed to spread. The engine house caught and blazed up, till the roof fell in with a tremendous crash, amid columns of dust and tremendous flames: the wind carried the sparks, and a store containing inflammable matter was blown up with fierce explosions.

Owing to the prolonged dry weather, fires are reported from all over the country. Three houses have been burnt down at Osijek, involving damage to the extent of nearly a million kruna, while forest fires are raging in different parts of Croatia and Slovenia.

**M. Drashkovitch's Assassin.**

Alijagitch, the murderer of M. Drashkovitch, has been condemned to be hanged, and his accomplices, Cholakovitch, Loyanditch and Petronitch, to fifteen years' penal servitude.

**A Postscript.**

The Cabinet have taken note of the *démarche* of the British and French Ministers, but decided that they must be masters in their own house, as their vital and national and economic interests are at stake, and must act in concert with their Czecho-Slovak and Roumanian allies. The report comes from Belgrade that to-morrow an ultimatum will be presented to Budapest, demanding the delivery of Karl Hapsburg to the representatives of the Little Entente within forty-eight hours.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, October 20.*

**Russo-Roumanian Pourparlers.**

The negotiations which are now taking place at Warsaw between the Roumanian representative, M. Filaliti, and the Russian Soviet Delegate, M. Karachan, are more or less feelers to ascertain whether an understanding between Russia and Roumania could be arrived at. Certainly, there is no question of a peace treaty, for the simple reason that the two countries are not at war. There are, however, certain important differences between them, which, if satisfactorily settled, would clear the way for a future conference for the purpose of concluding an economic and, eventually, a diplomatic accord. This is particularly Russia's aim.

The two principal points of divergence are the Bessarabian question and the restitution of the Roumanian State Treasure at Moscow. The Bessarabian question, although it is repeatedly hinted at by the Russians, the Roumanians point-blank refuse to discuss; for they consider it definitely settled by the self-determination of the people of the province and by the Allies' recognition thereof.

The point which Roumania is mostly concerned about is her State Treasure, which was sent away to Moscow during the war, on the Allies' recommendation. From what has transpired so far it is doubtful whether this Treasure still exists, and the doubt is strengthened by the equivocal answers given by the Soviet representative during the conversations at the Warsaw meeting.

**Fiscal Reform Measures.**

M. Titulescu, Minister of Finance, on his arrival at Bucharest, was interviewed by local Pressmen, to whom he declared that, despite the Opposition campaign against his Fiscal Reform Bill, he is still determined to carry it out as it has been passed by both Houses. He afterwards stated, however, that he might consent to certain modifications, should they prove necessary.

He then promised that in a few days' time he will give the Press full particulars with regard to the application of the new taxes, about the country's financial situation in general, and also about the Swiss Loan, which has been so severely criticised by a certain section of the Press during his absence.

**A Communistic Plot.**

After several months of investigations and constant watching, the authorities have at last succeeded in unearthing a new communistic organisation with headquarters in Bucharest. The plotters' hiding places having been located, on Monday night a large police force was concentrated in a certain quarter of the town, and by raiding twenty houses they managed to capture twenty-four Communists together with their leaders. In searching these houses a case containing three bombs, arms and ammunition and important documents was found. These documents have given the authorities very important information. A complete list of the Bucharest committee of the organization was found in a note-book, which enabled the police to carry out further arrests. The three bombs were destined for three important buildings in the capital. The organisation was divided into two sections: one for propaganda and the other for terrorist purposes, which is very similar to the communistic organisation recently discovered in Bessarabia. Compromising correspondence with instructions from Moscow was also found; and the funds also are shown to have come from Moscow by special couriers via Bulgaria. A large part of the arrested Communists are Roumanian deserters recently returned from Russia.

**Scarlet Fever Epidemic.**

Great anxiety is felt throughout the country as a result of the spreading of the scarlet fever epidemic. This disease is especially prevalent in Bucharest with its over-population and its inadequate housing facilities. Since August the number of cases have increased, in the capital alone, at the rate of 150 a month; and they have to-day reached a total of about 450 with no signs of abating. Fortunately, however, the fatal cases are only about 9 per cent. The spread of this disease is largely due to the ignorance and neglect of the rural population, and even of a good many townspeople, who have an aversion to hospitals. The consequence is that patients are not properly isolated. The present insalubrious condition of the towns and villages, and the exceptionally long spell of dry weather have also greatly contributed to the epidemic. Naturally, the great danger lies in the schools; and the authorities intend closing them in case there are no signs of improvement within a few days. Out of the 170 schools in Bucharest, 80 are already affected.

**The Paris-Bucharest Air Line.**

On Wednesday afternoon the inauguration of the first Paris-Bucharest Air Line took place at the aerodrome of Pipera, near Bucharest. This was celebrated by the arrival of two large aeroplanes from Paris, belonging to the Franco-Roumanian Air Service Company. The two machines were piloted by Capt. Deullin and Lieut. de Marmier, who on landing, were greeted with cheers by a very large and select assembly, headed by the Royal family. The two pilots were then presented to the King and Queen by M. Aristide Blank, one of the founders of the Company.

Captain Deullin declared that he had had a very easy and pleasant flight. He left Paris ten days ago in order to have plenty of time in which to study the new route. He and M. de Marmier have been successful in establishing the different landing stations and the time of flight between them. The first distance from Paris to Strassburg took two hours and forty minutes. From Strassburg to Prague three hours twenty minutes; from Prague to Budapest three hours fifteen minutes; from Budapest to Turnu-Severin three hours thirty minutes; and from Turnu-Severin to Bucharest one hour forty-five minutes, a total of fourteen and a quarter

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hours of actual flying. Captain Deullin's machine carried five passengers and Lieut. de Marmier's machine three passengers.

The Franco-Roumanian Air Service Company intends running a daily trans-European service, by connecting Paris with Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Constantinople, with a side-line to Warsaw, for carrying passengers, letters and parcels.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October 23.*

**The Assassination of M. Dimitroff.**

The assassination of the War Minister, M. Dimitroff, is by far the most important event of the week. In company with three friends, M. Dimitroff left Sofia by motor car on Friday night, the 21st, for the village of Kenyavo, which is 10 miles east of Kustendil. The following morning the party set out for Kustendil and, according to the scanty details that are so far to hand, the car was ambushed on the road, and M. Dimitroff, his chauffeur, and two friends were all killed. The third friend, M. Nihileff, escaped. It appears that all the deaths were caused by rifle shots.

M. Dimitroff took up his duties as War Minister some six months ago, and he has always been very active in dealing with Macedonian *Komitajis*, who, it is said, threatened him with death a short time ago. It appears, therefore, although there is no confirmatory evidence as yet to hand, that the assassins were Macedonians.

The Government are taking all possible measures in order to catch the band of murderers, and besides closing the Serbian frontier have sent troops and gendarmes to scour the countryside. Apart from the personal side of the tragedy—for M. Dimitroff was a married man with a large family—his death is a great and almost irreparable loss to the Agrarian Party. He was M. Stambolisky's right-hand man, and was regarded by everyone as being one of the mainstays of the Agrarians. It is as yet too early to speculate regarding his successor, but it will be very difficult to find a man so determined and strong-willed as was Dimitroff.

The Minister was 54 years of age and before becoming Minister of War last June, was for 18 months Minister of the Interior. He was a native of Radomir, and it is probable that he will be buried there.

**The Trial of the Radoslavoff Cabinet.**

This trial, which was adjourned on October 19 for a few days, will be continued to-morrow. It is understood that a number of fresh witnesses have been subpoenaed, and that the total number of witnesses now borders on 300, and includes M. Stambolisky, M. Malinoff, who was the Prime Minister at the time of the Armistice, and many other well known public men. Great admiration is felt in all circles at the attitude of General Jekoff, the late Generalissimo of the Army. His voluntary return in order to stand his trial, his dignified and soldierly bearing before the Court of Justice, and the tale of his three years' exile in Germany, have all gone a long way towards arousing popular opinion in his favour. Whilst it is idle to prophesy as to the punishment he may receive, it is interesting to note that well informed quarters consider he stands a good chance of being acquitted.

**Colonel Nicoloff's Case.**

Lieut-Colonel Nicoloff is still in prison, and as yet there is no sign of his trial taking place. The British Colony in Bulgaria are doing all that lies in their power to prevail on the Government at least to accelerate the holding of the trial, and with this object in view have presented a petition to M. Stambolisky, asking him to have an investigation made into the case. The British Minister, the Honourable W. A. F. Erskine, has promised to present this petition to the Bulgarian Prime Minister.

**Decision of the Radicals.**

At the beginning of last week the Radical Party held a general meeting at Sofia; and after a heated discussion it was decided that the future policy of the party would be to support the other bourgeois parties. In the past the policy of the Radicals has been to remain entirely independent; but the younger members of the party have realised for a long time that this policy was not going to lead them anywhere, as their numbers both inside and outside of the Sobranye are too small to allow them to wield any influence alone.

**The Jubilee of M. Bakaloff.**

M. Tsanko Bakaloff, Minister of Public Works, commonly called "The Poet Minister," celebrated his thirtieth year as a poet on Sunday. The occasion was marked by a great gathering of the Agrarian party at Bela Tcherkva, the birthplace of M. Bakaloff. Practically all the Cabinet and in addition two or three Diplomatists attended at the ceremony, which took the form of a series of addresses made by M. Stambolisky and other Ministers, and included the bestowal of various gifts on M. Bakaloff. In the evening an open air performance of "Sous le vieux ciel" which was written by M. Bakaloff, was rendered by the full company of the National Theatre.

## GREECE.

*Athens, October 22.*

**Departure of Earl Granville.**

The Greek papers here have published a report to the effect that, on his own application, Earl Granville, the British Minister in Athens, is being transferred to Copenhagen. The report has been received with great regret by all parties in Greece, who are unanimous in praising the diplomatic manner in which Earl Granville has dealt with the very delicate situation that arose on the return of King Constantine after the elections of November 14, 1920. His unfailing courtesy and real endeavours to do everything possible to establish and enhance friendly relations between Great Britain and Greece are fully recognised, and many eulogies of him are published in the Athenian Press.


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Official news of Earl Granville's departure has not been received up to the time of writing.

**The Opening of the National Assembly.**

It was decided that prior to the departure of M. Gounaris on his visit to Paris, London, and Rome, a special sitting of the National Assembly should be held, in order that the Prime Minister might outline his policy, and take a vote of confidence. The meeting took place last Saturday, and was attended by 311 deputies; and, as was expected, the voting went in favour of the Government, which obtained 201 votes. Only 71 members of the Liberal Party were present, and these left the room before the voting. The 26 Stratist deputies voted for the Government under certain reserves, whilst the 13 Ministers abstained.

In the course of his speech, M. Gounaris gave a detailed account of the recent operations, and outlined the military situation, which, he said, was very satisfactory. He went on to say that the object of his mission to the Great Powers was to demonstrate the justness of the Greek cause. He thought that a verbal interview with the Prime Ministers of the Allies would greatly facilitate the clearing up of differences existing between them and Greece, and he would be able to point out the future policy of this country with regard to Asia Minor, and repudiate the false *communiqués* on the military situation issued by the Government of Angora. Before proceeding on his mission, however, M. Gounaris thought it would be necessary for him to have the full confidence of the House.

The Prime Minister's speech was received with prolonged cheers from his supporters, and the vote of confidence was then taken with the result stated above.

**The Prime Minister's Departure.**

M. Demetrius Gounaris and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Baltazzi, accompanied by General Stratigos and Admiral Malikopoulos, who will act as technical advisers, left Athens for Western Europe on Sunday afternoon. The Greek delegation is now in Paris, and M. Gounaris has probably been already in touch with M. Briand. During his stay in the French capital the Greek Premier will interview many notable French politicians.

Prior to his departure M. Gounaris stated to the reporters that what he had said at the meeting of the National Assembly was what the people should know. You may, however, inform your readers, he added, that I have great hopes of seeing the rights of Greece recognised by the Great Powers, and that the Greek people will obtain satisfaction for all the sacrifices it has made.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, October 23.*

**The Franco-Turkish Convention.**

Although it was not without considerable difficulty that the French envoy to Angora, M. Franklin Bouillon, succeeded, after spending three weeks over the final haggle, in persuading the Angora Government to sign and ratify a peace treaty, the event is one of the most hopeful signs that has appeared upon the Near Eastern horizon for some time. It yet remains to be seen how the Angora Government will fulfil its obligations; but in any case the bare fact that it has entered into an agreement with one of the so-called 'Capitalist and Imperialist Governments of the West' can hardly be a source of undiluted pleasure in Moscow. For the Franco-Kemalist Convention is no mere Trade Agreement, but a very definite political and economic treaty. Moscow will doubtless remember that 'the wise man is senseless of the bob,' and will send congratulatory messages to Angora with regard to triumphant vindication of the rights of the Turkish proletariat (!), and Angora, with that exquisite politeness characteristic of the Turk, will duly give thanks for the congratulations; but these amenities will deceive no one. It is too early yet, of course, to judge how far the conclusion of the convention indicates a definite decision on the part of the Angora Government in favour of the so-called *Gharb politika*, or Western policy, but the circumstance is certainly a blow to the exponents of the so-called *Shark politika*, or Eastern policy, which involved a strong forward policy throughout the East in co-operation with the Bolshevists against the 'tyrannical domination of Western Imperialist and Capitalist Powers.'

Little is known regarding the actual clauses of the Agreement; but they are known to concern frontiers, economic concessions, and the delivery of war material. The French are said to have agreed to a frontier line running north of Alexandretta and leaving Marash and Aintab to Turkey. It is not known whether the Angora Government has agreed to grant the French a special sphere of economic influence in any shape or form. On the one hand Mustapha Kemal announced in the Great National Assembly that the Agreement was in harmony with the conditions of the National Pact, whilst the French authorities claim that it is in harmony with the Tripartite Agreement, which means that either the National Pact or the Tripartite Agreement—or both—has been considerably stretched to meet the situation. The French have also agreed to grant the Turks certain facilities in order that they may make use of Alexandretta for trade and transport purposes. Finally, the French have agreed to deliver to the Angora Government a certain quantity of military material used by the French forces in Cilicia. One may ask what advantage the French are obtaining in comparison with the obvious advantages to the Turks, but this question can only be answered when the complete details of the economic clauses of the agreement are known. There is no reason to suppose that the French have failed to secure a *quid pro quo*.

**The Release of British Prisoners.**

Although the French have been the first of the Allies to arrange a squaring of accounts with the Turks—even though it may be only provisional—the British Government has also some grounds for satisfaction in that at last the exchange of prisoners has been definitely arranged. In one week from to-day, if all goes well, the Turkish prisoners from Malta will disembark at Ineboli, and the British prisoners will embark in the same ship. There is also some satisfaction in the circumstance of a more moderate tone in the Anatolian press in regard to the British. This can only be the result of orders from Angora, and although undue optimism must be avoided, there really seems to be a break in the heavy clouds that have for so long darkened the eastern horizon. General Franks, who is in charge of the British side of the proceedings, has already made the acquaintance of the Nationalists at Ismidt, and it is probable that the favourable impression then made on both sides may be strengthened at Ineboli, thus helping to pave the way to a deeper and more far-reaching understanding than the exchange of prisoners agreement.

**The War in Anatolia.**

Since the abortive attempt to drive back the right flank of the Greek army and recapture Afion Kara Hissar, the Nationalist army has ceased to be aggressive, and as the Greeks have also contended themselves with defensive tactics, the war seems to have reached once again the old stalemate position. There is still a good deal of talk about negotiations between the Greeks and the Turks, but it is difficult to understand how, even yet, an acceptable basis for negotiations can be found. Even admitting that the National Pact may have been stretched to meet the French, it is certain that Angora will not weaken with regard to Smyrna, and will certainly have a good deal to say about Thrace. Dare the Government of Constantine yield so far as to meet the Turkish demands for an unconditional withdrawal from Anatolia? Leaving rumour and 'officieuse' information on one side, there is nothing to indicate any such intention on the part of the Hellenic Government. On the contrary, the recent pronouncements of M. Gounaris, if they mean anything at all, mean that the Greeks intend to make full use of the territorial advantages they have gained at the cost of such heavy sacrifices. If a winter campaign is to be avoided, it would seem as

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if intervention will be the only way to bring about that much-to-be-desired end.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, October* 11.

**An Unfortunate Incident.**

Signor San Severino, Italian Vice-Consul, was arrested by the Greek Police on his landing in Smyrna from the Italian warship Agordat. In spite of his vehement protest, he was marched to the Police Station and detained there until a superior officer of the Gendarmerie came along and ordered his prompt release. M. Sterghiades, Greek High Commissioner, immediately called on the Italian Consul-General and apologised to him and to his Vice-Consul for the unfortunate mistake, and announced that the policemen responsible for the "incident" had been punished.

*Smyrna, October* 20.

The representatives in Smyrna of the respective High Commissioners in Constantinople have addressed a *Note Verbale* to M. Sterghiades, Greek High Commissioner and Administrator of the Greek Asia Minor Zone, protesting against the measures adopted by the Greek military authorities to prevent the large grain crop being carried to Smyrna by the British and French railways.

**Naval Movements.**

H.M.S. Tumult arrived in Smyrna to replace H.M.S. Tuscan, which has taken Sir Harry Lamb, Representative of the British High Commissioner, to Mitylene.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, October* 4.

**An All Greek Meeting.**

The ill-advised decision to hold a general meeting to decide yet again upon a "policy," is to be carried into effect in spite of many symptoms of disapproval. The Archbishop is issuing a circular calling upon the people in all districts to appoint and send representatives for October 10, the day fixed. Nothing could be more inopportune, especially at a season when villages in many parts of the island are very busy over the vintage, olive gathering, and other agricultural work. A visit to the capital may be pleasing to some. Little else is to be gained by listening to vain repetitions over the flogging of a dead horse. The meeting may be called Pan-Hellenic in Greek, but not in English, as this would imply that Cypriots are Hellenic subjects; whereas, after having been Ottoman, they are now British subjects.

**Eulogy of Great Britain.**

It is not often that the Greek papers have a good word for the island Government, and it is seldom that they express much gratitude for benefits received under British rule, But in a recent leading article the Nicosia paper *Phone tes Kyprou*, under the heading "The moral victory of England," speaks in glowing terms of the part which Britain has taken under her distinguished Premier in the Allied Councils. This constitutes her real glory, one far surpassing that which has been gained through the victories of her fleets and armies. It is due to her defence of the right, her protection of weaker races, and the deliverance of those who suffer from tyranny. After comparing the policy and sentiments which have guided Germany with those of Britain, the paper states that respect for England inspires all the peoples who have come under her protection, and especially the Greek people, who entertain the deepest esteem and admiration for Mr. Lloyd George, whose name every Greek extols as equal to, and even higher than, that of Gladstone, Byron, and other famous phil-Hellenes. "Happy is the country that has such an interpreter of its sentiments. It is this which constitutes the irresistible might of England. This is the true victory which entitles a nation to happiness, to security, and the moral leadership of the world." The article does not, of course, omit to point out how great the debt of gratitude would be were the protection enjoyed by Cyprus exchanged for freedom and union with Greece.

**General News.**

The Legislative Council will be dissolved on or about October 15. The troops, i.e. the one company which forms the garrison of Cyprus, on leaving Troödos will be quartered at the Polemidia Camp, near Limassol. The Camp at Famagusta is given up. The Armenian refugees have all left the island. The Russians, about 700, are still here. The vintage is about to begin, and grapes are being gathered in most of the wine-making areas. The yield is expected to be moderate. Good prices are still being obtained for last year's wines, up to 70s. the load (of 128 okes) for red wines.

M. M. Nicolaides, one of the leading members of the Larnaca community, has spoken and written as an opponent of the puerile policy of Greek members upon non-attendance in the Legislative Council. The High Commissioner has paid short visits to Limassol and Larnaca. The French Consul, M. du Pierrier de Larsan, will probably vacate his office in Cyprus shortly. There have been some forest fires, the worst being not far from the Kykkou Monastery, in the Great Troodos range, where some thousands of pines have been destroyed.

Some attention is being drawn to the relation of crime to drink, and many are in favour of a reduction of licences to sell intoxicating liquors in the towns. There are certainly more than enough of these. But murders are chiefly committed in Zurah districts, and those who want wine and spirits will always have the means of procuring them. Licences are granted in the autumn and spring, application being considered by the "Courts of Administration" (*Meglis Idare*), mixed bodies of official and elected native members, subject to the approval of the District Commissioners.

The Greek Archbishop's mother has died, at the age of 95. His Beatitude is building at his own expense a school at the village of his birth.

The Chief Inspector of Police, Mr. S. Televantou is taking seven men of the force to Alexandria to be trained in the repairing of arms at the British workshops there.

Merchants are now paying 19s. a kantar for carobs in many parts of the island. It would seem, therefore, that the recent protests regarding the low prices paid to peasant manufacturers have had some effect.

## THE SERBS AND ALBANIA.

According to a telegram received in this country from the Tirana Government Serbian troops in considerable numbers are continuing their offensive against the Albanians. There has been fierce fighting with severe losses on both sides. The Serbians are reported to be approaching Lourja, a position of gr-at strategic importance; and they are credited with the intention of trying to encircle the whole of Northern Albania.

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The new education policy in India is said to be responsible for a greatly increased sale of the Scriptures at the Allahabad depot of the Bible Society, where more than half a million copies were purchased in 1920.

Lala Lajap Rai has resigned the presidency of the All India Trade Union Congress.

The envoy of the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic to Turkey, M. Ibrahaim Abdul-Zade has arrived at Angora.

A Bucharest telegram says:—The Constanza harbour police have discovered one million Soviet roubles and precious stones of great value in the luggage of a man named Columbia coming from London. The authorities think the man is an agent of International Communist propaganda.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE PONTUS EXECUTIONS.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—With reference to your editorial note on the Pontus Executions, which appeared in your issue of the 13th inst., may I say that it was a very unhappy paragraph, in no way doing justice to THE NEAR EAST and that its only attenuating remark *i.e.* that it was "not written in defence of Mustapha Kemal's action," was far from sufficient?

Are you not of opinion, that no tribunal, whether on earth or beneath it, could ever pronounce a sentence on a mere treasonable "desire" expressed some two years before, and without evident outward tokens of that desire having actually been in existence in the immediate past?

Or is one to be so naive as to imagine that there could possibly exist hundreds of Greeks—for the number of persons executed has long since exceeded that given in your note—who in spite of being aware of what was in store for them, were so foolish as to continue in their "treasonable" attitude towards the Kemalists? Moreover, if I do not mistake, no court, not even that Kemalist mockery of justice, the so-called Tribunal of Independence, ever tried the children and wives of those notables before condemning them to be burnt alive in their churches.

Or perhaps is one to accept, without a word of protest (and I see none in your note in question), the mentality and point of view of the Kemalists as one accepts the mentality and point of view of cannibals, who know no better?

The Pontus Executions needed no explanation. Their simple and unconditional condemnation by a civilized and Christian conscience was all that was necessary, in order that it might not be spoken of others also, what was said of the Germans, when the latter remained passive and criminal spectators of the Armenian massacres.

I am, etc.,
F. P. Floridis.

Constantinople, October 20.

## "BEDOUIN."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—I have read the letters of Dr. Cook and Mr. Séfi with much interest, and with all the respect due to the writers' scholarshup; but I still remain quite unconvinced that the use of 'Bedouin' as a singular, or of 'Bedouins' as a plural, is desirable, or even permissible in English. Indeed, both Dr. Cook's quotation from Professor Bevan and Mr. Séfi's letter seem to me evidence in the exactly opposite direction. Professor Bevan states plainly that 'in modern times the plural of *badawi* seems to be *bidwan*;' and Mr. Séfi says that the Arabic singular *badawi* makes its plural *badawiyoun* in the nominative case, and *badawiyin* in the accusative and genitive, colloquially shortened into *badawin*. Now, it will be observed that both these writers agree in putting the "n" only in the plural form; and if we make allowances for the difficulty of hitting off a correct rendering of the vowel sounds in 'modern' or 'colloquial" Arabic, it seems to me that 'Bedouin' is not very far from the word as spoken by the Arabs. At any rate, it is certainly a great deal nearer to it than 'Bedouins;' and why we should follow the French in this error, as in so many others, I quite fail to see. I submit respectfully that the English practice here is very much the better, and that 'Bedouins' is as utterly wrong in fact as it is unpleasant to the ear and eye. And after all, Colonel Tennant's book is written in English, and therefore French pratice has no bearing on the point at issue.

May I again direct attention to Sir Richard Burton's note on this subject (quoted in your issue of October 20, p. 483,? There are, of course, considerable differences between the Arabic of different regions and countries; e.g. between that of Syria and that of Egypt; but I take it that in his famous 'Pilgrimage,' Sir Richard was referring to the Arabic of Arabia, and we may surely conclude that the weighed up the *pros* and *cons* of the case before committing himself to the regular use of 'Bedouin' as the plural. His knowledge of the colloquial Arabic at any rate can hardly be called in question.

I should like, with your permission, to thank both your correspondents for their very interesting letters, and to express the hope that some of your readers in Arabic-speaking lands may give us the benefit of their views on the subject.

I am, etc.,
Your Reviewer.

October 28.

## LORD CHELMSFORD ON INDIA.

Speaking in the House of Lords on October 26, on the occasion of a debate on the situation in India, Viscount Chelmsford said that it was only six months since he gave up the responsibility for the government of India. He did not disclaim any responsibility for the acts which he did during his tenure of office. He should not have alluded to any personal matter if it had not been that Lord Sydenham and Lord Ampthill asserted quite plainly that he had not supported the officers in the Punjab rising. He had endeavoured ever since that rising to abstain, though at the risk of misunderstanding, from utterances on the question, because he did not wish to increase the contentions that had arisen over that unfortunate occurrence. The Punjab rising was a very serious one because of the virile and martial character of the men of the Punjab. Action had to be taken, and had to be taken summarily and promptly. He assured Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the Governor-General of the Punjab, and his officers that they would receive unwavering support in any action that they found it necessary to take. The rising was put down. This was set out in the dispatches. They praised Sir Michael O'Dwyer for his conduct during that time, and they praised the officers generally and the military who took action under those officers. In certain cases they found it necessary to express disapproval of methods which had been adopted and which they said were injudicious and improper. So far and so far alone could it be said that full support was not given to our officers in the Punjab.

The dominating factor in the present situation in India was the race and colour issue. There was a revolt of the coloured races going on all over the world against the ascendancy of the white races. But though it was not merely an Indian problem, it met them in almost every Indian question which came up. Two consequences had flowed from this. In the past, we governed India on the basis of the acknowledged superiority of the British race. That superiority was now challenged, and, in surveying the situation, they could not ignore that the challenge had been made. The colour issue had become a unifying force in India, and through all the diversity of creeds and races it was creating union.

The second large issue was that of the constitutional reforms which were identified with the names of the Secretary of State and himself. Those who were against the policy of those reforms would say: "All the trouble is due to your policy." He would reply: "But for the policy, the whole of India would be against you, and you would not have a friend at all."

It was sometimes said: "You have based your policy on the conciliation of the politically-minded class, an insignificant fraction of the population, and not the true leaders of the people." But was there any country in the world where, in matters of government, they could ignore the politically-minded class and where that politically-minded class was not merely a fraction of the population? It was the politically-minded that demanded and pressed for reform and had influence with the rest of the population, and, even in India, they could not under-estimate the influence of this class. In his policy he had felt it imperative that the new Constitution should function, that they must win to their side the co-operation of the constitutional party, and that, in any action they might have to take, they should have secured the support of the constitutional party. He knew that they might have an uncomfortable time, but he felt that the gain would be greater if the policy of non-cooperation were rejected by the Indians themselves, endowed for the first time with responsibility. In other words, he took a long and not a short view of the situation.

It had been once or twice suggested that the Secretary of State for India was a sinister figure in connection with the policy in India. As regards the question of the policy on non-cooperation, the Secretary of State, from beginning to end, had had no part or lot in its except that he was kept fully informed of what the Government were doing and of the policy that they were pursuing The educated classes had refused to join in the Gandhi movement, and each day they saw fresh dissensions from it. The Moplah rising was one of the greatest blows which had occurred to Mr. Gandhi, because it had undoubtedly alienated from him an enormous amount of public support.

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## A FETE DAY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

*Liubliana, October 3.*

On Sunday, October 2, the little town of Radovlyice, some two hours by slow train up the Save valley beyond Liubliana, was the scene of an interesting double celebration. There was the opening of the new *Sokolski Dom* (Athletic Club House) and the unveiling of the memorial tablet set up over the last resting-place of Orlip, a young *sokol*, native of Radovlyice, who was shot by the Austrians for political reasons in 1918. The Sokolski Dom is a very plain red brick affair, as yet somewhat unfinished in appearance from without, but remarkable for the effort and self-denial expended in its erection. During the war all Sokol activity had been suppressed owing to its nationalist character; but as soon as the Austrian rule had come to an end, the members of the Radovlyice Sokol began to build their club-house. Because of the scarcity of labour and the high prices, they set to and did it with their own hands, men and women alike. Building material was given by those who could afford it, and the peasants of the vicinity did the carting free of charge, out of regard for the Sokol Societies.

Before the Liberation the *sokols* owed their influence to their championship of the national sentiment; now they are popular as the centres of patriotic activity, regardless of class, and outside all parties in a land where party politics are carried to extremes. The weather was perfect, and the occasion had attracted a large crowd of visitors from Liubliana and elsewhere, *Sokol* delegates from all parts of the Kingdom, conspicuous in their red Garibaldi shirts and buff uniforms with the black cap and characteristic falcon's feather, ex-volunteers and peasants. One peasant, a striking figure in his national costume, made a speech in which he mentioned that he had just visited Serbia as member of a Slovene peasants' delegation, and that he had been deeply impressed by the similarity between the Serbian peasant and the Slovene, and had brought back with him the consciousness that they were indeed both of one nation.

After the opening ceremony there was an excellent gymnastic display.

Under the mellow October sun, in its magnificent setting—the grey and forbidding Karawanken on the one hand, and on the other a semi-circle of wooded hills all glorious in their autumn tints, with the tremendous pile of the Kamnishke (Stone) Alps, topped by the great Triglav rising heavenward in the background and shutting off the horizon towards the West, the scene was singularly beautiful and impressive, especially towards evening. Radovlyice itself is an old town, with a handsome Renaissance chateau, formerly the property of the princes of Turn and Taxis, a fine Gothic church, and no end of pretty parts and picturesque houses.

F.S.C.

A new weekly publication, entitled "Yugoslavia," is announce from Belgrade. It is to be published in English and French.

It is reported from Stockholm that negotiations are at present going on between Sweden and Persia regarding the employment of a number of Swedish officers in the Persian Gendarmerie.

## THE CARAVANSERAI

*Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day.*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*

OMAR KHAYYAM—

The scarcity of lodgings in Zagreb is so acute that ingenious bachelors have invented a new way of finding accommodation. The newspapers are full of advertisements of most eligible (according to their own description) young men, who are always "intelligent, sympathetic and solid," who are desirous of making the acquaintance of a young woman, widow or *divorcée* with a view to matrimony. The lady must be of good appearance, not too old, and with an "irreproachable" past, but the sting lies in the tail: the indispensable condition is that she must be in possession of a furnished flat or lodging! What the "solid" young man wants is a flat. He will put up with a wife provided she can oblige him in this respect.

The Oriental is very like a child in many respects, and in none more so than in his unconscious imitating of other people's tricks of intonation and turns of speech. And, of course, he possesses a parrot-like power of picking up and retaining in his memory—for use on inappropriate occasions—words which would be very much better left unsaid. In regard to them his memory is indeed 'wax to receive, and marble to retain;' and his tongue seems to twist itself round them with a natural affection, so that he can pronounce them far better than he pronounces words that should be like them in sound though different in meaning. The word 'blank' for example, he usually converts into 'per-lank,' but a certain other word beginning with the same two letters gives him no trouble at all—he hears it once, and thereafter has it pat. I remember my surprise, when, as a young traveller, I stepped out of the station at a small Egyptian town, to be greeted by a quite respectable-looking young native with the remark. "This way to the b — y bazaar, Sir,"—Only, of course he used the hard-worked word itself, and I must admit that it sounded quaint.

My thoughts have been set running on this native use of the Western corruption of 'By our Lady,' by being reminded lately of a little tale that was told me very many years ago in Baghdad. The teller was one of the British community, who is, I believe, still in the City of the Khalifs; and he told it merely as an illustration of the liking of the native Christians and Jews, in those days, for airing their knowledge of foreign languages. He was, he said, passing a group of native Christian young men, when one of them observed to another: "The strange thing is that though we keep on writing to them we *nevah* get any b—y answer!" And, by Jove, I should like to bet that the linguist pronounced the "cuss word" perfectly, whatever the case may have been with regard to the others!

Corsair

The Sofia Correspondent of *The Times* reports that the Bolshevist Mission, which is being detained at Varna owing to the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to allow it to proceed to the capital professes to be a Ukrainian Red Cross Society, and is anxious to buy wheat for the famine areas.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

**The Flonzaley Quartet.**

It is superfluous now to describe the virtues of the Flonzaley Quartet, the most wonderful combination in the world. At the Wigmore Hall on October 21, they played Haydn's Quartet in D major (Op. 64. No. 5) and Beethoven's Quartet in D Major (Op. 18. No. 3) with the finest unanimity, tone, and imagination conceivable. Their balance of tone is literally glorious, with never a roughness or a false prominence. Quite simply, they are unique. The way in which they took the finale of the Haydn Quartet was comparable only to the way in which Busoni does Weber's "Perpetuo Moto." This concert was notable also for the first performance in England on Enesco's Quartet in E flat major. This Roumanian composer is not well-known in England, but unfortunately this quartet of his, which is dedicated to the Quartet who played it, will not promote a search into the reaons for his fame in other countries. For it is intolerably prolix and contains little genuine matter. It is well laid out for the instruments, but, apart from the middle section of the first movement (allegro moderato), it is dull in the extreme. Its good reception was due to the way in which it was played, not to the work itself.

**Eugene Goossens.**

Eugene Goossens is a great conductor. Whatever doubts one may have had of his ability to play music other than that written in the modern idiom were for ever dispelled at the superb orchestral concert which he gave at the Queen's Hall on October 27. The orchestra and programme were of the choicest, and the playing was indeed glorious. A finer presentation than Goossens secured of the encored performance of Bach's C minor fugue orchestrated by Elgar is inconceivable. This marvellously constructed work was a joy all the way through, producing in its gorgeous climax a thrill such as comes only from the highest interpretation of music. Alone this fugue was enough to mark the class of Goossens, but he turned from it to the delicately shimmering "Garden of Fand" of Arnold Bax with the easy mastery of the universal musician. Bax's is a beautiful work, overflowing with individual and poetic ideas, but it is a little long. The "Pastorale d'Eté" of the Swiss composer, Arthur Honnegger, was surprisingly refreshing and natural. It is delightfully quiet, with even melodies and smooth harmonies. Then came a great work by Gustav Holst, his suite called "Beni Mora." This suite, in three movements, is a record of impressions gained in a holiday spent in Algeria. It is no common imitation of the atmosphere of the East, but it genuinely evokes the monotonous and illimitable colours of Northern Africa. The third movement perhaps is the most interesting: it begins (*adagio*) with the vague spaciousness of the Sahara outside Biskra, upon entry into which town a highly-coloured dance of the "Ouled Nails" is heard, and then, as the traveller turns the corner of the street in which the dancing girls were, he comes again upon the nocturnal spacious silence. It is an exquisite picture, and I regretted only the fact that the transition to the end, certainly very effectively done, was so soon made. The concert ended with Brahms' First Symphony, which, it seemed, had not been so thoroughly rehearsed as the other works. But one's appetite had been whetted by the sharp edge of the newer foods, and this sound, wholesome symphony tasted a little stale after them. No one who wishes to hear fine orchestral playing and the more interesting of the newer works should miss the remaining Goossens concerts, which are to be given at the Queen's Hall on November 9 and 23, and December 12.

**The "Chelsea Pops."**

The second of the Philharmonic String Quartet's ten chamber concerts at the Chelsea Town Hall was given on October 25. This quartet's virtuosity could not have been better exemplified than in the whimsical and very intricate "Phantasy Quartet" of Goossens; for its rhythmical ingenuity and difficult interlacing of wisps of melody were fitted together with superb craftsmanship. It was a performance excellent in every way. But the work which inevitably gave most lasting satisfaction was Mozart's "Quintet in G Minor." The Quintet is a perfect work, alike in invention, joinery and balance. There was perhaps a slight tendency in the first violin to be too prominent in the first two movements, but in the last exquisite two (*adagio* and *allegro*) the players seemed to subdue themselves to the sheer beauty of the music, and poured out its bubbling freshness with a most charming grace. This indeed belonged to the music of Paradise. The next concert is on November 22.

**A Young Violinist.**

Although M. Toscha Spivakovsky looks a mere boy, his abilities, both technical and interpretative, are those of an advanced artist. He showed, at his recital at the Wigmore Hall, on October 27, an individuality and a freedom from affectation that were remarkable for a violinist of his age. I did not hear him in great music, it is true, but his pure, clean playing of such things as Chopin's "Nocturne in D flat," Saint-Saen's "Rondo Cappricioso," and his technical maseery of "Campanella," betokened a big future for him.

**English Pianists.**

Mr. Herbert Fryer's second of his series of four recitals, given at the Æolian Hall on October 26, rather confirmed than belied one's previous doubts concerning his pianoforte-playing. This recital was called one of "modern composers," by which was meant an English group of Herbert Fryer, Balfour Gardiner, and Sydney Rosenbloom, a French group of Debussy and Ravel, and a mixed one of Rachmaninoff, Liszt, Moszkovski, and Dohnanyi! Mr. Fryer's was average playing, with little trace of imagination or even of insight. His own variations on a theme of Purcell were insignificant, and the other English composers seemed to be performed in the full and true knowledge that they were quite unrepresentative. In Debussy his deficiencies in the matter of overtones were one of his least omissions; there was no colour, and little variety even, in his touch. In short, though perfectly honest and consistently sincere, his playing was humdrum.

It is to a very different school from Mr. Fryer's that Miss Elizabeth Wray, whose recital was at the Wigmore Hall on October 26, belongs. She has definite ideas of her own, sometimes good and sometimes bad. Her technique is sufficiently advanced to make her various meanings clear; these, though often interesting, are scarcely profound. The best thing I heard her in was Bridge's "Fire-Flies;" her beautifully light touch and a justly delicate perception produced an excellent presentation. It is probably where the problems are chiefly technical that she best succeeds. The worst thing I heard her in was Schumann's "Scenes of Childhood;" here the romantic simplicity of the music found her ill at ease, and the different characteristics of the varying scenes were poorly portrayed. Her Beethoven (Sonata in D minor, Op. 31) had little dignity or strength; this seemed rather to prove that the greater the work the farther away was she from its realization. However, she has undoubted promise, though at present her technique is in advance of her musical intelligence.

**Mr. Dawson Freer.**

It must have been gratifying to Mr. Dawson Freer to find the Æolian Hall on October 24 filled for his song recital, for there are many better singers than he who could not do it. Moreover, the secret of his popularity is undiscoverable. I heard all his three groups of songs, and in not one of them was there evidence of distinctive ability. For example, Mozart's "Non piu andrai" needs, perhaps first of all, flexibility; Butterworth's "Is my team ploughing" needs an unstrained sense of ghostly spirituality; and the traditional Hungarian "O'er the Forest raincloudes lower" needs a rigid exclusion of sentimentality—all of which necessities were sadly absent. Mr. Freer has certain merits: he has a sense of humour (i.e. Parry's "Laird of Lockpen") and an obvious disinclination to sing in languages other than his own. But in spite of these things without the excellent assistance of his accompanist, Mr. O'Connor Morris, I don't know where he would have been.

ANDANTE.

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The following appointments in the Royal Air Force will take place early in 1922:—

To the command of the Royal Air Force in Egypt:—

Air Vice Marshal Sir E. L. Ellington, *vice* Air Vice Marshal Sir Geoffrey Salmond.

To be Director General of Supply and Research:—

Air Vice Marshal Sir Geoffrey Salmond, *vice* Air Vice Marshal Sir E. L. Ellington.

As from February 1, 1922, the Royal Air Force command, now known as the Middle East Command, and comprising the Royal Air Force in Egypt, Palestine, Aden, and Irak, will be divided into separate commands, one consisting of the Royal Air Force in Egypt, Palestine, and Aden under the command of the Air Officer commanding Egypt, and the other consisting of the Royal Air Force in Irak under the command of the Air Officer and administered direct by the Air Ministry, instead of as at present by the Air officer commanding the Middle East, which title from thenceforth will not be used.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## THE UPBUILDING OF A RACE.

**"KASHMIR IN SUNLIGHT AND SHADOW," By C. E. Tyndale-Biscoe, M. A. (London, Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd., 12s. 6d. net)**

Kashmir lives in legend as a land of lakes, rivers, and secluded valleys, inhabited by deft artificers and beautiful women. The climate of its highlands approaches perfection, its soil is prodigiously fertile, and until recent years it was a paradise for sportsmen. Here the Mughal Emperors found relief from India's, sun-scorched plains; but, on the disappearance of their régime a land so highly favoured by Nature was coveted by powerful neighbours. In 1750 it fell a prey to the Afghans, who made forced converts to Islam of its Hindu population. Fifty years later they were ousted by the Sikhs; but the Kashmiris gained nothing by the change of masters. In 1846 the Sikhs succumbed to the might of Great Britain. The East India Company might well have colonized the uplands of Kashmir with European settlers. Instead of adopting a statesmanlike policy, they sold Kashmir to Gulab Singh, who ruled the adjacent province of Jammu, for a comparative pittance of £750,000, which was paid in part by jewellery torn from the luckless population. Gulab Singh was a Rajput, and therefore subjected to priestly influence. He established a theocracy, decreed death as the penalty for the slaughter of cows, and filled every public office with foreign Brahmans. In 1867 Lieutenant Robert Thorpe, who visited Kashmir for purposes of sport, started a press campaign in favour of the downtrodden Mohammedans. Although he met a martyr's death by poison, his disclosures stirred the slumbering conscience of England. Under pressure from the Indian Government, the great Missionary Societies of London were permitted to establish hospitals, dispensaries, and schools in Kashmir. A series of able Political Agents enforced many useful reforms; and under its present ruler, Kashmir is in many respects a model Native State.

Mr. Tyndale-Briscoe came out in 1891 as an assistant to the Principal of a Mission school. He found that the Kashmiris had all the evil traits which are generated by ages of cruel oppression; tempered by a keen sense of humour and the ability to respond to sympathetic treatment. Being a "Muscular Christian," he determined to develop the instinct of team-work which is a fundamental fact in human nature. After a prolonged struggle with deeply-ingrained prejudices, he succeeded in placing manly games on a sound basis. The example of his scholars playing football with zest and respecting the canons of fairplay has been taken to heart by the Kashmiris. Mr. Tyndale-Briscoe's naive, discursive, but wholly charming book records the gradual upbuilding of a downtrodden and degraded race. The principles on which he worked might well be adopted in a wider field. "It seems strange," he writes—

that the authorities have not found a more suitable education for Indians. It has created a class which continues to despise manual labour, and panders to their desire for Government employment, in which there are not enough billets to satisfy them Therefore the country is crowded with half-educated youths, who cause endless trouble to the Government which has given them their education at schools and colleges practically for nothing. Well, that same spirit which I found in the boys of Kashmir and their parents still remains; so, until I can find something better, I am going in hard for "social service" to teach the youth of this country their duties towards their fellow citizens.

F.H.S.

## THE BLACK MOUNTAIN.

**"OFF THE MAP. THE SUPPRESSION OF MONTENEGRO.": By Alex Devine. (London. Chapman and Hall, Ltd; 1s. net.)**

The author of this pamphlet is well-known as a champion of Montenegro, and in "Off the Map" he has summarised the series of events which ended in the absorption of that country by Serbia. For many people, for practically all acquainted with the Montenegro of two decades or more ago, the elimination of the small country has come as a shock to their sense of the fitness of things. At the time of the marriage of King Nicolas's eldest son, Montenegro was still a mediaeval country; the Prince—he had not yet assumed the title of King—was veritably the father of his people, and often dispensed justice in the approved patriarchial style. Impromptu sports, held by the Cetigne garrison, recalled the Homeric games. Montenegro with its fine traditions and delightful cult of the simple life was one of Europe's most attractive spots. Changes, of course, began to creep in; but up to the outbreak of the war anyone entering Montenegro had the sense of having left modern Europe behind. To-day, it is to be feared, the country is a stranger to the old world peace it once knew. Many of the people, no doubt, have their rifles still by their side or up to their shoulder, as in the old days, but instead of pointing in one direction—across the frontier into Turkey, as it then was—they are apt to be levelled in any direction, against fellow Slavs on Montenegrin soil. For Montenegro's sake we can but hope that the absorption by Serbia, in spite of the violence by which it was enforced, if it has to stand, will ultimately prove as successful as the Union of England and Scotland. The story of the injustice done, so pointedly told in this pamphlet, may serve both as a tribute to a gallant people and as an incentive to the new Yugoslav State to see that as far as possible all bitterness is removed. Mr. Devine has rounded off his labours on behalf of Montenegro with a telling indictment; which will be invaluable to the future historian seeking for light upon a question that has been far from clear to contemporary observers.

## OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL EGYPT.

**"THE LEISURE OF AN EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL".' By the late Lord Edward Cecil, K.C.M.G., D.S.O. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 15s. net).**

Egyptian bookcases are none too full of works of humour in the English language, but here we have a notable contribution, containing, we believe, only one reference to the Pyramids, and not one to the Sphinx or


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**The Fugitive. Poems.**

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*Daily Mail*:—"'The Fugitive' is likely to be as warmly welcomed and as lovingly treasured as any. These rhythms are almost all of them shot through with imaginative beauty; they conjure up haunting images; they enhance the mystery and splendour of life."

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the bazaars, while local colour is almost wholly mental, with the single exception of Ahmed Bey's sartorial get-up as acting-Governor of Port Said. We know Ahmed Bey; at least, if we do not, we know his first and second cousins once removed. He is not exactly an orthodox Moslem, and he is quite convinced that all good Anglican deans are married and always ready to "split a bottle." We also know all the Pashas in this funny book, although we are solemnly assured that they are purely fictitious characters. We know very well those ancient gilt arm-chairs resting insecurely on the worm-eaten plank floors of the decrepit Ministries of the Interior or of Finance—chairs that expire suddenly of old age every now and then, and deposit the bulk of the Minister of Public Works or of his colleague of Public Instruction upon the floor. We know the official "express train" with its "venerable saloon of vast proportions which had the peculiar, earthy, musty smell of extreme age. Everything in it was very old—even the fleas only walked about; their hopping days were over."

But to revert to the Pashas. We know, or knew, His Excellency of Public Works and War, "a stolid, fish-like individual," and His Excellency of Justice with the "bilious eye," and His Excellency the President of the Council with his "oleaginous smile." They are all tremendously alive, these Pashas, under an utterly good-humoured caricature. And, outside the Egyptian officialdom, who does not know the Baron Sodinsky, the Austrian Minister—a very skilful diplomat sketched by our very skilful author with the sure pencil of an artist; and Mrs. Fitz, Miss Sandenham, Captain Bentley and "the infant in the Rifle Brigade"? The latter part of the book under the generic title, "Going on Leave," is not in our opinion as racy as the rest, but the sure touch of our author may be seen here in his description of the unchangeable menu well known to all travellers in French dining-cars. "Vermicelli soup; Fish of a peculiar nature which I believe are bred in the engine tanks; small slices of wear-resisting Beef; eight-legged winners of the Chicken Marathon Race; caramel Pudding." Amen!

The book is an edited collection of private letters written by the late Lord Edward Cecil Pasha, who was twice on the staff of the Sudan Reconquest Armies, and in 1905 attached to the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, becoming Financial Adviser in 1912 until his death in 1918. The general impression forced upon us by these clever sketches, especially those directly descriptive of his Egyptian experiences, is that there must be many more than those here published, and that those many more must have proved equally delightful and instructive to Lord Edward's relatives. Even Financial Advisers to the Egyptian Government undress at times, but they have not all had the Adonis-like *psyche* of this son of the late Lord Salisbury. Evidently with all his humour Lord Edward Cecil had some distinct prejudices. His references to Americans in this volume are invariably sarcastic if not hostile, as also those to the French. One essay, that on Lord Kitchener, written after the tragedy of the Hampshire, confesses to something stronger than dislike of Abbas Pasha Hilmi, the last Khedive; while the "pseudo-Nationalists" come in for some withering contempt.

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"OFF THE MAP."

By Alex Devine.

Disclosing for the first time the Truth about Serbian Intrigue in Montenegro and the Tragedy of a Small Nation.

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## THE ETERNAL PILGRIMAGE.

**"SANTAL." By Ronald Firbank. (London: Grant Richards. 7s. 6d. net).**

The author of this book is already known as a very clever writer, with much ability in line and colour, and in the subject-matter of his latest book he has found admirable scope for the employment of his diverse qualities. "Santal" is a sketch of an episode in an Arab boy's life. Cherif, an orphan with "forlorn, profound eyes that had vision in them," was wont to visit the East angle of the Mosque, where "he was able to forget for a while the difficulties of his existence." Here one day he had a dream. "And in his sleep he fancied himself journeying towards high hills that as he advanced seemed ever to recede, and presently the vision changed and he saw, seated by a pool of clear shining water, an old man, marvellously majestic. A great melancholy was in his face, and in his hands he held a book." As soon as possible Cherif sought from the marabout the explanation of his dream, and on learning that it meant he was to visit Mecca, he determined at once to fulfil his destiny. How he went alone, day after day, across the Sahara; how through desolate, waterless country he wandered until he almost foundered on the other side of Hope—Illusion; and how he finally asserted his Moslem individuality and allowed Resignation to reign in his heart—all these things, recounted with exquisite sensibility, would be spoiled if explained here in detail. For the whole sketch is made with extreme delicacy and sensitiveness. Such parts as the conversation between Cherif's aunt Amoucha and two widows, Embarka and Mabrouka, which is done with the most delightful malice possible, the impression of the thronging Souk, and the description of the wilder-growing country East of Gardaia, are written with an art that is quite unusual in books of this kind; and, what is the worthiest factor of all, through all these decorations there runs the whimsically human philosophy of the author.

That Mr. Firbank knows what he is writing about is obvious apart from the fact that his book was written in Tunis, though he is the sort of imaginative writer who can easily dispense with local information. But for those who insist on detailed accuracy, what he says on minbars, senbel, stenitzias, and the like will cause additional enjoyment. And for another class of reader we may add that his book is beautifully printed.

## MISS DIVER REPRINTED.

**"STRANGE ROADS," By Maud Diver; "THE STRONG HOURS," By Maud Diver. (London: Constable, Westminster Library, 4s. 6d. net).**

These two books by Miss Diver, whose writings are always widely read, really form one story, but were published in consecutive years, 1918 and 1919, owing to paper scarcity, and difficulty of producing a long book at the time. They tell the story of Derek Blount, of Avonleigh, who has been one of Miss Diver's most popular heroes. They are now re-issued by Messrs. Constable in their attractive and inexpensive Westminster Library, which, except in price, does not seem to differ from the usual 7s. 6d. or 8s. 6d. editions of novels.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Greek Renaissance." By P. N. Ure. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.

"The New World of Islam." By Lothrop Stoddard. (London: Chapman and Hall Ltd. 16s. net.)

"Twenty Years in Roumania." By Maude Parkinson. (London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Hellenism and Christianity." By Edwyn Bevan. (London George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

The 2nd class Order of the Nile has been conferred upon Mr John Hume, Sub-Governor of the National Bank, Cairo.

It is announced from Sydney that the first volume of Mr. Bean's "History of Australia in the War," was published last week and that it carried the story to the end of the first eight days after the Anzac landing.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**

November 3 (New Style).
October 21 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 3, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshwan 2, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Ratan Tata has left York House for India.

The Hon. Lady Lloyd has left London for Bombay.

Prince Ibraham Hilmi, brother of the Sultan of Egypt, has taken up his residence at 12, Connaught-place.

General Sir George Milne and Lady Milne have returned to London from South Africa.

The Earl of Bessborough is expected to return to London in a week from South Africa.

Sir Deva Persad Sarvidhikary left London last week for Marseilles to return to Calcutta.

Monsignor Stanley, Bishop of Emmaus, has arrived in Rome from England.

According to intelligence received in Paris from Tangier, Sir Herbert E. White, British Agent and Consul-General for Morocco, has retired.

It is stated from Cairo, that Judge Carroll Spring, the American diplomatic agent in Egypt, has resigned, and will be replaced by Dr. Howell.

M. Dusan Resetar, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London this week for Rome.

King Alexander II of Yugoslavia left Paris on October 29 for Belgrade, where he arrived, with M. Pashitch, on October 31.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir T. Cunninghame, Military Attaché at Prague, has been decorated with the Czecho-Slovakian War Cross for services after the war.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Norton-Griffiths, M.P., will return to London early in December from South America.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Allen leave England this week to join the P. & O. steamer Naldera at Marseilles *en route* to India.

We are glad to be able to announce that Sir Alexander Mc Robert, who has recently undergone a severe operation, is making favourable progress.


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The engagement is announced between J. H. Greathead, Public Works Ministry, Cairo, and Sybil, second daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Cole, O.B.E., and Mrs. Cole, of Thurlaston House, near Rugby.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Algernon Moreing have returned from a motor tour in Yugoslavia and Austria, and are at 11, Mount-street, Berkeley-square, which is now their permanent London address.

Mr. E. O. Mousley, the New Zealand Secretary on the Secretariat of the British Delegation to the Washington Conference, and author of "The Secrets of a Kuttite," left England last week for the United States.

King Boris, with the Cabinet and Diplomatic Corps, attended the funeral of M. Dimitroff, the recently assassinated Bulgarian War Minister, which took place on October 28.

Captain and Brevet Major C. O. Harvey, 38th King George's Own Central India Horse, has been appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division).

Kathleen Viscountess Falmouth, the Hon. Pamela Boscawen, Sir John Campbell, and Sir Robert and Lady Aitken have left for Bombay in the P. and O. steamship Naldera.

The engagement is announced of Captain G. G. Hills, M.C., only son of Colonel George Scott Hills, Indian Staff Corps, and Patricia Mary Grace, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Kenyon, of Ranger Lodge, Glandyfi, Cardiganshire.

The Countess of Cromer will leave England on November 4, to spend the winter with Lady Francis Scott in British East Africa, where she will be joined by the Earl of Cromer from Ceylon in April. Lord and Lady Cromer expect to be abroad until the beginning of next May.

A new departure has been made in missionary work in India by the establishment of an agricultural school at Assam, where the Bishop has purchased about twenty acres of land for the purposes of the school, and is looking forward to great results, both religious and agricultural.

The engagement is announced between Captain Guy Nicholas Vansittart (K.G.O.) Central India Horse, youngest son of Captain R. A. Vansittart, late 7th Dragoon Guards, of 34, Queen's Gate-terrace, and Margaret Helen, elder daughter of Sir Henry and Lady Proctor, of Ware Hill, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire.

The engagement is announced of Captain Christopher Riley, M.C., Coldstream Guards, son of Athelstan Riley, Seigneur de la Trinité, Jersey, and of the late Hon. Mrs. Athelstan Riley, and Betty, eldest daughter of Colonel Hanbury, C.M.G., and Mrs. Lionel Hanbury, of Hitcham House, Burnham, Bucks.

The marriage was celebrated on October 25, at the British Consulate, Cairo, and afterwards at All Saints' Church, by the Rev. Canon Horan, between Arthur James Mansfield, elder son of Dr. James P. Grieves, of Portishead, Somerset, and Margery Adah, elder daughter of the late Captain Arthur C. Woods, Royal Navy, and Mrs. Woods, of 1, Sherard Gardens, Eltham.

Mrs. Fanny S. Copeland, whose name is familiar to readers of "The Near East," has been nominated English lecturer at the University of Liubliana. It will be remembersd that she translated into English S. Tushitch's "The Liberators," and Dr. Voshnyak's "Bulwark Against Germany;" and a new translation by her of Ivo Vajnovitch's "Dubrovnik Trilogy" is expected to be published soon.

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A large concourse of Hindu students and their British friends assembled on October 29 at the Shakespeare Hut, Keppel-street, to celebrate Diwalee, or New Year's Day, and the anniversary of the death of Swami Dayananda, the Hindu reformer, from whose teachings has sprung the Arya Somaj, which perpetuates his maxims. The chair was taken by Sir C. Sankaran Nair, who was supported by Sir M. M. Bhownaggree and Sir E. Denison Ross.

## MARRIAGE.

PEATT—NOWILL.—On October 17, 1921, at All Saints, Moda, Constantinople, by Canon F. C. Whitehouse assisted by the Rev. L. Buchanan, D.D. Capt. Ernest S. W. Peatt, O.B.E. R.A.V.C., son of J. W. Peatt, V.S., of March House, Leominster, to Alice Gertrude, daughter of Stephen Nowill, of Constantinople.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

President Harding has appointed Rabbi Joseph Saul Kornfeld, of Ohio, United States Minister to Persia.

General Dange, Belgian Consul at Cairo, will be appointed Minister in the Belgian Legation which is to be re-established there.

Dr. Thesleff, the Finnish Minister at Christiania, has been appointed a member of the League of Nations Commission which is to report on Albania.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Walter George Salis Schwabe, K.C., to be Chief Justice of the Madras High Court in succession to Sir John Wallis, who is retiring from the Bench.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* telegraphs that it is understood that the Egyptian Government has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Jasper Y. Brinton as successor to Mr. Tuck as American representative on the Bench of the Mixed Court of Appeal. The necessary formalities will be completed at the next meeting of the Cabinet—so ending a long drawn out dispute.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Lord Raglan at the age of sixty-four Sir George Fitz-Roy Henry Somerset, third Baron Raglan, G.B.E., C.B., was the grandson of the Field-Marshal who lost an arm at Waterloo, and who commanded the Army in the Crimea. He joined the Grenadier Guards in 1876. After being orderly officer to Major-General Sir R. Phayre in the second phase of the Afghan War, 1879-80, he was appointed aide-de-camp to Sir James Fergusson, Governor of Bombay, from 1880 to 1883.

## FOREIGN DECORATIONS.

The King has granted to the following officers of the Royal Navy his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear Decorations which have been conferred upon them by the King of Roumania in recognition of valuable services rendered by them in connexion with the Mission to Roumania in 1920 :—

Order of the Star of Roumania.

Cross of Commander.—Capt. H. W. Bowring, D.S.O., R.N.

Cross of Chevalier.—Paymaster Lieut. H. P. Chapman, R.N.

The King has been pleased, by Warrants under his Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, to grant permission to wear the undermentioned Decorations, which have been conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered during the War :—

FRANCE.

Legion of Honour.

Cross of Commander.—Sir James Stevenson, Bt. ; Sir E. H. W. Tennyson d'Eyncourt, K.C.B., Director of Naval Construction, Admiralty.

Cross of Officer.—Sir Davison Dalziel, Bt., M.P. ; Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E. ; Sir Robert Murray Hyslop, J.P. ; Alfred Howe Collison, C.B.E., M.I.C.E. ; R. S. Gardiner.

BELGIUM.

Order of the Crown.

Insignia of Grand Officer.—W. Behrens.

Cross of Commander.—Sir D. M. Stevenson, Bt., late Lord Provost of Glasgow.

Cross of Officer.—Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., Litt.D. ; A. C. Turner, O.B.E. ; E. A. Ebblewhite, J.P. ; G. Empedocles, Director-General of the Commercial Bank of Greece, Athens ; Professor Maurice Alfred Gerothwohl.

Cross of Chevalier.—F. Handley Page, C.B.E. ; G. H. S. Bunning, O.B.E. ; W. M. Greathead, Aliens Officer, Harbour Station, Folkestone ; G. W. T. Omond ; P. J. Poels ; W. Reynolds-Stephens ; L. Tertis ; L. H. G. Walford.

Order of Leopold II.

Cross of Chevalier.—Mr. E. S. Murray, Consul for Belgium at Aden.

ITALY.

Crown of Italy.

Cross of Commander.—Sir Basil Phillott Blackett, K.C.B. ; Sir James Currie, K.B.E., C.M.G. ; Sir Edward Hussey Packe, K.B.E. ; Sir Arthur William Holmes, K.B.E. ; Sir Ernest Hodder-Williams, C.V.O. ; C. Hanbury ; P. C. Sarell, Consul-General at Tunis.

Cross of Officer.—The Rev. B. S. Batty, M.A., O.B.E. ; C. de G. Sells, O.B.E. ; T. Okey, M.A., Professor of Italian, Cambridge University ; E. G. Gardner, Litt.D., Professor of Italian, Manchester University ; W. W. Seton, M.A., D.Lit., University of London.

ROUMANIA.

Order of the Crown of Roumania.

Insignia of Grand Officer.—Sir Edmund Wyldbore Smith.

Cross of Commander.—B. H. Dobson, Indian Civil Service.

Cross of Officer.—A. D. Erskine.

Cross of Chevalier.—C. C. Pyke, O.B.E.

SIAM.

Order of the White Elephant.

Insignia of the Third Class.—A. N. L. Cater, Indian Civil Service.

SERBS, CROATS, AND SLOVENES.

Order of Saint Sava.

Insignia of the Second Class.—Sir Edward Boyle, Bart.

Order of the White Eagle.

Insignia of the Fourth Class.—Capt. W. H. Lainson (while in command of the Transport Danube).

GREECE.

Order of George I.

Cross of Officer.—Capt. C. W. Read (while in command of the Steamship Admiral Cochrane).

## INDIA'S GIFT TO BRIGHTON.

On October 26, Major-General the Maharaja of Patiala unveiled the Indian Memorial Gateway at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. This gateway has been given by the princes and people of India as a permanent memorial of their gratitude to Brighton for the hospitality and kindness shown to wounded Indian soldiers during the earlier part of the Great War. It was designed by Mr. Thomas Tyrwhitt, F.R.I.B.A.

The Bulgarian Legation issues a formal denial of the report that, desiring to be demobilised at once, some Bulgarian officers and soldiers had revolted.

A telegram received by the Bulgarian Legation announces that great damage has been done during the past few days by fires in the Eastern Balkans, in the *arron lisements* of Nova Zagora, Slivno, Elena, and Kotal. Owing to the great dryness the fires spread rapidly. The inhabitants of several districts, to the number of ten thousand, have been mobilized to fight the fires.

A sub-inspector of police and two constables were wounded and 13 persons were arrested in a disturbance at Calcutta which followed upon the breaking up of a Khalifate meeting.

The first woman to be enrolled as a vakil of a High Court in India, says a Reuter message from Allahabad, is Miss Cornelia Sorabji, who was recently allowed to practise in the Allahabad High Court.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1921.


## THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM.

The negotiations between the British Government and Adly Pasha's Delegation regarding the future status of Egypt are understood to be nearing their end, and it is to be hoped that a satisfactory agreement will not be jeopardised either by premature unofficial disclosures or by carelessly worded communications of an official or semi-official character. Every separate stage in the proceedings up to the final ratification of the Treaty by Egypt and Great Britain promises to be a delicate one, and it is most desirable that the two parties should appreciate one another's difficulties, and avoid any course likely to prejudice in either country the cause that both have at heart. The warning is necessary in view of the fact that only last week a most tactless statement regarding the negotiations appeared in a number of newspapers in England. Not only did it fail to represent the position accurately, but it also referred to a subject that is admittedly the crux of the discussions in the way most calculated to embarrass the Egyptian Delegates in their own country. In a settlement which has to be essentially in the nature of a compromise it is inevitable that one or more provisions separated from the rest should arouse misgivings even in quarters favourably disposed to the idea of a Treaty between Great Britain and Egypt; whereas when taken with the Agreement as a whole they may be found difficult to challenge. The Prime Minister has stated that no change will be made in the relations between this country and Egypt without adequate opportunity being given for discussion in Parliament. On the strength of this promise it would be well if the necessary secrecy of the negotiations were respected, until such time as the agreement arrived at between Adly Pasha and the British Government can be announced simultaneously in the two countries, together with any commentary that may be required to explain the reasons actuating each party in the acceptance of the proposed Treaty.

Various matters in regard to the negotiations in London are common knowledge, and it is not without interest to recall that the discussions must necessarily have followed certain definite lines. In the first place both parties were morally pledged to the general lines of the Milner Report. The British Protectorate over Egypt was to be superseded by a Treaty recognizing the independence of Egypt, while safeguarding the essential interests of Great Britain and enabling the latter to furnish the guarantees which must be given to foreign Powers to secure the relinquishment of their capitulatory rights. But the agreement reached between Lord Milner and the Egyptian Delegation headed by Zaghloul Pasha was indefinite on certain points, in particular with regard to the military question. Egypt, it was decided, was to confer on Great Britain the right to maintain a military force on Egyptian soil for the protection of her Imperial communications, but it was left to the Treaty to fix the place where the force should be quartered, with the proviso that the presence of this force should not constitute in any manner a military occupation of the country, nor prejudice the rights of the Government of Egypt. Unfortunately, since the publication of the Milner report, serious rioting has occurred in Alexandria, which had to be suppressed by British troops. Not only did the incident create misgivings among the British community, but it is also understood to have led to remonstrances on the part of foreign Governments, who are said to have emphasized the necessity of British troops being kept in the chief towns in the event of any modification of Egypt's status. In this connexion we may well imagine that two outstanding factors were always present to those carrying out the negotiations; on the one hand it is of paramount importance to Great Britain that nothing in the proposed Treaty should undermine the position of Adly Pasha and the moderate section of enlightened public opinion in Egypt associated with him; on the other hand it is obvious that any clause accepted by Adly Pasha that might be capable of being represented by the Egyptian extremists as a recognition of an "Army of Occupation" would effectually rally the whole of Egyptian public opinion behind Zaghloul Pasha. There would be no cause for wonder if this problem of the retention of a military force has occupied a large share of the discussions, but it would have been unpardonable if the difficulty had been allowed to wreck the negotiations.

To a certain section of British opinion it appears a grave mistake to yield to extremist agitation in Egypt. The view is held that any change must be for the worse as far as the country and its inhabitants are concerned, quite apart from any possible prejudice to British Imperial interests. To this conscientious belief the reply is that Great Britain is morally bound by repeated promises of self-government for Egypt; no one who is not an Egyptian questions the unreadiness of the country to dispense with British assistance in its internal administration, but a variety of circumstances renders it impossible to postpone any longer the fulfilment of the promises. The war, punctuated as it was with declarations of the Allies' faith and aims, has evoked throughout the world a spirit that will not allow a country of any size with a homogeneous population set upon independence to remain subject to alien rule; moreover, public opinion in Great Britain would never reconcile itself to the worry and expense of maintaining the present status of Egypt against the expressed wishes of the great bulk of the Egyptians. The solution is to grant independence in no niggardly spirit, but without violence to all the promptings of common sense. In regard to the military question an adjustment of the conflicting views to which reference has been made can be found in the fact that any change from one set of conditions to another must of necessity take time. The Egyptian Army has not been trained for all the emergencies for which the army of occupation has been equipped. The work of training it must now begin, and as the Egyptian troops become qualified and obtain the necessary equipment they can replace British soldiers. A treaty between the two countries must provide for a period of indefinite length; it has no occasion, therefore, to stereotype a transitional phase. With Egypt governing herself as she ought to be governed, the presence of British troops in the capital will not be needed. If, then, the Treaty specifies the locality where they are to be quartered ultimately, there will be time before the change is completed to gauge the wisdom or unwisdom of this particular provision. And so indeed with the whole Treaty. Our confidence in the British Empire is robust enough to believe that it will know how to take care of itself, whatever happens in Egypt. As for the Egyptians themselves, they have forgotten to-day their experiences of self-government half a century ago. If, unhappily, these should be revived, the memory of the relative advantages of British supervision will be fresh enough to point them to their remedy.

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## FISH IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Visitors to a strange country are always good patrons of the restaurants; for they have little choice. In Yugoslavia, as elsewhere, they will find the invariable "biftek" and "ros'bif" of the *soi-disant* variety, but are sure to come to grief over the fish-course, even in those restaurants where the menu is written in French as well as in the vernacular—which by the way, is no guarantee that they are the best. The reason is that most of the fish are kinds unknown in the West of Europe. Still, the ingenuity of hotel-keepers is equal to the occasion, for they know that most people, especially Englishmen, are conservative in their food and avoid even delicacies that they are not familiar with. There is a fish called *som*, ugly, but good eating, which beat the manager of a leading hotel in Belgrade, until he had an inspiration and on his French menu labelled it *saume*; it required but little to stretch this to *saumon*, and the innocents abroad were mesmerised into believing that they were eating *salmon*; and only the more observant expressed surprise at the whiteness of the flesh.

In Yugoslavia, the coast lands of Croatia and Dalmatia abound in delicious sea-fish while the limestone rivers of the Karst regions of Slovenia, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Montenegro teem with trout, as delicious to the epicure as they are unsophisticated to the angler. For very many years it has been the custom to keep live trout in a tank in restaurants, so that customers can pick their own fish alive, and so be certain that it is fresh, the local equivalent of choosing your own chop in a grill-room. The correct name for trout in Serbo-Croat is *pastrva*, (it is necessary to roll the "r"), but they are usually referred to as *pastronka*, which name also means smoke-dried meat, a Yugoslav biltong in fact; but where Austrian influence survives, they are more frequently called *forelle*, the one pretty word which the German language has produced.

But modern visitors to Yugoslavia generally find themselves in Belgrade or Zagreb, and there trout are unknown. Certain ignorant or unscrupulous restaurant keepers sometimes serve up a fish under the name of *forelle*, but—well, one can hardly expect mine host to be an ichthyologist! These cities are dependent for their fish on their fine rivers, the Danube, the Save and and the Drave, and here we find a quite distinct fish fauna. The menus include *kechiga*, *sharan*, *fogosh*, *smudj*, and sometimes *sudak*, and it would puzzle most linguists to turn these into French.

One of the commonest is the *sharan*, a name which means "speckled," and would be appropriate to trout, but in reality is nothing more nor less than carp. With our great wealth of sea-fish in Britain, we have despised this as a muddy fish since the days of Henry VIII, and cattle now graze on the sites of the ponds where the old monks preserved their Friday dinners; but a good carp from clear water is by no means to be despised. They are numerous, too, in the big lakes of Macedonia, especially in Langaza or Ajvasil, near Salonika, where fishing, mainly for carp, is the staple industry, and there is a fish exchange. A good big carp, the sides slit and red pepper rubbed well in, grilled on a spit over a camp fire, is a dish fit for a King. The Macedonians call it *sharan* too, or else *karpche*.

One of the best of these river fish is the *smudj*, a handsome green, dashing and fierce fish related to the perch. It is also found in the rivers of Western Europe, but is common enough in Austria and further east. His scientific name is *lucioperca fluviatilis*. He is described on menus in French as *sandre*, from one of the German names *Zander*, but in Vienna appears as *Schill*. In Zagreb he is often enough described under his Hungarian name *fogosh*, and it is quite common to see the two names side by side, *fogosh* and *smudj*, on a menu, to make it look more comprehensive, for the restaurateur must know it is one fish. In Russia they call him *sudak*, but they do not prize his firm white meat as they ought.

A fish that Serbs especially value is the *som*, *silurus glanis*, a hideous creature with broad flat head, gaping mouth, and barbels. He is one of a family of five hundred species, but the only one occurring in Europe. In Macedonia our troops, who would sometimes get large ones in the lakes, called him cat-fish, and he closely resembles the cat-fish of the river Plate, but has not those dangerous and powerful pectorial fins with which that creature can strike through a thick rubber sole. The *som* is unknown in Western Europe, but abundant in the Danube, and its affluents, and the other rivers of South Eastern Europe, going out into the Ægean and Black Seas; and he is common in the Caspian. He sometimes attains a great size; one caught in Belgrade weighing over three hundred pounds, was referred to in "The Near East" last year, but giants of four hundred pounds and even five hundred pounds have been recorded, and these may be nearly ten feet long. Such monsters may be dangerous to bathers, as indeed pike have been known to be in England, dashing at swimmers' fingers and lacerating them badly with their innumerable teeth. The *som*, in spite of his unprepossessing appearance, is decidedly good eating, and makes, in particular, an admirable "*alaska chorba*", or fish soup.

The pike is common, too, and in general an appreciated fish on the Continent. The Serbs and Russians call him *shtuka*. He seldom runs to much more than four feet in length, and fifty pounds in weight, but specimens scaling up to seventy pounds, and even over, are recorded.

Both *som* and pike are usually caught in crinoline nets, called *urshka*, or *bubanj*. The fishermen on the Save have a peculiar instrument of wood; a round disc about two inches in diameter with a carved handle which they grasp and with it beat the flat disc on the surface of the water. This produces a dull, booming noise that sounds through the water, and attracts the fish, but especially *som* to the nets.

Perch are fairly common and of a good size, and quite good eating. The fish has a number of names in Yugoslavia in different districts, as for example *ostresh*, *okun*, *bandar*, *bulja*, *buljes*, *belitsa*, but the correct name is *grgech*, meaning "the humped fellow."

But the pride of the Danube system is in its sturgeon. He is a royal fish in England, where one occasionally strays from the Elbe or the Rhine, just as he is in China; And the ancient Greeks and Romans prized him particularly. Of course in Russia the caviare industry is a very important one, the output from Astrakhan being about a hundred tons a year. Danube caviare is just as good, but is scarcer; there is a small industry in it at Kladovo in Serbia, on the lower Danube.

Several species of sturgeon are known in the Danubian river system, but only two are important. The chief is the *kechiga* or sterlet, *acipenser ruthenus*, not as many think, a young sturgeon, but a distinct species that rarely attains three feet in length or twelve pounds in weight. All the sturgeons are rich and oily, but the sterlet is the most dainty. They were much prized in Russia before the war, and were always an expensive dainty, though far from rare. The Russians made soup of him, with plenty of lemon, delicious when piping hot, but glutinous and unpleasant when cold. The Yogoslavs prefer him fried or cold with mayonnaise, which is a dish fit to put before a King.

A contrast to the dainty *kechiga* is his gigantic cousin the *moruna*, the *bieluga* of the Russians, the biggest fresh water fish of Europe, exceeding the *som*. Specimens have been recorded twenty-six feet long, and weighing a ton and a half; from six hundred to a thousand pounds is a common weight. The meat is coarse and not much prized. The caviare is good, but inferior to that of the *kechiga*, and some other species. Nine hundred pounds of caviare were taken from a female weighing about three thousand pounds.

A rarer species, that in spring ascends the rivers flowing into the Black Sea, is the *pastruga* (*acipenser stellatus*) the *severuga* of the Russian. It runs to about fifty to sixty pounds in weight, and both the meat and the caviare are excellent.

The *jesetra* of the Yugoslavs, *osietr* in Russian, (*a.*

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*schypa*) is the standard sturgeon of restaurants. It is found all the year round in the Danube system, about sixty-five pounds is its maximum weight.

Lesser known sturgeons are the *tashikar* (*a. guldenstaedtii*), one of the best eating of this group, running to about one hundred and seventy pounds; the *sim* (*a. glaber*), common enough, running to about sixty pounds, but flabby meat, and the *chiga*, (*a. gmelini*) a spring visitor from the Black Sea, of little value.

The sturgeon of Western Europe, (*a. sturio*), occasionally turns up on the Dalmatian coast, but is unknown in the rivers that drain into the Black Sea. The northern Slavs confuse it with the *jesetra*.

The sturgeons, with their tiny mouth and sluggish habits, are perfectly inoffensive. In addition to the meat and caviare, they give us shagreen, which is their skin, isinglass, and the finest fish glue, which is made from the bladder. They are not numerous enough in the Danube system to be the basis of an important industry, but in the Caspian, a large population, especially at Astrakhan and Petrovsk, are dependent upon this king of fish for a living.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

### Egypt.

The *Morning Post* of October 27 contained an article upon "Realities and Egypt." It began with a comment upon what it believed to be the one vital point of difference between the British and Egyptian negotiations—that of the presence of British troops within Egypt:—

The Egyptians, so we gather unofficially, are prepared to tolerate the guarding of the Canal by our forces, but they object to their presence in Cairo, Alexandria, and the interior of the country. The issue, of course, is fundamental, and renders an early and successful ending to the negotiations extremely improbable. Independent countries are not usually in the habit of allowing foreign troops to be billeted permanently in their midst, and are usually credited with the ability to look after the interests of their own nationals and protect the foreigners who live within their borders. If the Egyptians are incapable of fulfilling these elementary requirements of civilised government, then they are not yet worthy of that independence which their more vociferous spokesmen are so loudly demanding.

It then restated its conviction that the June riots at Alexandria proved conclusively that "Egypt cannot govern itself," and ended in sweeping fashion:—

The art of government, particularly the art of democratic government, is learned only after a prolonged political apprenticeship. A few agitators may fan the passions of a race, may fire the prejudice of colour, may appeal alike to the lowest and the highest instincts of which man is capable, and then triumphantly describe the storm which they have let loose as evidence of the capacity for self-government. Mr. Lansing once spoke of self-determination as a phrase "loaded with dynamite." His description is worth recalling when one compares the declamations of the Egyptian Nationalists with the sorry scenes which disgraced Alexandria last June. These riots proclaimed to the world that Egypt was not yet ready to be mistress in her own house. Peoples, like ex-Kings, can at times be too precipitate.

And there is another point of view—a point which is out of fashion in these strange days—we mean the British point of view. From that angle the problem is not whether some Egyptians wish to have the power to ruin their country in their own way, but whether we can afford to break the spinal cord of our Empire. When we were beset by a host of enemies we proclaimed our protectorate over Egypt, and now when we are victorious we are toying with the idea of surrender. Why? We surely are not ashamed of our work in Egypt. Never in their chequered history have the Egyptians been so contented as they were under Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener. Literally those great leaders and the men who served under them made the desert blossom like the rose, and in place of the arbitrary misrule of corrupt factions brought to a distracted country the peace and the majesty of the *Pax Britannica*. Is their beneficent rule to be but a brief interlude in the tragic history of Egypt, a bright gleam between the clouds of the past and the future? We cannot be ashamed of our work in Egypt. But are we ashamed or tired of our Empire? Even the Milner Report insisted on the protection of our communications, but Great Britain cannot protect the Canal by placing a garrison on its banks cut off from all connection with Cairo. And there is also the question of the Sudan. Egypt to be happy must have not only independence but water. An independent Egypt is incompatible with an independent Sudan, and the Egyptians may yet find that the principles of self-determination may apply to the upper as well as the lower reaches of the Nile. Such is the muddle to which the lure of phrases is dragging both Great Britain and Egypt. Within the generous boundaries of the British Empire Egypt can win for herself all the prizes of a high destiny. She can win them without endangering the safety of that Empire on which not only her own existence but the peace of the world depend. She can win them without the danger of finding herself face to face with another Mahdi. But she must first of all reject shams and accept realities.

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While the above extracts may be taken as representing the extreme British view, we give below some views, taken from the *Manchester Guardian* of October 28, which come from the other side. It is "from an Egyptian Correspondent":—

A report has been published that an agreement had been reached between the British Government and the Egyptian Delegation in London, but that is not the case. Though the verbal conversations ended last week the results are still being considered by the British Cabinet, which has not yet put its definite proposals before Adly Pasha. There are certain points on which there can be no compromise on the part of the Egyptian people. The latter, whether Zaghlulist or Adlyist, are unanimous, about them:—

(1) Egyptian independence and the sovereignty of the Egyptian people must be clearly recognised by the British Government and otherwise proclaimed to the world at large.

(2) The Sudan must be regarded as an integral part of the Sovereign Egyptian State, the whole Nile Valley being an indivisible entity. The Nile being the life-blood of Egypt, its control can never be relinquished no matter what guarantees were given.

(3) British military occupation cannot be accepted in any part of Egypt outside of the Canal zone for the sole purpose of safe-guarding British Imperial communications, and by virtue of the proposed alliance.

(4) There is no need to insist upon the protection of the European residents in Egypt by any special "guarantees," Egypt to-day being a country governed and administered on the best approved European lines, and the Egyptian people being as hospitable and generous to foreigners as any people in the world.

It is upon the two latter points that the London negotiations have proved the most difficult. The Egyptians argue that to accept military occupation outside the Canal zone would be derogatory to their conception of independence, without in any measure serving British interests or necessarily those of the foreign residents. It would, on the contrary, be an uncalled-for insult to the sentiments of Egyptian people. We recognise the full community of interests between Egypt and Britain. For Britain to impose a military occupation would be to substitute suspicion for a recognition of mutual interests as the basis of our relations.

Either a British-Egyptian alliance would work smoothly or not. If the former, the Egyptian Government would never oppose the movement of British troops in Egypt as against a third party, because Egypt would be only too grateful for British assistance against such an aggressor. On the other hand, if the troops were not wanted against a third party, it follows that they would be wasted against Egypt. Britain's command of the seas would, in the latter event, enable her to pour in and move whatever troops she wanted into Egypt. But it would be a pity to wreck the chance of a friendly settlement, based on the spontaneous frank recognition of a community of interests, by imposing guarantees which could only exasperate Egyptian feeling. During the last two years friendly feelings towards Britain have been developing fast—largely as a result of the influence of Zaghlul and Adly Pasha, seconded by the manifestations of a more liberal spirit on the part of the British, as revealed in the press, and especially in the generally sympathetic spirit of the Milner Commission. As for the protection of Europeans, Egypt is far too proud of the reforms brought about by the aid of the British during the last 40 years to admit that there is any such need. Egypt to-day, thanks to Great Britain, is as well organised and administered a country as most of the European countries from which these foreign residents originally came, and in some cases even better.

It concludes by saying that if the present opportunity for a settlement is rejected, the "bag-and-baggage" party in Egypt will regain their pre-war ascendancy, "to the confusion of the moderates, represented by Zaghloul and Adly Pasha, who are fundamentally one in spirit:" The article ends rather lyrically:—

Egypt won her liberty from Turkey in 1838-40 on the battle-field—a fact which was specifically mentioned in a proclamation by the British Commander-in-Chief in November, 1914. That liberty Egypt completed into *de jure* independence by her support of the Allies in the Great War. Egypt is therefore to-day independent in her own right—and it is Egypt that is making concessions to the British in view of the occupation as the price of transferring her *de jure* into a *de facto*, *de jure* independence. These concessions are all the more readily made by Egypt because Egyptians realise the community of interests with Britain which is the best basis of all alliances.

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In an article upon "The Egyptian Question," *The Times* of October 29 summarizes the present position of the negotiations. After stating how the British Government failed to seize the favourable occasion created by Lord Milner's recommendations, it continues :—

We recognize to the full the difficulties of our own Government. No British Government can afford lightly to surrender our real and permanent interests in Egypt, or to abandon to the precarious protection of a formula the positive results of our long and not fruitless occupation. On the other hand, there is a subtle danger in the numbing persuasion of habit. It is possible to exaggerate the importance of a mere form and appearance of security, and the negotiations with Adly Pasha have reached a point at which the most sensitive judgment is necessary in order to determine wherein the security of British interests in Egypt really consists. The formal recognition of the internal independence of the Egyptian people and the substitution of a Treaty of Alliance for the Protectorate are recognized. The point now at issue is whether this Treaty of Alliance will sufficiently guarantee British interssts without a continuance, perhaps in an attenuated form, of the military occupation.

And after commenting on the possibility, consequent upon the retention of British garrisons in Egypt, of our purchasing "outward and temporary security at the price of a permanent insecurity which would not only darken the prospects of Egyptian independence, but might lead to a very serious increase in our own responsibilities," it says :—

The problem, then, is to discover the stable guarantees for British interests under the new status which it is proposed to give to Egypt. Given the present uncertain and suspicious temper of the Egyptian people, it seems to us that such guarantees can only be established by measures that by their ocular effect will arouse confidence in British good faith and will demonstrate the reality of Egyptian independence. The Egyptian delegation, we believe, fully recognizes the necessity of guarding the Imperial lines of communication by the maintenance of British troops along the Suez Canal. Nor should it be difficult to provide for a transition period during which adequate measure for the protection of the life and property of foreigners in the chief centres of Egypt could be elaborated by friendly consultation on the spot. The actual evidence of such a gradual transfer of authority to native hands would go far to restore that confidence in British intentions which can no longer be maintained by a mere display of force. There would be difficulties and uncertainties in the transition period, no doubt; but a movement in that direction would certainly be more favourable to our prestige than the present painful immobility of suspense.

And it concludes with what it calls "the most cogent consideration that should urge us to adopt a conciliatory policy" on the lines it advocates—which is, that the accredited Egyptian delegation now in this country represent the type of Egyptian opinion with which we can most easily deal.

## Greece and Turkey.

Writing from Paris in the *Pall Mall and Globe* of October 21, Mr. H. Charles Woods remarks how enlightening it is to view the Asia Minor question from another aspect than the national one—particularly from the French stand-point. He continues with impressions gained from his French visit :—

The outstanding impression which one gains is that neither the maintenance of the Treaty of Sèvres nor its modification to the benefit of Greece are now questions of practical politics. This is the case, not so much because of the very serious set-back which has been sustained by the Hellenic army, but because French policy is in favour of Turkey, and because the Nationalists will never lay down arms until at least their more important claims in regard to Smyrna have been satisfied. Thus, whilst for many months France has been distinctly on the Turkish side, things have entered upon a new phase since the commencement of the negotiations between M. Franklin Bouillon, the French delegate who went to Angora, and the Nationalists. Those negotiations are now reported to have come to a standstill, but, in view of the interests of the two parties, this hitch can hardly be otherwise than temporary. Consequently, it is more than probable that ere long the world may be faced by the conclusion of an understanding which, though not in actual opposition to the Treaty of Sèvres, will throw the weight of French influence more than ever against the ratification of a document which is now entirely obsolete. The great question of the moment is, therefore, whether there should be international mediation or intervention in favour of the modification of that document, or whether the Allies, maintaining the neutrality which they proclaimed at the meeting of the Supreme Council held here in August last, should permit the Greeks and the Turks to continue to fight for the domination of Anatolia. Desirable as would be an early peace in the Near East, no doubt rests in my mind that the belligerents (particularly the Greeks), having more or less taken it upon themselves to solve the question by force of arms last March, should be left for the moment at least to continue a campaign which ought never to have been reinaugurated.

He enumerates some reasons for the case of non-intervention :—(1) There is no real international accord, (2) Neither of the parties concerned is prepared for arbitration except upon terms which would be entirely unacceptable to the other, and (3) Mediation has been offered and rejected, and therefore there is no reason to repeat that offer to-day simply because the military situation has changed in favour of Turkey. He concludes with a note emphasizing the necessity of a resumption of Turko-British friendship :—

But if my readers at home are to understand the further reasons for which the Allies need not mediate in a manner which at the present time would, in fact be disadvantageous to Turkey, it is necessary for them to realise what is the post-war position of and in the dominions of the Sultan. History has proved that the external relations of Turkey have been governed much more by the international than by the local situation. For instance, the rise of Germany's power resulted in the substitution of an Anglo-Russian understanding for our Crimean policy—a substitution which had for one of its consequences the Young Turkish Revolution of 1908 and the hurling of Turkey into the arms of the Central Powers. These days are now past, and with the defeat of Germany the interests of Great Britain and of Turkey once more become strongly opposed to those of Russia. Thus, even if the Nationalists have sought the temporary support of Moscow, simply because they cannot secure help elsewhere, such men as Dr. Rechad understand quite well that sooner or later Bolshevism will develop into Nationalism, and that Russia, frustrated in the West by the creation of the Baltic States and Poland, must turn her attention towards the the East and South—directions in which the success of her aims would be as dangerous to Turkey as to the British Empire. Although, therefore, such a British policy need not be carried beyond the limits of strict neutrality, there is a great deal to recommend our following the example of the Quai d'Orsay, which understands very clearly that the French task in Syria will be facilitated by fairness to Turkey. By so doing we shall not only minimise the difficulties by which we are beset in Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Persia, Afghanistan, and India, but we shall gain the friendship of a people who, in any event, must continue to play a role in areas which are vital to the safety of the Empire.

## Articles to Note.

"India," by Lord Meston, in *Looking Forward*. (October).

"The Caliphate Historically Considered," by D. S. Margoliouth and "The Doctrine of the Arabian 'Brethren,'" in the *Moslem World*. (October).

## INDIAN AND PERSIAN ART.

Messrs. Sotheby held last week a two-days' sale of Indian and Persian miniatures and other works of art. A Persian MS., on 364 leaves, with eight finely illuminated pages, three full-page miniatures on gold ground and 39 minatures in the text, 1575 A.D., was sold for £505 (Sabin). Another, "The Rosary of the Pious," 132 leaves, had four full-page miniatures, and smaller miniatures; it made £400 (Gudemain). Five leaves (11in. by 8½in.) from an album of verses, written and signed by Mir 'Ali of Herat, dated 1532 A.D., brought £205 (Gazdar). The total for the two days was £4,344 18s.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report :—

Mesopotamia, (Native Levies). (October 18).

India (October 19).

British Subjects, South Persia.—Greece and Turkey.—Albania and Serbia.—British Army, Prisoners, Erzeroum.—India: Fiscal Commission. Railway Administration. Provincial Governments (Purchase of Stores).—Kenya Colony (Indians). (October 20).

Greece and Turkey.—Egypt.—Foreign Refugees (British Expenditure).—India: Field Service Batta. Civil Service Candidates. (October 24).

India: Civil Service (Proportionate Pensions). Moplah Rebellion.—Greece (Queen Olga). Loan.—Egypt (Zaghloul Pasha).—India (Disturbances, Trivandrum). (October 25).

South Persia Rifles.—Egypt (Zaghloul Pasha).—France and Angora.—Asia Minor (Alleged Massacre).—British Army. Iraq Garrison.—India. Munitions Prosecution. Moplah Rebellion.—Aliens (Ahmed Mohammed).—Russia (Roumanian and Bulgarian Grain. (October 26).

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The outbreak of an insurrection among the Cossacks, Khirgi and German colonists in the province of Kazan is reported from Moscow.

Two more Indian battalions are being sent to Malabar, as the Government is anxious to finish the Moplah operations as soon as possible.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the ex-Khedive of Egypt has arrived in Italy, and is credited with the intention of residing in Rome, where his presence would probably lead to further attempts at Egyptian propaganda against Britain.

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## EASTWARD.

### Between Trains at Vienna.

*(By Wayfarer.)*

It was with a certain uneasiness that I approached Vienna for the first time since the war, Vienna which I used to know as well as I know my waistcoat pocket. I came in from the north, from Bohemia, a country which is rapidly making a name for itself in the new order of things, is regaining its old intellectual, spiritual importance, and is in the way of rising to a material importance which had ever been discouraged by Imperial Vienna.

The train swung down in sweeping curves instead of dashing through tunnels and cuttings as happens in more western countries, and so I was able to enjoy the ever changing scenery. Hills in the blue distance framed the pleasant landscape with its broad fields on swelling ground, its vineyards and farm-steads. Now and again quaint old-world villages and walled towns appeared, and the shadows of sailing clouds seemed to linger above them. There was plenty of smoke to mark our progress, which was not one of undue haste. Then came familiar landmarks, the broad and placid Danube spanned by an iron bridge at Tulln, the wooded heights of the Wiener Wald, the ruins of Greifenstein half hidden among trees all green and gold in the glory of a strong autumn day. I was glad to see this sight, for tales had reached me that the Wiener Wald had vanished, having been cut down to provide fuel for Vienna. Then the familiar Franz Joseph Station.

The Franz Joseph station was never a delectable place exactly. I found it looking neglected and dirtier than usual, but it was some consolation to note that its name had not been changed. This habit of changing names may have its moral, its patriotic significance, but the result is puzzling to one who revisits familiar haunts. Vienna seems to have escaped this infliction: true I found one quiet little spot named after the Revolution, but it seemed to take its new designation very soberly—there was no flaunting of the "Will of the People" or "Self-determination" about it; there was not even a republican policeman within sight. It was a glorious autumn evening, mild and sunny, so I naturally turned towards the Prater. Here again I found that the tales of wholesale felling of trees had been greatly exaggerated. Still it was not the Prater of old. It was crowded as usual, the crowd was as animated as ever; but there was an unfamiliar ring about the clamour of voices. There was something wrong, and it was worth while to find out as best one could in those few hours between trains, what was at the bottom of the change. With the atmosphere of the Prater my former knowledge of Vienna's dialect returned to me, so I entered into conversation here and there. The Viennese were ever ready for conversation and were always interesting: they are so still, but there is pathos underlying their unquenchable gaiety. The brisk little lady who sold me some very bad cigars, was chatty and gay on the surface, but she was hungry, not far from starving. The good soul who sold me a ticket for a seat at an open air concert looked pinched and wan for all her pleasant-manner—and manners are still the mark of the Viennese, despite their afflictions.

The military string band played as delightfully as ever and the band master was decorated profusely—band masters do collect decorations in surprising fashion, perhaps because they are among those warriors who find sufficient leisure or lease of life, for that pursuit when the nations go to war. But here again was a change, and a peculiarly unlovely one. Austrian uniforms have abandoned their former dapper style, and approximate more to the German. Worse still, uniform collars are adorned with the straps that were formerly peculiar to the Prussian Guards only, the extreme of German military snobbishness.

But Viennese good manners, Viennese courtesy, remain, even towards the foreigner, albeit the opinion prevails that much of the present distress is due to foreign invasion. There are two classes of invaders, one which comes for booty only and openly; while the other comes with friendly intent, in some cases sincere. The effect according to the Viennese is the same. Citizens of countries where the exchange stands high, are able to buy all they fancy at prices ridiculously low in comparison to their "Valuta." They need not stint themselves for food or clothing—but they send prices up to the detriment of the Viennese, who have to go without the bare necessities of life in many cases. Vienna is full of foreign missions who are clothed in fine raiment and fare sumptously every day. And Vienna is now threatened with yet another invasion: it is rumoured that the League of Nations is to take up its abode in that distressful city. What matter that the housing problem is as acute in Vienna as in any capital of Europe? Room must be found for these elect, the cream of many nations, but a cream which imposes a strain on the finances of even the wealthiest States. And some can no longer afford this latest blessing of civilization. Their name is Legion, and should they join the swarms of foreign missions, the flights of international commercial vultures, and settle on Austria's ancient capital starving and destitute, then God help Vienna; its days are indeed numbered.

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The Bulgarian Government has had to call out 10,000 people to fight a serious forest fire which is raging in the eastern parts of the kingdom.

A disturbance at Makwar between Italians and Sudanese police is reported from Khartoum. A renewal of the disturbance led to the arrest of three of the Italians on October 2.

On the occasion of the anniversary on October 26, of the death of King Alexander of Greece, a Requiem Mass was sung in Athens Cathedral. The Cabinet Ministers, civil and military authorities, and the head of the French Military Mission were present.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square, E.C. 2.

**The Turkish Exchange.**

The sudden depreciation of the Turkish exchange which has provided one of the most notable movements of the foreign exchanges in recent weeks is discussed by our Constantinople Correspondent in a message which will be found in another column. He points out that the causes that have led to the rapid fall are difficult to discover, and that while the existing conditions readily account for the depreciation of the exchange they are "generally considered not to be sufficient to account for the slump of 200 piastres in a couple of days." An explanation, which, he states, has been widely accepted, is that it is due to a "subtle financial operation of some magnitude," but it is difficult to see how anything of the kind could have produced such a result.

**Consequences of Depreciation.**

It is easy to realise the consequences of this sudden depreciation of the exchange on the Turkish market which has been for so long in such an unfortunate position. "The natural result," says our Correspondent, "has been to turn the entire commercial situation upside down and to create the utmost confusion throughout the markets." Of course fluctuations such as this make business simply impossible, for traders are unable to know how they stand as regards their commitments, and no improvement is to be anticipated until the exchange shows signs of stability. Our Correspondent, it will be noted, does not think the crisis will be prolonged. "The Turkish pound" he says "will probably drop back to a level considerably above the former rate of 550 to the pound sterling, and remain there. In the interval incalculable damage will have been done, and a few individuals will have filled their pockets."

**Trade Credits.**

Necessarily some time must elapse before we are in a position to see how far the amended scheme of export credits is going to assist trade. The proposals, as I have pointed out, would seem to provide a workable basis from our point of view, but unfortunately that is not the only aspect from which they have to be considered. Business opinion—and in this I include the banks—is inclined to be non-committal on the subject so far, though it is admitted that the Government have made a most praiseworthy attempt to solve a most difficult problem.

**The Difficulty.**

The real weakness of the scheme—of any such scheme for the matter of that—lies in the fact that its utility in helping to promote trade with those areas with which commerce is rendered all but impossible owing to the prevailing conditions must depend ultimately not on the facilities for credit, but on the probable relation of the exchange of the importer's country to sterling at the time of the maturity of the debt. That is the explanation of the comparative failure of the first credit scheme and of that which is now in operation. The business that has been done speaks for itself. According to the latest return the credits actually issued amount to no more than £1,300,000.

**The Importer's Case.**

Looking at the matter from the importer's view it will be realised how difficult the position really is. He is offered goods on credit. In some cases he may not be required to furnish security; if otherwise, he has to deposit a certain amount with a local bank, and has to increase the cover if the exchange depreciates, which means that in present circumstances business is almost impossible. Supposing business to result, the importer has to find at the allotted term the equivalent in sterling for the amount of his credit. If his exchange is, and has been for some time, showing a tendency to appreciate he will have an inducement to enter into transactions, but with the exchanges fluctuating as they are at present is it surprising that he holds aloof from commitments?

**The Problem of the Exchanges.**

In plain terms the success of the scheme would seem to depend on the course of the exchanges. They have not yielded, as was hoped, to a *laissez faire* policy, and it is now evident that for an improvement in the near future we must look to international action. It is generally agreed that a step calculated to have a very beneficial effect would be the cancellation of the war debts of the Allies. The postponement or modification of the reparations is also a measure which finds favour in some quarters. These matters, and others will, it may be hoped, form the subject of discussion at the Washington Conference, which, while convened primarily to settle the disarmament question, provides a great opportunity for arriving at a solution of the not less important economic problem with which the world is confronted.

**Position in Bulgaria.**

A correspondent who has just returned from Bulgaria, where he had been in a position to obtain very accurate information as to the general state of affairs, speaks most hopefully of conditions in that country. Within a comparatively recent period he has visited most of the countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe, and he is emphatically of the opinion that nowhere else has he seen the same tendency to settle down that is to be seen in Bulgaria.

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**Bulgarian Loan Offer.**

Last week a statement was issued giving the terms of the arrangement made for the settlement of the Bulgarian Loans issued in this country, to which I referred several weeks ago. Briefly, British holders of the Four and a Half per Cent. Loan Bonds of 1909, bearing the British stamp of a date prior to October, 1915, are offered payment of the coupons and drawn bonds for the period December 1, 1915, to June 1, 1923, at their face value in French francs, and a similar offer is made to holders of the Six per Cent. 1892 Loan. The amount to be paid in francs will be converted into sterling at the sight rate of exchange on the day of presentation, less tax.

**Terms of Settlement.**

The offer actually provides for the immediate payment of only three coupons, those which matured on December 1, 1915, June 1, 1916, and December 1, 1916, and the bonds drawn for redemption on these dates, but as the date of payment of the coupons and bonds due on June 1 and December 1, 1917, is November 1, it may be said for practical purposes that five coupons are payable immediately. The coupons and bonds due on June 1, and December 1, 1918, and on June 1, 1919, will be payable on December 1, those due on December 1, 1919, and June 1, 1920, on June 1, 1922, those due on December 1, 1920, and on June 1 and December 1, 1921, on December 1, 1922, and those due on June 1 and December 1, 1922, and on June 1, 1923, on June 1, 1923.

**Acceptance Recommended.**

While the offer entails a considerable sacrifice on the part of the bondholders they have the satisfaction of knowing that they are receiving the same treatment as the French holders of Bulgarian loans. Acceptance of the offer is advised by the committee of Bulgarian bondholders acting with the committee of Foreign Bondholders, and it may be assumed that this course will be followed in view of the fact that the course of the exchanges is extremely problematical.

**Egyptian Cotton Freights.**

The report that the manager of the Levant-Mediterranean sections of the United States Shipping Board is on his way to England on a mission connected with this question will give rise to justifiable hopes that despite the untoward turn that the controversy took better counsels will prevail and an understanding yet be reached. A careful consideration of the facts shows that there is now no real point at issue. The Shipping Board judging by what has been stated, will be satisfied with a share of the carrying trade to America, and this the Liverpool Conference Lines have expressed their willingness to give.

**Constantinople Loan.**

A meeting of the holders of the bonds of the City of Constantinople Five per Cent. Loan, 1909, the last coupon of which to be paid in London was that which matured on June 14, 1914, has been called for to-day by Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., and the National Bank of Turkey. It is understood that the position with regard to the loan will be dealt with fully at the meeting, and that a resolution will be submitted in favour of the appointment of a committee to represent the bondholders. The loan, it may be added, is a direct obligation of the municipality, and its principal and interest are guaranteed by the Turkish Government, and the loan is further secured by certain receipts.

**Commentator.**

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## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st August, 1921, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Share Capital ..... (300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each.) | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund : | |
| Statutory Reserve ..... | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve ..... | 585,000 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts ..... | 11,596,676 |
| Mixed Tribunals ..... | 1,714,029 |
| Egyptian Government ..... | 430,530 |
| Bankers Accounts ..... | 970,549 |
| Cheques and Bills payable ..... | 349,307 |
| Sundry other Accounts ..... | 1,071,446 |
| | £E21,105,037 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government ..... | | 5,764,452 |
| Sundry Securities ..... | | 214,976 |
| Advances on Merchandise ..... | | 919,844 |
| Advances on Securities ..... | | 1,830,313 |
| Advances otherwise Secured ..... | | 616,586 |
| Sundry other Advances ..... | | 1,293,464 |
| Bills of Exchange ..... | | 562,668 |
| Local Bills Discounted ..... | | 266,516 |
| Buildings and Furniture ..... | | 248,124 |
| Money at call and at short notice ..... | | 921,375 |
| Bankers Accounts ..... | | 1,016,476 |
| Sudan Government ..... | | 118,037 |
| Sundry other Accounts ..... | | 544,799 |
| Egyptian Government ..... | | 5,224,380 |
| Cash : | £E. | |
| Notes ..... | 1,252,007 | |
| Gold ..... | 29,771 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. ..... | 281,249 | |
| | | 1,563,027 |
| | | £E21,105,037 |

### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Notes Issued ..... | 30,500,000 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Gold ..... | 3,339,573 | |
| *British Treasury Bills ..... | 11,910,427 | |
| | | 15,250,000 |
| Securities : | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government ..... | 379,394 | |
| British Treasury Bills, Exchequer Bonds & National War Bonds | 14,870,606 | |
| | | 15,250,000 |
| | | £E30,500,000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government, these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30th, 1916.)

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, October 23.*

### The Financial Crisis.

The sudden and tremendous slump in the value of the Turkish pound which commenced over a week ago has now reached alarming proportions. From less than 600 piastres the pound sterling has risen to well over 800, and has even touched 900 piastres and more. The natural result has been to turn the entire commercial situation upside down, and to create the utmost confusion throughout the markets. Importers are refusing to take up their bills of lading unless payment is accepted at the rate of exchange which prevailed when the orders were given—somewhere about 540 piastres to the pound sterling—and many firms have stopped all sales until the situation becomes more settled. Naturally prices are soaring, and the public, always only too ready for a gamble, has made matters worse by frantic speculation.

As usual the true reasons for the sudden slump in the value of the Turkish pound are not at all easy to discover. Doubtless the fact that exports exceed the imports by about 400 per cent, has something to do with the depreciation, but not with the suddenness of the slump. It is not as if the situation varies very much from month to month. Since the closing of Anatolia and Russia to commerce the value of the Turkish pound has steadily declined from under 400 piastres to the pound sterling until it reached, before the present crisis, 550 piastres. That depreciation was perfectly natural, and easily accounted for, but the causes for it are generally considered not to be sufficient to account for the slump of 200 piastres in a couple of days. The explanation that is widely accepted is that a subtle financial operation of some magnitude is responsible, but as there is no certain information as to the nature of that operation, speculation on the subject is idle . . . . . for the moment.

The rumour-mongers, of course, seized the opportunity to create panics which enabled them to fill their pockets. One of the most mischievous of these rumours was a report to the effect that the Angora Government was issuing several millions worth of paper money. The report was completely false, but it served its purpose. It was also stated that the Greek Government has ordained that all commercial transactions in the occupied provinces in Anatolia are to be carried out in Greek currency, but this is not a fresh measure. The fact that an effort is being made to oust the Turkish for Greek currency in the occupied areas has undoubtedly contributed to the general depreciation in the Turkish pound, but again, this does not account for the sudden slump.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank has taken the step of refusing to deal with the members of the Bourse, and if other banks followed the example the crisis would perhaps be shortened, but in any case it cannot last long. The Turkish pound will probably drop back to a level considerably above the former rate of 550 to the pound sterling, and remain there. In the interval incalculable damage will have been done, and a few individuals will have filled their pockets.

## GREECE.

*Athens, October 15.*

### Greco-Czecho-Slovak Commercial Treaty.

M. Grégorino, Consul for Czecho-Slovakia at Salonika, has been in touch with M. Babougtchick, Minister for Yugoslavia, who is entrusted with the care of Czecho-Slovakian interests, with a view to the opening of negotiations for a commercial treaty between Greece and Czecho-Slovakia.

The view is taken that owing to the abnormal situation in Greece difficulties stand in the way of a commercial convention at the present time. M. Grégorino declared, however, to the representatives of the Ministry of National Economy that his Government was desirous that intimate commercial relations should be established between the two countries, pointing out that certain Greek products such as currants, tobacco, and wine, were very much in demand in Czecho-Slovakia, in exchange for which Greece could obtain sugar, glassware, porcelain, enamelled utensils, and agricultural implements.

The necessity for a commercial convention being thus demonstrated, it has been decided that a provisional agreement for the exchange of goods should be concluded which is to be converted into a definite treaty as soon as circumstances will permit.

### Customs Receipts.

The receipts of the Piraeus Customs during September (O.S.), amounted to 10,842,190.60 drachmae in paper and 347-387.40 in gold. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year, there is an increase this year of 4,832,685.85 drachmae in paper, and a decrease of 47,536.75 drachmae in gold.

*Athens, October 22.*

### Greco-Czecho-Slovak Relations.

The pourparlers for a commercial agreement between Greece and Czechoslovakia, of which I spoke in my last letter, have temporarily been suspended. This is due to the fact that the Greek Minister of National Economy could not wholly accept the conditions set forth by the Czecho-Slovakian Government, and the latter requested its representative, M. Gregorino, to postpone the negotiations to a later date.

### The Piraeus Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce of Piraeus at a meeting held last week discussed the question of the Consortium of Banks. The opinion expressed was to the effect that the Syndicate was a necessary institution, and had rendered great service to the country in its present difficult hours. The necessity of the war having been recognised by the meeting, it was agreed that the first question to be settled by the Consortium was that of the exchange abroad, in order that the State might cover its purchases of the necessary supplies for military operations. When this was satisfied it was maintained that exchange should be placed at the disposal of the country's commerce but only for articles of absolute necessity for the needs of the population in general.

The meeting resolved to submit to the Government resolutions advocating (1) The complete prohibition of the importation of articles of luxury; (2) that the sale of goods, the prices of which are subject to fluctuation, should only be allowed to well-known merchants, thus avoiding speculation in the price of foodstuffs; (3) that orders abroad should only be placed after special authorisation, so that the stocks of useless goods, the payment of which has not been authorised by the Syndicate, should not accumulate at the Piraeus; (4) that the amount of imports should be regulated in accordance with the exports by allowing permits to import goods to merchants who undertake to export Greek goods of an equal value.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, October 20.*

### British Loan for Roumania.

It is reported that a British Consortium has offered the Roumanian Government a loan of £5,000,000 against Treasury Bonds redeemable in 3½ years, and bearing an interest of not more than 8½ per cent. per annum payable every six months through a London Bank, the capital and interest to be guaranteed by one of the State revenues or by one of the staple products of the country such as

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grain or timber. This offer is now under consideration by the Cabinet.

**Export of Railway Sleepers.**

In order to assist the timber industry in certain regions of the country the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has decided to allow the producers of timber to export 20 million railway sleepers of beech-wood without being compelled to deliver the 40 per cent quota to the State Railways. The usual duty taxes, however, will have to be paid. This concession has only been accorded to Transylvania, Bukovina, and the Banat.

The old conditions still remain in force as regards oak sleepers, *i.e.* 50 per cent. has to be given to the State Railways, etc.

**Roumano-Greek Trade.**

The Roumanian and Greek Governments are negotiating for the exchange of certain products, which will be subject to a special duty tariff until an economic convention has been concluded between the two countries. Roumania will supply Greece among other things with timber for building purposes which is so urgently needed for the new colonisation of Asia Minor.

**Export of Pigs.**

During the period March 25 to October 25, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce granted permission for the export of 91,195 pigs and 487, 040 kilogrammes of bacon. Only about 25,000 pigs and about 300,000 kilogrammes of bacon have actually been exported. The authorities are anxious to develop this export, for according to statistics Roumania has a large surplus stock. Transylvania alone has at least 1,2000,000 pigs.

**Miscellaneous.**

A Bulgarian delegation consisting of the presidents, vice-presidents, and members of the Chambers of Commerce of Sofia, Varna, Bourgas, Rustchuk and Philipoppolis arrived in Bucharest a few days ago for the purpose of visiting the Roumanian Industries Fair at the Carol Park.

The Belgian steamer s.s. Livonier left Braila last week with 900 kilos of gold from Transylvanian private mines. The gold is said to be destined for Belgium and England. Up to the present 1,605 kilos. of gold have been allowed to be exported. The time-limit for export fixed by the State expires on October 21.

The Bulgarian Post Office Department intends to approach the Roumanian Government with a view to the establishment of postal and telegraphic facilities between the two countries based on the conventions which existed before the war.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October 23.*

**The Financial Crisis.**

The financial crisis which has existed here for such a long time has become much more severe of late. None of the banks, even the biggest ones, have any ready money at their disposal, and the result is stagnation in commerce and industry. It is generally believed that the crisis will become less acute towards the end of the year (as it did in 1919) because the peasants, who are richer to-day than they ever were before, are accustomed to make large purchases at this time of year. The wealth of the peasants is indeed very great, as one soon realises by spending a few days in the provinces and noting the numerous and well fed herds of cattle, horses, pigs, etc. that are everywhere to be seen. Meanwhile poverty in the large towns is becoming worse every day, as with the purchasing value of the leva becoming less there is a corresponding rise in the cost of living. The control of the prices of foodstuffs is a step which ought at once to be taken by the Government, but as it is composed of Agrarians it has no incentive to institute such a reform. In Roumania the leu has about the same purchasing value as the leva, but General Averescu's Government have taken severe measures against food profiteers, and at Bucharest meat is not allowed to be sold at more than seven lei per kilogram whereas at Sofia the price runs from 23 to 25 levas. If the leva continues its downward course, the position of the poorer classes amongst the townsfolk will indeed become lamentable. At present the majority of the professional classes are living on their capital. In some Central European countries the situation has become such that it is almost impossible to remedy it, but this is not the case in Bulgaria where 3½ to 4 million peasants constituting roughly 75 per cent of the total population, are living in peace and plenty at the expense of their less fortunate countrymen in the towns.

**New Import Taxes.**

The Ministry of Finance has prepared a new scale of import duties which is at present being studied by the Reparations Commission. The new scale provides for great increases in the duties on articles such as tea, textiles, motor cars, and all kinds of machinery, etc. Thus it is proposed to increase the duty on motor cars from 6,000 levas per motor car to 50 per cent *ad valorem*. Such an increase will effectually put a stop to the import of all cars, and as a matter of course the import of tyres, spare parts, etc. will also cease. The object of the new taxes is to increase the revenue, but the reverse result will apparently be obtained. Incidentally it must be borne in mind that there is no motor car industry in Bulgaria to protect. Another anomaly in the new scale is the very slight increase in the tax levied on sugar. The Bulgarian sugar industry is of considerable importance, and stands in need of protection from foreign rivals. Altogether the new duties would seem to require a considerable amount of revision before being laid before the Sobranje.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Beyrout, October 12.*

**The Tripoli-Homs Line.**

The inauguration of the reconstructed railway line Tripoli-Homs was celebrated on October 1. The French Governor of the Lebanon, official delegations of the new Lebanese State and of the neighbouring states of Damascus, the Governors and Mayors of the towns of Tripoli and Homs, and the high officials of the Railway Administration, were among those who attended this function. General Gouraud's suite consisted of his aide-de-camp, the Military Commissioner of the Syrian and Cilician railway system, and a professor of the Collège de France who had landed on the previous day.

The High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Levant presided over this ceremony not only as the supreme authority in Syria, but also as the representative of the Government of the Republic which defrayed the cost of this enterprise, chiefly at his recommendation. Several speeches were delivered, and General Gouraud had to make not less than three.

The Tripoli-Homs line was originally built in 1910, and, until 1914, it was most profitable. Among the French railways in the former Ottoman Empire only the Adrianople line equalled it in financial results. During the war, the Turco-Germans carried away all

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the materials of the permanent way, rails, fishplates, and sleepers, for use in the construction of the Baghdad Line beyond the Euphrates.

The line is 103 kilometers in length, and the cost of its reconstruction amounts to 103 million francs. The 17,000 tons of steel used has been supplied by three French works all of which curiously enough are in the devastated provinces, viz.: Pompey, Hayange, and Isebergues.

The railway company, seriously affected as it was by the war, could not possibly have undertaken this enterprise at the present time. How the line suffered during the conflict may be gathered from the following extract from the speech of the Director-General of the Railway Administration at Beyrout, describing what he saw on his first visit to Syria immediately after the Occupation:

"Out of 700 kilometers in Syria 200 were completely destroyed, and several bridges and culverts blown up. All the buildings on the Royak-Aleppo line were burnt down, and the accessories of the line and garages had been taken away. The fine workshops of Royak, which employed 300 workmen, were a heap of ruins, under which were buried machines and tools which it is practically impossible to replace in the present state of world industry. As regards rolling stock it had practically vanished. Out of 63 locomotives practically new in 1914, only five were delivered back, and they were almost useless. The trucks had been smashed, burnt or thrown away on the neighbouring lines. The passenger carriages were stripped of their blinds and panes. The lighting material was gone, so was the upholstering, and, what was more serious than all, the safety appliances, the automatic brakes, were no longer there. A depot of spare parts, well stocked, and which had cost several millions, was completely ransacked."

After the railway ceremony General Gouraud proceeded to Akkar to preside over another ceremony held to mark the introduction there of land registration, the establishment of model farms for experimental cotton cultivation, and the creation of studs (haras) for the preservation and improvement of the Arab horse breed.

*Smyrna, October 20.*

**Trade of Smyrna.**

During the month of August the Ottoman (Aidin) Railway Company carried to Smyrna 4,091 tons of goods, principally made up of dried fruits, valonea, grain, tobacco, and provisions.

## ALBANIA.

*Valona, October, 11.*

**Imports.**

During the first half of this year Albania's imports amounted in value to 41,000,000 francs. Italy's share of this total was 29,000,000 francs, Greece's 9,000,000, and the United Kingdom's only 340,000.

**Export of Horses.**

Italy having imposed high duties on horses imported from Albania this country is seeking outlets. Albanian horses are small beasts, standing from 120 to 135 centimetres high, but they are strong and have great powers of endurance. From three to four thousand horses are generally exported from the plain of Muzekié.

## GROWTH OF ROUMANIA'S EXPORTS.

(*From Our Own Correspondent*).

*Bucharest, October 12.*

For the first eight months of 1921 Roumania's exports of her principal products—grain, oil and timber—were as follows (in tons), the figures in brackets representing the corresponding totals for 1920:—Wheat 25,689 (229); wheat-flour 12,928 (52); rye 52, 711 (1,924); barley 268,041 (56,770); oats 82,685 (1,463); maize 670,370 (106,665); crude oil 11,462 (3,500); oil residuals 11,640 (18,346); refined oil 59,887 (86,948); petrol 51,182 (38,715); mineral oil 12,545 (9,078); boards and planks 43,545 (17,282); other timber for constructional purposes 3,494 (4,058); fir-poles 10,674 m.c. (2 m.c.).

## TRANSPORT CHARGES IN 1853.

(*By our Khartoum Correspondent*):

The following figures taken from Le Compte D'Exayrac de Lanture's "Le Desert et le Soudan" of 1853 are of considerable interest in these days of high freights and speedy (?) travel:—

Transport charges from Khartoum to Cairo per rotole of five quintals:—Khartoum to Berber by boat, 10 days, PT 4-8, or by caravan, 10 days, PT 50; Berber to Serbra Korosko via Abu Hamed by caravan, 15 to 20 days, PT 160-180; Korosko to Aswan by boat, three days, PT 3-4; camel hire to avoid cataracts three days, PT3; Aswan to Cairo by boat, 15 to 20 days, PT 10-12. For an alternative route the figures are:—Khartoum to Deble via Atmom-Bahiouda, 12 days, PT 50-60; Deble to Dongola by boat, three days, PT 3-4; Dongola to Wadi Halfa by caravan (transport on this part of the Nile being dangerous) 12 days, PT50; Wadi Halfa to Aswan by boat, 8 days, PT3-6.

For the route from Kordofan to Cairo we have the following:—Lobeidh (El Obeid) to Khartoum via Coursi Sanzur Coamet and Tor el Khada, 10 days, PT50-60. An alternative way is given:—Lobeidh to Debli via Bara, Kaymar, Djebel Haraza, Wadi-et-Ombililla or via Elai Simria, etc., 15 to 18 days, PT 80.

Thus the hardy traveller of these days would take from 46 to 56 days from Khartoum to Cairo and considerably longer to do the trip from Cairo to Khartoum owing to the current being against him on the way south, whilst the cost of taking his worldly possessions would be from 230 to 257 piastres per 5 quintals. In the same way the journey from El Obeid would occupy from 56 to 74 days according to the route fixed upon. Verily the T. G. to the Sudan of the early fifties had his money's worth from the point of view of time at any rate.

## GENERAL GOURAUD.

Abdelkader el Dana writing from Beyrout with reference to the inauguration by General Gouraud of the Tripoli-Homs line, a description of which will be found in another column, says:—

"It must be said that the General is actively engaged in every other direction also for the opening up of inland communications to facilitate the trade and commerce of the country. No praise is too much for what he is doing, and for the manner in which he does it."

A decree issued in Athens prohibits the importation into Greece of marks, crowns, and Turkish pounds, and the export of gold and silver.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended October 10 amounted to £E15,199; total for year £E187,440. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E16, 890; total for year £E248,227.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest. Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 88–90 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 280–290 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 22.43 | 700–720 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4½ |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 54.85–55.20 |
| Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 600–615 |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 750–780 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 42.86 2-3 | 3.92–3.94 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 53 25–53.80 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 410–430 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 95–99 |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ .... | 25.22½ | 625-675 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 51 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 8,000–9,000 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 14,000-16,000 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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## KAGALU EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Khartoum, October 1.*

In 1911 the Forest Department took over the Kagalu Plantation in Mongalla Province, consisting of Cerea rubber and banana trees and a large stock of Cassava. It was decided to experiment primarily with the rubber, and during the years 1915 to 1920 inclusive 360 feddans were planted with 50,440 trees. Early planting was on the basis of 15′ by 15′, subsequently increased to 15′ by 20′, and finally in 1918 to 20′ by 20′, as likely to afford the best results. The original avenues of trees were devoted to experiments in the various methods of tapping, and very excellent results were obtained with the ordinary knife and pricker. Always provided that sufficient care be exercised to avoid making too deep an incision there appears to be no subsequent damage to the tree. Possibly owing to climate conditions bark renewal is remarkable for its rapidity, and from observations recorded it would be quite possible to re-tap the same surface after an interval of 12 months. In 1919 tapping was commenced on the 20 feddans put down in 1915, but it was found possible to tap the 1917 area the following year owing to acceleration in growth due to wider planting, the very promising result of an average of ½lb. per tree for 90 tappings being obtained on this area of three years olds. A few of the seven year old trees averaged out two lbs. per tree for 90 tappings. The yield for 1919 was two tons of dry rubber, which was doubled in the following year and increased to six tons in 1921, the estimate for 1922 being nine tons. The cost of production has so far worked out at 20 to 30 milliemes per lb. (4d. to 7½d.) which should decrease very materially as the trees grow older.

In 1917 the question of coffee cultivation received consideration and an experimental plot of 15 feddans was planted with coffee Liberica. The growth of the plants has been fairly satisfactory, but it is evident that the climate is hardly damp enough for this particular species, as on at least two occasions the moisture proved insufficient for the ripening of the berries. During that and the following year a considerable quantity of Mocha seed was imported from Harar (Abyssinia), but with the exception of 100 plants failed to germinate. As a result of careful nursing these survivors proved sufficient to enable a large stock to be raised, and at the end of May last some 10,000 plants were awaiting transplanting. The species has proved most successful and bears heavy crops. *Hemeillia Vestatrix* is prevalent, but with proper precautions is more or less negligible. An effort has been made to encourage local cultivation of coffee amongst the natives, and a few plants have been given to a local chief for this purpose.

A series of experiments were also made in growing cinchona, ginger, cocoa, and cardamons but the results have been so disappointing that further serious development is unjustifiable. Two cinchona bushes flowered, and it is proposed to try this as well as coffee at a higher altitude further south. It is, of course, possible that better results could be obtained with acclimatised seed. Excellent results were obtained with Mauritius and Sisal hemp. An exceptionally good fibre (*Hibiscus sp.*) was produced, which in 1917 was valued at the high figure of £98 per ton.

As regards wood, teak, kapok, toon, mahogany and various species of eucalyptus have been raised at odd times. The results with toon (*Cedrela Toona*) and mahogany have been so promising that it is proposed to put down a further 10 acres of each this year. Tropical fruits of course do excellently, and it is a great pity that the Government steamers do not evolve a system of cold storage which would enable their transport to Khartoum where there would be a large and steady demand.

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The directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have, resolved to pay an interim dividend of 2 per cent. (less income tax) on the ordinary stock. The dividend warrants will be posted on November 4.

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The Office of the Director General, India Store Department, was transferred on October 31, from the India Office to Belvedere Road, Lambeth, S.E.1. All communications by letter should thereafter be addressed to :—The Director General, India Store Department, Belvedere Road, Lambeth, London, S.E.1. Inland telegraphic address: "Indiamen, Watloo, London." Telephone: Hop 5840.

## THE GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to August 31, 1921 (new style January 14 to 13, September 1921).

| | Monopolies, tobacco stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery. | Piraeus Customs. |
|---|---|---|
| | Drachmae. | Drachmae. |
| Gross receipts. Aug. 1921 .... | 6,052,883.38 | 7,172,990.25 |
| Do. do. do. 1920 .... | 6,506,630.27 | 4,362,540.20 |
| Estimated receipts for 8 months (Law of Control) ..... | 19,266,666.67 | 7,133,333.33 |
| Actual receipts for 8 months, 1921 ..... | 45,551,232.42 | 38,941,967.40 |
| Actual receipts for 8 months, 1920 ..... | 42,739,212.27 | 38,437,048.90 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 8 months 1921 | ×26284,565.75 | ×31,808,634.07 |
| 1921 | ×23472,545.60 | ×31,303,715.57 |

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1–5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

The products of the sales of Naxos emery have been paid in paper drachmae since August, 1920. In the case of the Piraeus Customs, the receipts in gold are included in the above statement at par.

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The imports of coal into Alexandria for the period January 1 to August 31, amounted to 589,110 tons as against 370,826 tons for the same period last year.

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The traffic receipts of the Smyrna Aidin Railway for the week ended October 22 amounted to £10,855.





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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

## GAS-FILLED LAMPS.

Everyone has heard the name "gas-filled" applied to electric lamps of the latest type, but it may be that the term, although scientifically accurate, conveys a totally erroneous idea to the user that the lamp is in some way a combination of a gas and electric lighting system. In this type of lamp the filament is surrounded by a gas which is unchanged by heat, and has no effect whatever on the filament in either a hot or cold condition. In the older metal filament and also in the still older carbon filament lamp the filament was in a bulb from which every particle of air was exhausted, making as perfect a vacuum as possible. Had there been the slightest trace of oxygen or of atmospheric air left in the bulb the lamp would have burned out as soon as the current passed through the filament.

One of the largest firms of electric lamp makers in the world has just sent me a note pointing out that the temperature to which the tungsten filament can be heated in a lamp is limited by the fact that a very hot filament gives off continuously fine fragments of tungsten, or in other words is continually disintegrating. The rate of the disintegration depends on the temperature, the higher the latter the more rapid the separation of the particles, so that it is obvious that if a reasonable length of life is required there is a limit to the temperature to which a filament can be heated.

Owing to the chemical action of the air on tungsten, the original "Osram" lamp was made with the filament glowing in a vacuum. It was later discovered, however, that by introducing into a bulb a gas which was chemically inert the rate of disintegration could be retarded; but as a result of the cooling effect of the gas the filament could not be maintained at the high temperature without an excessive expenditure of electricity.

By winding the filament into a spiral of extremely small pitch the surrounding gas forms a hot zone or kind of blanket round the filament, and prevents much of the cooling which results when the filament is straight. In this way it has been found possible to maintain the temperature of the filament higher than is practicable in a vacuum type lamp, with the result that the efficiency is greatly increased without detriment to the life of the lamp.

### The Gas Used in the Bulb.

In the earlier types of gas-filled lamps nitrogen was employed, as it was the most convenient form of inert gas. Excellent results were obtained with the higher candle powers, such as are used in public lighting and the illumination of docks, railway sidings, and other large spaces. Difficulty was found, however, in producing satisfactory lamps in the lower ranges of candle power.

This difficulty has been overcome by the use of argon in place of nitrogen. Argon is so remarkably inert that its presence in the atmosphere was unsuspected until the historical investigations of Lord Rayleigh and Sir William Ramsay, F.R.S., revealed its presence in the air. A plant has been installed for the production of argon in commercial quantities at the Osram-G.E.C. Lamp Works, and the use of this gas enables "Osram" gas-filled lamps to be made in candle powers suitable for general lighting purposes, both at standard supply voltages and at the very low voltages used in motor car lighting.

### Shape of Bulb.

The "Osram" gas-filled lamp differs from the standard "Osram" in other particulars, notably the shape of the bulb. The bulb is in its latest form "club-shaped with an elongated neck in which the hot gas rising from the filament is cooled.

One advantage of this form of bulb is that the minute particles of tungsten thrown off by the white-hot filament are carried upwards by the stream of gas and deposited on the neck, where the slight blackening they produce does not obscure the light as it would do on other parts of the bulb.

It is pointed out that to secure the most satisfactory results gas-filled lamps should be hung vertically. In certain of the smaller sizes the filaments are so supported and arranged that the lamp will burn in any position, but, as will readily be understood, inclining the lamp tends to reduce the cooling effect of the long neck and as a result impairs to some extent the life of the lamp. As most of the modern electrical light fittings and shades are designed so as to give the best effect when lamps are hanging vertically downward the adherence to this position is not by any means a drawback in modern lighting.

It may be said, in concluding, that for equal consumption of electricity, as compared with the vacuum type of lamp, approximately double the candle power is obtained, except for the smaller sizes, or in other words for equal candle power the electricity consumption and therefore the burning cost is halved, while compared with a vacuum lamp the light approximates much more nearly to sunlight in colour. The intrinsic brilliancy of the filament is actually about eight times that of a tungsten filament glowing in a vacuum.

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### Char-a-bancs Abroad.

It is interesting to note that at a recent meeting of the International Touring Alliance the Automobile Association was able to get a proposal passed for the extension of foreign travel facilities to large touring vehicles such as char-a-bancs. The Alliance will endeavour to obtain from the various European Government permission to issue *triptyques* for these vehicles, and also for motor caravans and trailers, to enable them to pass foreign frontiers without any customs difficulties.

### Hiring Electrical Goods.

I understand that there is a widespread feeling in electrical circles to the effect that greater facilities should be given the public in connection with using such handy little domestic appliances as flat irons, hot plates, and toasters heated electrically. The argument is—and it must be admitted that it is perfectly sound—that the public do not know the advantages of using these devices and they are not going to pay anything to find out. No one is ready to pay for anything of doubtful advantage, and when the station engineer and the contractor say that a certain electrical device is an exceptionally good thing, they rightly ask to be allowed to try before they buy.

Now at the present time all electrical supply undertakings possess powers to hire out electrical apparatus, and although some have availed themselves of these powers for some time past there are a far greater number who have not yet done so. By one of the principal authorities it is regarded as essential that hiring facilities for the more expensive appliances should be provided, and as he says it would appear that in many undertakings there is hesitation in setting up hiring systems under existing circumstances because the impression exists that it is necessary to commence with a more or less elaborate showroom and a special staff. Supply engineers are asked therefore to consider the possibility of starting the hire of domestic apparatus with a minimum of preliminaries and elaboration, or, in other words, to start and get on with the work quietly and without any preliminary fuss. There is little fear that the inauguration of hiring systems will result in a flood of orders, and in consequent embarrassment to the electricity undertaking, as although hiring is essential a good deal of spade work has to be done. There is no proposal that any exhaustive and expensive publicity campaign should be started; on the contrary, the idea is that those undertakings which have not hitherto done anything of the kind should get a grant from the powers that be and spend a limited sum in the course of the next six months or a year in buying appliances on the best possible

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terms, and hiring them out to such customers as will not only give them a fair trial, but who are of such standing as to be able to purchase them outright as soon as they are satisfied they will do all that is claimed.

**Power Alcohol.**

With regard to the remarks on power alcohol production which recently appeared in these columns it is of some interest to note that a few days ago Mr. E. Shrapnell Smith referred to the use now being made of home produced alcohol on actual industrial transport work. He mentioned that a certain large firm who have given the subject deep consideration, and who had conducted preliminary tests, are now running their fleet of commercial lorries on a mixture of petrol, power alcohol, and benzole in the proportion of about one-third of each. In Mr. Smith's opinion this is to be regarded as the line of development in connection with the use of alcohol which will be followed in the immediate future.

Commenting on this the only thing I fail to see clearly is why there should be any petrol-benzole mixture. I would not for a moment suggest that Mr. Smith is in error, and that the firm are running on a mixture of equal parts of petrol, paraffin and alcohol, or of benzole, paraffin and alcohol, although such would be a very suitable fuel. But why benzole and petrol with alcohol? Of course there is a slight added power with benzole as compared with petrol, as I have often pointed out, but this gain is offset by the higher price. Alcohol does not mix more easily with a combination of petrol and benzole than with either alone, and the carburation of the mixture is not better than with one of the light hydrocarbons alone. My advice to any commercial firm intending to use power alcohol as it stands would be to cut out one or other of the hydrocarbons and use a straight benzole-alcohol or petrol-alcohol mixture in the proportion of two-thirds of the former to one-third of the alcohol. To my mind more economical and quite as satisfactory running would be obtained by using a mixture of 30 per cent. power alcohol, 50 per cent. petrol and 20 per cent. ordinary paraffin.

Of course, the relief in respect of duty has given great encouragement to the production of power alcohol from home resources, and a great deal of research work is in progress. That eminent authority on engine design, Mr. Ricardo, is a firm believer in the future of power alcohol as a fuel, and we may expect some important and far reaching developments in this connection shortly.

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Numbers are announced of 586 bonds of the Ottoman Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1894 which are drawn for redemption.

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The Oriental Telephone and Electric Company has declared interim dividends of 3 per cent. on Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares, less tax, and 4 per cent. on Ordinary shares, free of tax.

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According to a cable received in Manchester the Alexandria General Produce Association has estimated the Egyptian cotton crop for the current season at 3,200,000 kantars as against 4,876,000 kantars in the preceding season.

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## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.*

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)*

**Egypt.**

Clothing, etc.—The Lunacy Division, Abbassiya, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, bedding, furniture, hardware, slippers brushes, and other household necessaries required for Abbassiya and Khanka Asylums for one year from April 1, 1922, November 21.

Paper and Stationery.—The Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of paper, stationery, and general office material required by the Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, for the year 1922—23. December 15. (D.O.T.)

Pumping.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of installation of pumping plant at Atf Pumping Station. December 31.

**Greece.**

Telephone Installation.—The Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Athens has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade a copy of a notice of adjudication for the supply of a new Telephone Installation at Athens which is to take place on November 14 next. The Installation is to be of the central battery type and of an approximate capacity of 5,000 local lines, 40 inter-urban lines, and at least 50 special lines connecting Athens with the Piraeus.

**Roumania.**

Pipe Line Construction.—In connection with the laying of a pipe line, 26 kilometres in length for the supply of natural gas to the town of Targul-Mures in Transylvania. H.M. Consul at Cluj has received from the Engineer in charge of the scheme a statement of the material which will be required. This includes: 8,000 metres Mannesmann steel pipe; 21,600 metres steel pipes of various diameters; 17,700 metres drilling tubes of various diameters; 15,000 kilogrammes steel for hand tools; 40,000 metres galvanized iron or copper wire; various valves and fittings; spades, shovels, mattocks; also tools for two iron workshops and two mechanical workshops; 500 metres camel hair belting, pulleys etc. Quotations for the supply of this material are desired from United Kingdom firms who would be prepared to grant a long credit of three or more years. (D.O.T.)

**India.**

Bogie Carriage Underframes, etc.—The Burma Railways Company invited tenders for the supply of (1) 25 bogie carriage underframes without wheels or axles; and (2) 200 wheels without axles. Specifications can be obtained from the secretary, 109, Gresham House, Old Broad-street, November 11.

Bogie Carriages—The East Indian Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of 20 bogie carriages. November 9.

Condensing Plant, etc.—The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation invites tenders for the supply and erection at Cossipore generating station of (1) one 15,000 kw. turbo-alternator and condensing plant, and (2) two water-tube boilers each with evaporation of 60,000lb. per hour. November 9.

**Malta.**

Conveyance of Mails.—Sealed tenders will be received at the Office of H.M. Treasury, Malta, up to 4 p.m. on November 30, 1921, for the service of the conveyance of mails between Malta and a port in Sicily or the Continent of Europe for a period of six years, (*a*) twice weekly, (*b*) three times weekly, provided that either party can terminate the contract by giving six months' notice on the expiration of the first three years. Tenderers will give the following particulars:—(*a*) Days of the week and hours of proposed arrivals and departures at Malta and at specified ports abroad. (*b*) Gross and net tonnage of steamers, speed, passenger and other accommodation. (*c*) Amount of annual subsidy required. (*d*) Date of commencement of service. Copies of conditions of contract and forms of tender may be obtained on application at the Treasury Office, Malta, or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London S.W. The Government will consider any other conditions which tenderers may propose. No tender will be considered unless it is signed by the tenderer and by a suitable guarantor, residing in these Islands, for the due performance of the contract, and unless it is accompanied by a deposit of £500, which in the case of unsuccessful tenderers will be returned as soon as a contract is completed within the term fixed in para. 8 hereof. In the case of the successful tenderer the deposit shall be returned after the signature of the contract. The tenderer whose offer is accepted shall forfeit the deposit of £500 should he or his surety fail to sign the contract within eight days from the date of an intimation given to them to that effect, and fail to deposit with the Government of Malta, within eight days from the date of acceptance of the tender, a sum of two thousand pounds (£2,000) as security for the due performance of the contract.

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Coupons of the Persia 6 per cent. Loan of 1911, due November 15, will be paid on and after that date at the Imperial Bank of Persia, 25 Abchurch Lane, E.C.4. or at their bankers Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3

Debenture interest coupons and also the debenture bonds (drawn for redemption) of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt due November 11 will be paid on or after that date by Barclay's Bank, Ltd., Lombard Street, E.C.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—British refined has continued in good demand. West Indian crystallised has been done at 40s. 6d., a rise of 6d., while Czecho-Slovakian has come to business at 19s. 9d., a fall of 9d. White Mauritius is 6d. up at 44s., but White Java is 3d. down at 47s.

Coffee.—The market has been quiet. Costa Rica has come to business round about 130s., an increase of 4s., while Indian has been done at 114s., a rise of 14s. Other transactions include Jamaica at 140s., and Nairobi at 106s. Future are :—December 48s., March 49s., May 49s., July 49s., September 49s.

Oilseeds.—An irregular tone has prevailed. Indian linseed at 16s. 6d. shows a rise of 1s. 3d., while La Plata is 1s. up at 14s. Rapeseed has been weak with Toria 9d. down at 18s. 6d., and Brown Cawnpore 6d. down at 18s. Cottonseed has been variable, with Indian 6d. up at 8s. 6d., and Sakellaridis 1s. down at 10s. 6d. Egyptian Black has come to business at 11s.

Seed Oils.—A variable tendency has ruled. Linseed is 1s. 6d. up at 27s. 6d., while for November-December 27s. 3d. is quoted, and for January-April 27s. 9d., advances of 2s. and 1s. 3d. respectively. Rape oil has been inactive, the crude variety being 2s. down at 50s., while refined is 1s. lower at 55s. Cotton oil has been dull. Refined common edible is unchanged at 55s., but Egyptian crude is 3s. lower at 44s., while deodorised is also 3s. down at 59s. Turpentine has been firmer, American being 3s. 6d. up at 68s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—The market has been very weak. Linseed cake has been done at 240s., a drop of 35s., while cottonseed cake has come to business at 160s., a fall of 30s. Arachis cake is 80s. down at 220s., while palm kernel is 50s. down at 110s.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 15 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 121,570 bags compared with 69,280 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 113,570 bags as against 63,280 bags for the same period last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 8,000 bags as compared with 6,000 bags for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to date total 134,137 loads as against 134,821 loads for last year. The total estimated sales are 129,137 loads as compared with 130,821 loads for 1920, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 5,000 loads against 4,000 loads for last year.

Shipments.—The s.s. Stork for London has on board 28,875 boxes sultanas, 756 cases figs, 268 boxes figs, and 12,279 bags figs; the s.s. Cypria for Liverpool has 29,820 boxes sultanas, 908 cases figs, 5,263 boxes figs, and 3,701 bags figs. The s.s. Belgravia for Liverpool sails on the 22nd inst, while the s.s. Minerva for Amsterdam is loading.

Markets.—The exchanges continue fluctuating widely, but the tendency towards the week end was upwards with every indication of renewed sensational movements. There was an improved demand for sultanas, sales for the week amounting to about 1,200 tons, mainly for Continental, Colonial, and American account. Prices are firm with an advancing tendency. Fine grades have been enquired for, and are becoming scarce.

Business in figs has been stimulated by an increased American demand and the lower foreign equivalents owing to advancing exchanges. All arrivals have been lifted off the market, and indications point to continued activity. Most packing establishments have been closed, business now being limited to Natural Figs in bags. Stocks remaining in the country are estimated at about 3-3,500 tons all grades. At the same time last year stocks amounted to about 11,000 tons.

It is hoped that the Prince of Wales will open the Ceylon Industries Exhibition in March.

The Zagreb Chamber of Commerce states that there is no ground for the rumour that it is proposed to introduce any measure prohibiting the payment of foreign claims in the kingdom of the Serbs-Croats-Slovenes.

## THE ROUMANIAN HARVEST.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Bucharest, October* 12.

According to the last reports received by the Ministry of Agriculture the yield of the 1921 grain crops of the Old Kingdom is as follows ( in waggons of 10 tons) :—Wheat 264,585 ; rye 26,769 ; barley 141,415 ; oats 100,693 ; maize ( estimated ) 384,000. It is estimated that the quantities of seed required are as follows ( in waggons ), the second total representing the area in hectares to be sown :—Wheat 66,600 ( 3,700,000 ) ; rye 6,120 ( 340,000 ) ; barley 23,520 ( 1,470,000 ) ; oats 14,000 ( 1,000,000 ) ; maize 10,500 ( 3,500,000 ). Therefore Roumania needs for home consumption and seed :—wheat and rye 231,436 waggons, barley 86,987, oats 67, 467, maize 382,500. From these figures it appears that Roumania has the following quantities available for export :—wheat and rye 59,918 waggons, barley 54,428, oats 33,226, total 148, 072 waggons, besides the stock of grains existing from the previous year.

## SUDAN NOTES.

(*From Our Own Correspondent*)

*Khartoum, October* 15.

Rain gauge returns from Kordofan for the second half of September register a fall of 17 millimetres at El Obeid, 14 m.m. at Um Ruaba, 16 m.m. at Rahad, 10 m.m. at Nahud and no rain at all in the Bara district. Cultivation reports in the various districts with the exception of Bara are good, but a certain amount of damage by birds is reported from the three omodias of Um Ruaba.

News from Kassala is to the effect that cultivation in general is progressing favourably although certain districts are suffering from lack of rain. The fall during the second half of September is given at 5.4. m.m. for Kassala, 57 m.m. Gedaref, 64 m.m. Mefaza, 25 m.m. Butana and 44 m.m. at Gallabat.

The rainfall in the Nuba Mountains has been satisfactory, 54 m.m. being registered during the second half of September.

News from the Blue Nile is not quite so encouraging. There were heavy rains in certain districts which greatly benefited cultivation, but the crops in the Hassa Heissa and Kamlin districts are disappointing, having suffered from the drought.

Good rains are notified from the Fung Province, the maximum being 138 m.m. at Darfung and 96 m.m. at Roseires. Unfortunately for the prospects of the sesame crops red blight has appeared in several places.

Returns from the White Nile Province state that the rainfall has been much below average except at Dueim where 67 m.m. were registered, and weather reports from the north and centre of the province indicate that the rains have now ceased at an exceptionally early stage. In view of the large crops of Dhurrah last year, the areas sown this year have been very much less, and the frequency of the rains at the start of the season militated against adequate weeding. These factors in conjunction with the early cessation of the rains indicate a total crop yield of not more than fifty per cent. of last year's record.

The average rate of exchange obtaining at Adis Abeba during August is returned as 11.10 Maria Theresa dollars to the pound sterling.

## CZECHO-SLOVAKIA'S GOOD HARVEST.

The Statistical Department of the Czecho-Slovak Government has published the preliminary figures for the 1921 harvest. Although with the exception of oats the area under cultivation was smaller than in 1920, the total yield of crops has shown a considerable increase. This is particularly the case with wheat, rye and barley. The approximate totals are as follows (the figures in brackets representing the corresponding yields in 1920) : Winter wheat 1,017,932 (641,839) ; spring wheat, 89,025 (75,625); winter rye, 1,361,231 (821,311) ; spring rye, 20,138 (15,444) ; winter barley, 14,008 (12,703) ; spring barley, 1,017,236 (798,063). These figures are not final, but, provided that they are even approximately accurate, they show a gratifying increase and will relieve the Government of the onerous necessity of purchasing such large supplies of cereals abroad.

There is an opening for tractors in Yugoslavia in Croatia, the Banat, and the Batchka.

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## LEVANT MARKET REVIEW

The following extracts are taken from the review of the National Bank of Turkey for September :—

Exchange fluctuations have limited business to a great extent during the month, as firms cannot afford to buy English goods, when the pound sterling has been quoted at 650 piastres. As a result of this, local firms are turning their attention more and more to Germany where they can buy goods at prices far lower than those quoted by English manufacturers. German goods are finding their way to Constantinople, and unless some scheme of stabilising exchange is devised Germany will regain her lost trade.

The situation in Anatolia has undergone a complete change since last month, and it is thought by some that the final stage of the campaign may have been reached. The approach of winter and the resultant impossibility of keeping open lines of communication point to a settlement in the not-far-distant future. The re-opening of Anatolia will undoubtedly have a temporary stabilising effect on the Turkish lira. Although at the moment business in Constantinople is passing through a very dark period, the future is not without promise.

*Flour.*—During the month 120,000 sacks arrived chiefly from America and a small quantity from Bulgaria. 30-40,000 sacks were exported to the Black Sea ports and Batoum. Large arrivals are expected from the United States early in October. Stocks are estimated at about 40-50,000 sacks.

*Barley.*—The total amount of barley available for export from Roumania is understood to be some 1,000,000 tons. Owing to the new scale of Roumanian taxation, however, only a little barley has been exported, but it has been offered on the market from Bulgaria and Tunis at the parity of 8 and 7¾ piastres per oke c.i.f. respectively. Exchange fluctuations have varied the Turkish value of those offers. United Kingdom prices fell from 40s. 6d. to 43s. for Roumanian barleys. Local prices opened round nine piastres per oke, but after falling to 7¾ piastres are now about 8½ piastres.

*Sugar.*—During the month 3,000 tons arrived as follows :—Java, 2,750 tons ; American, 250 tons. The price per ton c.i.f. Constantinople varied between £24 and £28. Exports amounted to about 500 tons for Bulgaria. The market is overstocked and prices have dropped below those ruling at producing centres owing to the cessation of all transit trade here. Stocks are estimated at about 9,000 tons.

*Rice*—About 800 tons arrived from the United States of America and Marseilles. C.i.f. prices for American were quoted at 10.50 dollars per 100 kgs. Roughly 250 tons were exported to the Black Sea ports and Bulgaria. Stocks on hand 750 tons.

*Coffee.*—250 tons arrived from Brazil per s.s. "Pollux" and 300 sacks were sent mostly to Bulgaria. C.i.f. prices were around 60 piastres per oke. As there are hardly any stocks on this market prices advanced rapidly and floating goods have already been disposed of.

*Textiles, Dry Goods, etc.*—Another month has passed without any marked improvement in the general business situation. Prices asked by holders of stocks have for the moment become prohibitive owing to the depreciation of the lira against the pound sterling. Buyers only become accustomed gradually to the new exchange level. Violent fluctuations of exchange have also been recorded in Roumania and Bulgaria and business in the former country has been practically suspended. The sudden and rapid rise in the price of raw cotton during the early part of September was felt here, though its full effect has not yet been recorded. Prices advanced considerably but not high enough to encourage importers to make new purchases in England. The violent depreciation of the lira has paralysed the sale of cotton yarns. This sudden rise is considered locally by some to have been caused by American Stock Exchange manipulations and is therefore subject to a fall. Others think however that the figures of 17d. to 18d. will be reached.

*Leather.*—The improvement mentioned in our last report has only partially materialised. Uncertainty still reigns on the market, aggravated by a rise of about 20 per cent in European prices. All big leather merchants in Constantinople have consequently been obliged to raise their prices by 15-20 per cent. The result is that their sales have dropped. Consumers will not pay the difference, although the high rate of the sterling exchange and the new Custom charges will raise the cost of all future leather arrivals by another 20 per cent. Under the circumstances it is very difficult to foretell the future, especially as the price of local leather has remained stationary and tanners on this side have not increased the price of their products. Consumers are already giving preference to local production, and a rise will very shortly take place in this article. Such a rise will, however, be welcome and will permit foreign leather competition. There is some animation in the vachette line, but prices remain the same. The Black Sea ports being closed, the market for buffalo hides remains quiet, and the same can be said with regard to raw hides. Generally speaking, the situation is more or less the same as last month, but if prices in Europe are maintained, it is hoped that business will be much better in the near future. For the present, local leather has the upper hand and is doing very well.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 131s. cwt. ; (Canadian) 107s. 6d. cwt. ; (American), 98s. 6d. cwt. ; butter (Danish), 236s. cwt. ; (Australian), 180s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 205s. cwt. ; cheese (Canadian), 100s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 88s. cwt. ; lard 70s. cwt. ; eggs (Danish), 37s. 6d. per 120 ; (Styrian), 21s. 6d. per 120 ; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt. ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3½d. lb. ; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 87s. cwt. ; coffee (Costa Rica), 152s. 6d. cwt. ; (East India), 130s. cwt. ; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt. ; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt. ; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt. ; (Santos superior), 62s. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 57s. 6d. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb. ; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb. ; (Muntok white), 8d. lb. ; pimento, 2½d. lb. ; raisins (Valencias), 141s. 6d. cwt. ; sultanas (Smyrna), 120s. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 77s. 6d. cwt. ; (Amalias), 53s. cwt. ; sugar (Tate's cubes), 55s. 9d. cwt. ; (Lyle's granulated), 49s. 10½d. cwt. ; (Mauritius crystals), 45s. 3d. cwt. ; (West India crystallised) 40s. 9d. cwt. ; (centrifugal), 16s. 2½d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1¾d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour. 17s. 3d. cwt. ; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 19s. 6d. cwt. ; (bran Rangoon), £7 2s. 6d. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 1½d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore firsts), 1s. 1½d. lb. ; tea—Indian (common to good common) 9½d. lb. ; (medium to good) 1s. 4½d. lb. (fine to finest) 2s. 7½d. lb. ; Ceylon (common to good common), 10½d. lb. (medium to good) 1s. 4d. lb. ; (fine to finest) 2s. 7½d. lb. ; Java common to good common) 7d. lb. ; wheat (English white) 40s. qr. ; (La Plata ex-ship) 82s. qr. ; (Australian) 54s. qr. ; barley (malting) 57s. 6d. qr. ; (feeding) 37s. 6d. qr. ; oats (English) 28s. qr ; (La Plata) 25s. 6d. qr. maize ; (mixed American) 33s. qr. ; (La Plata) 29s. 3d. qr. ; flour 47s. 6d. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium £122 10s. ton ; antimony (English Regulus) £39 10s. ton ; bismuth 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard) £66 2s. 3d. ton ; (electro) £74 ton ; gold bars 104s. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland) 120s. ton ; hematite (mixed number) 130s. 3d. ton ; galvanized sheets (24 G) £18 15s. ton ; lead (soft foreign) £23 17s. 6d. ton ; manganese Poti 1s. 2d. unit. molybdenite 40s. unit ; nickel £187 10s. ton ; platinum 380s. 6d oz. ; plumbago £20 ton ; quicksilver £9 17 6ds. bottle ; silver bars 40½d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.) £26 8s. 9d. ton ; tin (standard) £158 7s. 6d. ton ; wolfram 12s. 9d. unit ; zinc plates £35 10s. ton ; tin plates (20 x 14) 21s. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric 66s. cwt. ; oxalic 9d. lb. ; citric 2s. 5d. lb. ; tartaric 1s. 5d. lb. ; ammonia sulphate £14 15s. 0d ton ; arsenic (white powdered) £38 15s. ton ; benzole (standard) 2s. 5½d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.) £15 15s. ton ; borax crystals 31s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar 130s. 6d. cwt. Potassium : bi-chromate 9¾d. lb. ; chlorate 6d. lb. ; caustic £31 ton ; nitrate £53 ton ; permanganate 1s. lb. ; prussiate yellow 1s. 2d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.) £16 10s. ton ; Sodium Crystals 140s. ton ; bi-carbonate £12 5s. ton ; bi-chromate 7½d lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.) £9 5s. ton ; chlorate 4d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent) £24 15s. ton ; hyposulphate £18 10s. ton ; prussiate 8¾d. lb. ; nitrate £14 16s. 3d. ton ; glycerine (crude 80 per cent £80 ton ; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.) £110 ton ; lemon oil 3s. 5d. lb. ; quinine 4s. 0½d. oz. ; red lead £38 5s. ton ; white dry lead £41 5s. ton ; white ground lead £51 ton ; sulphate of copper £30 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron 117s. 6d. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up 10½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 10½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 10½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 9¾d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 8¾d. lb. ; (second), 90 lbs and up, 9½d. lb. ; Cows (first) 60 lbs and up, 8½d. lb. ; 59 lbs and under, 8d. lb. ; (second) 60 lbs and up, 6½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6 1-8 lb. ; Bulls (first) 6d. lb. ; (second) 4½d. lb Kips (first) 7½d. lb. ; (second) 6½d. lb. ; (third) 4½d. lb Calcutta Market : Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic hides (cows) : Agras, 7 to 12.8 ; Durbhangas, 5 to 6 ; Patnas, 4 to 5 ; salted cows, 3 to 7 ; Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 6 ; Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. ; goat, 260 to 290 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American) 12.92d. lb. ; cotton (Egyptian Sakel) 22.95d. lb. ; Oilseeds : Linseed (La Plata) £13 7s. 6d. ton ; rape (Toria) £18 2s. 6d. ton ; soya beans £14 7s. 6d. ton. ; sesame seed (China) £32 ton ; palm kernels £18 5s. ton ; Oils : Linseed £28 5s. ton ; olive (Levant) £79 ton ; palm £34 17s. 6d. ton ; rape (crude) £52 10s. ton ; £36 15s. ton ; petroleum 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol 2s. 1d. gallon fuel oil (ex tank) £3 15s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon) £46 2s. 6d ton ; Rubber : Plantation No. 1 crepe, 10d. lb ; smoked sheet 10d. lb ; fine hard para 1s. 2d. lb.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## FLAGS AT PORT SAID.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Port Said, October* 18.

One of the results of the war has been the creation of new flags, and a rare one has just been seen in Port Said on the s.s. Srgi, which was flying the Yugoslavian ensign, consisting of horizontal stripes of blue, white and red. She is registered at Dubrovnik (Ragusa), and is the third ship that has passed through the Canal flying the Yugoslav flag. She loaded here a full cargo of salt for Chittagong.

H.M.S. Concord has been in port for some time, and to-day H.M.S. Centurion has arrived and it is believed will remain here until the H.M.S. Renown has passed through here with the Prince of Wales on his way to India.

## SHIPPING AT THE PIRAEUS.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Athens, October* 15.

There were 608 arrivals of various steamers at the Piraeus during September, of the following nationalities:—Greek 517, Italian 30, British 23, American 8, French 7, Dutch 6, Roumanian 5, German 5, Norwegian 2, Spanish 1, Serbian 1, Swedish 1, Portuguese 1, Russian 1. The number of sailing vessels of various nationalities which entered the port during the month was 431.

## NEW OFFICES OF ELLERMAN LINES.

The Ellerman Lines, Ltd., announce that they will be moving into their new building in Leadenhall Street (Nos. 104, 105, and 106), early this month, and that the staffs to occupy these new premises will comprise Messrs. Ellerman and Bucknall S.S. Co., Ltd., Montgomerie and Workman (1920), Ltd., (Agents for the "City" Line), the Hall Line, Ltd. Agency, and also the Agency of the Ellerman and Papayanni Lines.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses:—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 8).

*Anchor Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Malia for Calcutta (Manchester November 5); s.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 5); s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 6); s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 19); s.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 3).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Yorkshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 9); s.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (London, November 9 and Birkenhead, November 23).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Harrington for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 15).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan MacQuarrie for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, November 4).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Cypria for Genoa, Leghorn, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Swansea, November 15); s.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Swansea, November 30).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Estrellano for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Liverpool, November 5); s.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, November 12); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, November 12).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 8); s.s. Kosmo for Bombay and Karachi, (Birkenhead, November 21); s.s. City of Poona for Calcutta Birkenhead, November 24).

*Ellerman's Hall Line.*—S.s. City of Marseilles for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, November 12); s.s. Kosmo for Malabar Coast ports, (Liverpool, November 21).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Dromore for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople,, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, November 5) (Final departure of the season for Galatz and Braila); s.s. Port Inglis for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 19).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria (with transhipment to Morocco, Algeria, Cyprus, and Syrian Coast ports) (Liverpool, November 5).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, November 11); s.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, November 18); s.s. Sicilia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 18); s.s. Mirzapore for Bombay (London, November 26).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Mancla for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 11); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 18); s.s. Nerbudda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 26); s.s. Canara for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 3).

## SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

The report of the South Indian Railway Company Ltd., for the year ended March 31, states that the gross earnings were Rs. 5,07,28,036, while the working expenses were Rs.2,48,34,019 and the net earnings were Rs. 1,58,94,017. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of Rs. 5,78,521, or 1.44 per cent. in the gross earnings; an increase of Rs. 29,30,749 or 13.38 per cent. in the working expenses; and a decrease of Rs. 23,52,228, or 12.89 per cent. in the net earnings. The company's share of the surplus profits, less adjustments in respect of previous periods, amounted to Rs. 7,11,217. From this the following Indian taxes have been paid, Income tax, £Rs. 53,099; Indian supertax, Rs. 36,157—88,256; Rs. 622,961. To meet the 2nd instalment due for supertax for the year 1920-21, a further sum has also been left with the Agent in India of Rs. 22,961; balance remitted to England, Rs. 6,00,000; at exchange of 1s. 3.17-32. per rupee, realising £38,828 2s. 6d. The profits before India taxation were only Rs. 98,700 less than those of the previous year. But there was a serious fall from 2s. 1d. to 1s. 3.-17-32d. in the rate of exchange at which the amount available for remittance was brought Home, resulting in a large decrease in the sterling amount realised. The balance at credit of surplus profits account on March 31 was £134,940 19s. 6d. Since that date various sums have been received and expended, and the account as at end of October, 1921, stands at £160,544 10s. 9d. The board recommend a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making, with the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent., a total payment for the half-year ending December 31, 1921, of 4¼ per cent., less income tax. The total distribution for the year will then be 8 per cent. (4½ per cent. from surplus profits, and 3½ per cent. from guaranteed interest) as against 8 per cent. paid in the previous year. Meeting, 91, Petty France, S.W.1, November 9, 2 p.m.


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Adana.

The report for September states :—Cotton picking commenced at the beginning of the month. It is estimated that the yield of the crop will be 8,000 bales as compared with 26,000 bales last year.

The project of advances to agriculturists against mortgages appear to have been agreed to in principle by the administration in Paris of the Banque Francaise de Syrie, but the amount to be advanced has not been fixed. The local branch of the bank hopes that £T500,000 will be advanced, but the Economic Bureau believes that the amount will not be greater than £T70,000. The advances will be made for 18 months at 9 per cent. and a commission of a like amount on the total of the interest, against mortgages on lands and farms.

The high prices and the demand for cotton have encouraged agriculturists to devote themselves to the cultivation of their lands abandoned since July, 1920. Unfortunately they lack resources and it is not very probable that their efforts will be crowned with success despite the zeal displayed by the Economic Bureau.

There is a shortage of cereals here, more particularly wheat and barley, as a result of the poor harvest, and orders of some importance have already been placed at Marseilles as well as in Palestine and Cyprus.

Because of the rise in cotton in the European markets orders have come here from all parts, which has given a strong fillip to local commerce. Quoted at the commencement of the month at Ps. 180-200 per *batman* the price of cotton has fluctuated considerably, rising to Ps280 towards the middle of September, but falling to Ps.260 at the end of the month. Notable transactions have taken place for Smyrna and Salonika, which centres have purchased between five and six thousand bales at various prices. The fluctuations have been caused and maintained because of the hesitation on the part of the holders who have regretted disposing of part of their stock at Ps. 200 and Ps200.

Stamboul, October 8.

The trade movement previously recorded has slackened to a certain extent ; despatches of goods for Russia and Roumania are decreasing.

The recent depreciation of the exchange has given rise to an outburst of speculation which has caused prices to rise. These fluctuations have naturally adversely affected importers causing them to delay giving their orders.

Prices of manufactures have risen. Cabots in particular, have increased by 40 to 50 per compared with the lowest prices, and are quoted at £T9.60-9.80. Large quantities of this commodity have been here a long time and other consignments are on the way.

*Produce.*—Sugar. The fall in prices in centres of production, and the lack of business on all markets is disturbing holders. The tendency is for prices to fall. Quotations are :—American, prompt delivery : — 8.80 dollars ; Dutch, November-December, delivery, £24 per ton ; Belgian, November-December delivery, £21 per ton ; here £22 per ton in transit ; in Customs, £T25 per 100 kilos.

Rice.—The market is weaker. It has been impossible to conclude transactions owing to the fluctuations in the exchange.


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# Cotton & Cotton Goods.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Manchester, Friday.*

It has again been a very poor week throughout the market, and no initiative has been displayed by traders. It is now apparent that the increased activity which was registered a few weeks ago was but a flash in the pan, and the market is again back to a state bordering on acute depression. There is one feature, however, that is worth attention, and that is the undisputed fact that our customers abroad are in urgent need of replenishing their supplies, but how can business be done when the majority of the offers are roughly 20 per cent. out in price? Still the fact remains that goods will have to be bought, but when that will be nobody can say. The general opinion is that no real buying movement will take place until after the new year. With regard to cloth inquiry for the outlets of the Near East only a few occasional transactions in a variety of fabrics have taken place for Egypt. Buyers for the Levant and Constantinople have not been altogether idle, but sales of any weight have not been mentioned. Spinners of Egyptian yarns have been full of complaints, and prices when tested have favoured buyers. Users have only bought sparingly to meet immediate requirements. Less inquiry has been about in piece goods for India, and only a few sales have been registered chiefly in light cloths. A tentative demand has been about in standard makes for China, and isolated transactions have taken place in bleaching descriptions. Business with South America has been on a very small scale. Quotations for American counts have been irregular, and it is possible to purchase at cheaper rates than a week ago. No increased demand has been about for export numbers.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date October 27:—

The past week has shown a slight improvement on the preceding one, inasmuch as there has been an increase in sales and a certain inclination on the part of the market to steady itself. The latter may be ascribed not, unfortunately, to any increased support accorded by the trade, but to the United States Ginners' figures of 5,477,000 issued on the 25th inst. This report was regarded as somewhat "bullish." The enquiry here has dwindled to very small dimensions, although Liverpool continues a cheap market compared to Alexandria; Sakel—Fully Good Fair to Good—has formed the bulk of it. White cotton has been attracting more attention, and a small but steady enquiry for Tokar and Sudan continues. The recent fluctuating markets appear to have completely deranged the whole trade—if we are to believe all the reports we hear—and yet, in spite of this, and also a further complicated political situation in Europe, a fair, steady business takes place here week after week. The edge has been taken off speculative buying for the time being, so that what business is reported may fairly reasonably be taken as being for the trade, and a daily average of 400 to 500 bales compares not unfavourably with the higher average prevalent about a month ago, when one has allowed for the speculative buying which was included in the totals, and this, although at that time the "trade" was supposed to be buying in some strength. For those who like to compare "pre-war" figures with those current to-day, it may be of interest to note that the "takings by spinners" in Great Britain from August 1 this year are almost identical with those covering the same period of 1913!

A great deal of cotton is coming into sight in Alexandria just at present. A considerable carry-over from the old crop had been held up country in the vain hope of a rapid rise in values before the marketing of the new crop, which is now forcing this old cotton on the market. The weight of cotton is bound to oppress the market at this time of the year, unless there is an extraordinarily good demand by the trade, which there certainly is not at present. Nevertheless, we are still inclined to the opinion that before very long every bale of the present supply will be absorbed, and that Egyptian spinners will find themselves asking for more, when their qualities are extremely difficult to obtain. There had been rather more doing in purchases for forward delivery, and we expect a further increase in the near future. Manchester reports have been consistently lifeless, and yarns are still reported as being a drug in the home market. Total sales 2,200 (includes 150 bales Sudan). Quotations all round are reduced 150 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 23.00d.

## REDUCED COTTON SHIPMENTS.

The total value of the exports of manufactured articles from the United Kingdom for the nine months ended September last, according to the Government statistics, amounted to £439,879,181 which compares with £311,217,054 for the same period of 1913. Cotton manufacturers, which head the list of the 20 sections into which the figures are classified, were responsible for £129,060,572, or 29 per cent. Machinery £57,001,729, or 13 per cent., occupies the second place. Iron and Steel manufactures £47,883,248, or 11 per cent., and woollen and worsted yarn and manufactures £42,950,032, or 9½ per cent., are the next in order of importance. The amount of £129,060,572 for cotton manufactures consists of piece goods £100,045,277, yarn £15,987,327, and finished thread £6,206,761, the remaining £6,821,207 being the value of lace and plain net, flags, etc., not in the piece, and sundries.

Although cotton values so far this year are 36 per cent. higher than those of 1913 the quantities are very much smaller. In the case of cotton piece goods the reduction is from 5,350,278,900 yards to 1,866,341,100 square yards, which, after allowing for the difference between linear and square yards, is equal to 37 per cent. The weight of cotton yarn shipments in 1913 was 134,701,700 lbs., whereas this year the exports only amount to 90,592,600 lbs., a fall of 58 per cent. This reduction in quantities is not confined to cotton manufactures, but is common to the remainder of the articles in the classified list.

## MANCHESTER "SPOT" COTTON.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

Manchester, Friday.

The question of the development of the Manchester "spot" cotton market is being given additional support by both spinners and merchants. Spinners are displaying greater interest as evidenced by the enquiries being made in regard to supplies, and merchants are determined to ship increasing quantities of raw cotton direct to Manchester. At a well attended meeting of cotton merchants, members of the Manchester Cotton Association, held on Tuesday, at which Mr. F. A. Tomlinson, the President, presided, the question of bringing greater quantities of cotton to Manchester for sale on the "spot" was fully discussed. The merchants realise that the spinner will buy increasing quantities in Manchester granted there is a larger selection, and merchants—in view of the Manchester Port Authority's decision that if any importer of raw cotton direct to Manchester wishes to send a portion of it to Liverpool for tendering purposes the cotton will be carried down by the Port Authority and delivered at Liverpool free of charge—are determined to have shipped direct to Manchester larger quantities of raw cotton for sale on the "spot." Attention was again drawn to the financial saving mills effect on their Manchester "spot" purchases against Liverpool purchases. Taking a mill in Ashton the saving in forwarding and railway charges is £13 10s. 10d. per 100 bales; in Rochdale £10 5s. 2d. per 100 bales; and to a mill in Oldham, £12 11s. 9d. per 100 bales. These savings are too important to the mills to be ignored, granted that the merchants provide a good selection of the different qualities of cotton for the inspection of the spinner. The merchants present agreed to send to Mr. H. Robinson, the Secretary of the Association, particulars of cotton offerings so that any spinner desirous of being informed of the cotton being offered by merchants who have stocks in Manchester could be fully posted.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production (week ended October 21, 60 tons (last week 50 tons). Hurghada production (week ended October 21, 3,282 tons (last week 3,188 tons).

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## ON 'CHANGE.

### Markets Generally Firmer.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

London, Monday Night.

On the whole the tone of the markets has been rather better during the past week. There has been a good deal of liquidation in various directions, and the uncertainty with regard to the Irish negotiations has been an unsettling factor, but all the same a much firmer tendency is to be noted in a number of quarters than for some weeks past. It would be too much to say that we have seen the end of the depression, but present indications certainly inspire the hope that once conditions are really favourable the markets will make rapid strides towards convalescence. This belief is, of course, responsible for the investing tendency that has been in evidence during the week. There can scarcely have been a time when so many bargains awaited the buyer who has faith in his convictions, and it is surprising in the circumstances that there has not been a good deal more buying.

Gilt-edged securities have continued to show a fairly firm front. Consols are unchanged at 48,7-8, while War Loan Fives, ex-dividend, are about the same at 87½. Fundings are ½ lower at 71¼. The India 7 per cent. Loan is 104. In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 68¾, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent., 1855 are the same at 66 and 69 respectively.

**Industrials Brighter.**

The Industrial group generally has made a much better showing. Business is tending to widen, and when alterations of prices have taken place it has been in the upward direction. In Iron and Steel shares Armstrongs at 16s., and Vickers at 11s. were firm spots. Textiles were quiet, with Courtaulds showing weakness at 31s. Shipping securities have been dull. P. and O. Deferred are again five down at 335, while Furness Withy have shed 2s. at 21s. Cunards are 3d. lower at 16s.

There has been nothing of a spectacular nature in the Oil Market during the week. Broadly speaking the tendency has been for shares to appreciate, though in a few directions lower prices are to be recorded. The view is widely held that if in the main prices have not seen their lowest they have very nearly done so. Mexican Eagles after their heavy fall have recovered 1-8 to 3¼. In the Egyptian group Anglo-Egyptians have shed 1-16 at 1,3-16, while Gemsah Reefs are 5s. 6d. Among the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidated are 9d. up at 8s., Steaua Romana are 3d. down at 8s. 3d., Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 13-16, while Phoenix, after being considerably lower, close unchanged at 6s.

Bank shares have been firmer. Agricultural of Egypt 3½ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 54, but the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are ¼ up at 55½. Imperial Ottoman Banks remain at 7, but National Bank of Egypt are lower at 18¾, a drop of ¼. Bank of Athens are unchanged at 2, while Ionians are the same at 3¼. Chartered of India are 14½, National of India are 37¼, while P. and O. Banks are 11¼. Imperial of Persia are 5,1-8, and Bank of British West Africa are 4¾.

**The Rubber Outlook.**

There has been practically no movement in the market this week. Interest is now concentrated on the statistics of the stocks here. For a few weeks now consumption has tended to outpace arrivals, and if, as is anticipated, a demand from abroad develops shortly a considerable hole will soon be made in surplus stocks. But it would be well as yet to entertain no undue optimism on the subject.

Greek shares are again down on balance. The 5 per cent. 1884 Loan is one down at 33, while the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan has shed a similar amount at 33. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is unchanged at 32, but the 5 per cent. Funding Loan is one down at 33.

Pronounced weakness has developed in Land Shares. Béheras are ½ down at 9, while Béhéra Prefs have shed 1-8 at 3,1-8. Egyptian Delta Lands are 9d. down at 8s., while New Egyptians are 1s. lower at 23s. Egyptian Consolidated Lands remain at 1s. Sidi Salems are 1-8 down at 1, while Sudan Plantations at 2,15-16 are 1-16 lower. Union Foncières are unchanged at 2,7-8.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 3-8 down at 6,5-8, but Egyptian Markets are 1s. 3d. up at 20s. Egyptian Salt and Sodas are unchanged at 34s., while Morums 7 per cent. Prefs are 6s.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 24 :—

Season.—October 18 and 19—rain general in North-West Frontier Province and parts of Baluchistan and Punjab; very little elsewhere. October 22 and 23—local rain in Bay Islands, Assam, south eastern Madras and Madras Deccan.

Crops.—October 26—Bombay—crops in good condition. Central Province—October 20—rice and cotton very good to excellent; sesamum very good. Assam—October 24—rice normal to good; tea, sugarcane, cotton, normal.

Markets.—Bombay cotton market, weak. Fine M.G. Oomras December—January Rs. 485, March Rs. 470. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to October 14, 1921, 237,000 bales as compared with 79,000 bales in the same period of the last year. Bombay imported piece-goods markets showed improving tendency, specially in staple lines. Both Greys and Whites in fair demand. Calcutta jute market, October 22—steady. Hessians quiet but steady. Heavy goods very quiet. At tea sale on October 18 good selection from all districts. Quality showed decline except for a few Dooars. Prices for all grades up to 8 annas per pound showed irregular advance of 3 to 9 pies, this being most marked in leaf grades. All markets interested except Persia. Buying particularly keen for America. Special Straits quality rice—October 21—Rs. 642½. No change in bank rates.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on October 14 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4½; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7 11-32; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £13-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56½x; Behera Ord., £E 10 9-16; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 55; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 30; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £29-32; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5½; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 850; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 637½; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 341; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 81½; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 108; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 26s. 6d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature National d'Egypte, £12½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5,7-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi £5; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur £33 9-16 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37; Lots Turc., Fr., 34½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270 Nungovich Hotels, £7,1-16; Ramleh Railways, £2,5-8; Salt and Soda, 35s. 3d.; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr., 44; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 60; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £3,3-32; Egypt Hotels, £2 7-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 7-8.

## ENQUIRY BUREAU.

*Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.*

*Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."*

*ADVERTISERS in, and annual subscribers to, "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.*

*No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.*

119. Russian gentleman, age 34 years, speaking fluently English and French, offers his services to a British firm or company, with a view to becoming acquainted with any special line they intend to undertake in Russia, so as to be able to act in their interest in that country.

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111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 548—Vol XX. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Allies and Asia Minor.*

It is reported from Constantinople that the National Assembly at Angora has decided to dispatch missions to Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States to explain the Nationalist aims and conditions of peace. So long as the Allied Governments hesitate to adopt the only possible solution of the Asia Minor *impasse* the Nationalists have a right to be heard; but it would be a matter for regret if the pending arrival of these missions were used as an excuse for postponing still further a settlement of the Turkish question. The delay only aggravates the situation; the Turks may have little to lose by it, but it is gravely prejudicial to the Greeks, and is embarrassing to British interests. If Greece has to evacuate Asia Minor, she will have to be compensated for the cost of her occupation mainly by the Allies, who were responsible for sending her there in the first instance, and by their indeterminate policy subsequently failed to prevent the resumption of hostilities against Angora. When any payments are entered up against the Allies, it is generally Great Britain who has to bear the brunt. The British taxpayer, therefore, has the right to expect that the Government which has led the country into the Near Eastern muddle will lose no time in cutting its losses.

### *Devotees of the Cock-Fight.*

A strange aloofness from realities characterizes some of the discussions of the Near Eastern question. In a letter to *The Times* Mr. Pember Reeves, chairman of the Anglo-Hellenic League, approaches the subject much as if he were urging the claims of a favourite bird to be allowed to finish a cock-fight. "To me," he writes, "it seems at least arguable to suggest that if the Greeks care to make the necessary sacrifices, they are well able to hold, not only Ionia, but a good deal more." And we are assured that Greece is by no means at the end of her resources. The game-cock apparently should be allowed to continue the fight until there is nothing left of it but the spurs. Greece, who had to admit control of her foreign debt before the Great War is urged to plunge yet further—into bankruptcy; she has already incurred to no purpose in Asia Minor 25,000 or more casualties on the top of her previous sacrifices and is to be encouraged to throw away yet more lives in the pursuit of an Anatolian will-o'-the-wisp. Mr. Reeves would seem to want Greece to occupy "a good deal more" of Asia Minor to save a considerable percentage of the Greek race from their fate "in an arrogant and triumphant Turkey dominated by Mustapha Kemal." But there are comparatively few Greeks in the territory occupied by the Greek army beyond the Smyrna district; and if the Turks are minded to kill Greeks resident in Turkey, Greece can bring no more influence to bear upon their evil intentions from Eskishehir than she could from Athens. The presence of her army on the Sakaria River did not save the Pontus Greeks. On the other hand, those same Greeks, as far as is known, were left to themselves, to trade and reside on Turkish soil, unharmed, until Greece declared war on Turkey.

### *Ending or Mending Turkey.*

If it were a feasible proposition that Turkey should be wiped off the map or the Turks deprived of their independence, it could be urged that Turkish crimes in the past had merited the punishment. But it is not a feasible proposition, and to place under Greek jurisdiction a certain number of Turks who would never have entered it of their own accord is neither a settlement of the Near Eastern question nor a means to the end which all desire, the safety of non-Moslem minorities in Turkey. As Turkey must remain a separate country and the Turks an independent nation, the only alternative is to protect the minorities by other means. The first steps in this direction have already been taken. The Ottoman Empire has been reduced to reasonable proportions and is no longer exposed to the menace of internal disruption that threatened incompetent rulers in the face of compact aggregations of alien peoples. Terrorism was the only method of rule known to the former Turkey; the Young Turks as a whole may not as yet have proved themselves to be much better, but they will have no incentive to practise this form of government, if the territorial integrity of the new Turkey is guaranteed by the League of Nations and if the Turkish Government is freed from international intrigue. The old Turkey has been fighting with her back to the wall continuously for eleven years; given her backward state, is it to be wondered at that she has indulged in the mediaeval practice of massacre? She claims to-day that she knows how to behave better, if she is not driven to desperation. She must be given the chance to prove the truth or untruth of her contention. The only policy that the Allies have sought to adopt is to continue to drive her to desperation. There will be no peace until it has been abandoned unreservedly. Turks of the mainland, for the most part, will not remain under Greek rule; either

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they withdraw or they fight. Greeks on the other hand have in the past placed themselves voluntarily under Turkish jurisdiction, and in all probability will continue to do so, whether the Turks are driven into Central Asia or are transported to Central Africa. In the case of territories held by the Turks for five hundred years this national trading instinct of the Greek cannot be made a reason for dispossessing the Turk of his "homelands," at the very moment when the spirit of nationality has been made a guiding principle for the world. The solution of the Near Eastern question entailed in the withdrawal of Greek rule from Asia Minor is not prompted by any desire to whitewash the Turk nor by ignorance of his past record; it is put forward because it alone seems to offer a solution where all other suggestions have either failed to effect a settlement or make no pretence of aiming at one.

### *Serbia and Albania.*

It is to be feared that the success that attended the efforts of the Serbian military party in the forcible absorption of Montenegro has emboldened the same people to adopt similar tactics towards Albania. There would seem to be no other explanation of the recent course of events on the Serbo-Albanian frontier, for it is incomprehensible that an Allied Government, if it were capable of controlling the party in question, should expose itself to the damaging rebuke administered by the Conference of Ambassadors. Speaking in reply to a question in the House of Commons the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs stated that information had reached His Majesty's Government that Yugoslav forces have advanced into Albanian territory in the direction of Louria (Lioura). "This aggression," he added, "which, so far as our information goes, is entirely unjustified and unprovoked, has induced the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris to address to the Serb-Croat-Slovene Government the strongest remonstrances." There is reason to suppose that in Croatia and Slovenia Serbian action against Albania is viewed with considerable misgivings. One effect is bound to be to discount in advance the frequent allegations emanating from Belgrade of aggression on the part of Yugoslavia's neighbours, but it is also liable to intensify the new State's domestic difficulties.

### *The Egyptian Negotiations.*

The Egyptian negotiations are undoubtedly making substantial progress, though the anticipation, expressed ten days ago in usually well-informed quarters, that they would be completed within a week has been falsified. Adly Pasha had an interview with Mr. Lloyd George on November 2, and one of the great aims of himself and his associates has thus been secured; for it is no secret that they believe that they will be able to accomplish more with the Prime Minister than with the Foreign Office. Whether the Cabinet will have discussed the question formally by the time these lines are in print it is impossible to say; but whenever such discussion takes place, it is to be hoped that it will be unhurried and full, and that there will afterwards be no conflicting expressions of opinion or contradictory statements by members of the Government. It is possible that when the subject comes up for discussion in the House of Commons questions may be put regarding the declaration made by Mr. Balfour on November 17, 1919; and by then, we may hope, the Government will have its policy, on this subject at least, clearly defined. It hardly looks to-day as if the maintenance of British supremacy in Egypt is one of the 'cardinal principles' of his Majesty's Government.

### *Zaghloul Pasha Rebuked.*

For the moment, at any rate, Zaghloul Pasha's popularity seems to be in danger of eclipse. His recent tour in the South was a complete failure—and whatever the explanation may be, it shows that his power over the masses is not nearly as complete as it was represented—and now a majority of the members of the Legislative Assembly have administered a snub which he can hardly ignore. They accuse him bluntly of political blundering since his return from Europe; and declare their belief that the Official Delegation serves the best interests of Egypt. In a word, it looks as though the signatories of the letter in which these opinions are embodied have at last sized Zaghloul up as a demagogue. To outsiders the discovery may appear a somewhat belated one, but for all that it is a hopeful sign; and the letter referred to should strengthen considerably the position of Adly Pasha and his colleagues.

### *The Sudan.*

The Sudan Government announces that Abdullahi, the leader of the recent rising at Nyala, in Southern Darfur, has been tried and found guilty of waging war against the Government and inciting to murder, and that he was hanged at Nyala on October 28. This was clearly a case where prompt action was fully justified, and the Sudan may be congratulated on having got rid of an adventurer who might, if left at large, have been able to stir up very serious trouble. Somewhat disturbing rumours have been current lately about the risk of disturbances in the Sudan, and only the other day the London afternoon papers were giving prominence to reports of a great rising—which appear to have been due to an account of the Nyala disturbance finding its way to Paris about a fortnight or three weeks after the event. It is, therefore, all the more satisfactory to be assured from the best source that 'the disloyal element in the Nyala district does not appear to be large.' The Governor of Darfur has called on Abdullahi's accomplices to surrender, failing which punitive measures will be taken; but the assessment of taxes on the harvest is proceeding normally, which is an encouraging sign; and we may hope that there will no call for any punitive operations.

### *The Situation in India.*

Optimists and pessimists alike have been watching the cables from India without finding what they expected. The former hoped to read of definite progress in the suppression of the Moplah rebellion, but up to the time of writing their hopes have remained unsatisfied, and indeed a message published early in last week suggested a horrible extension of disorder, a prediction which happily has not been confirmed. The pessimists on the other hand were apprehensive of serious trouble in connection with the trial of the Moslem agitators at Karachi, but the report of the sentences of two years' imprisonment passed on the leaders has been followed by no news of disturbances either at the scene of the trial or elsewhere, and this fact may possibly be symptomatic of a change in the attitude of the urban masses such as some observers have predicted for this autumn. As for the Moplahs, we can see no reason to dissent from the view recently put forward with some degree of authority

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that, supposing all goes well, the trouble ought to be over by Christmas, but not much earlier.

*Provincial Finance.*

There are signs that the financial arrangements concluded between the India Government and the various provinces are not going to work out just as was intended. To begin with, Bengal has pleaded bankruptcy or something like it, and has been relieved of its liability to contribute to Central funds. Then Bombay, headed by its Governor, is asking for help to finance the great scheme of irrigation in Sind; and no one who knows India will doubt that other claimants for relief will presently come forward. But the Central surplus has already vanished, a deficit is probable for next year, and consequently the boon to Bengal, and any others that may be given, must come out of new taxation imposed on the whole of India. That, as we understand, is precisely what the framers of the Constitution did not intend. Their idea was that, existing revenues being once allocated, each province must finance itself, and impose fresh taxes in the event of more money being required; and responsible government would become a reality only when a provincial council had faced the electorate which it had previously taxed. "Instead of which," the provinces want to be subsidised from taxes imposed by the Central Government, where responsibility, at least in the technical sense, does not yet exist.

*The Basic Problem.*

We have the utmost sympathy with the provinces in this matter. Bengal is now beginning to realise the true meaning of the Permanent Settlement, one of the three or four first-class blunders to the debit of English administrators of the past, which transferred to a few landholders the revenue she needs so much to-day. The Indus irrigation scheme is almost too big for a province of the size of Bombay, and it is beside the point to urge the example of the United Provinces, which are boldly facing the smaller, though enormous, Sarda project, and, we are glad to see, have successfully floated their first provincial loan. The truth is that every single province is desperately poor, when its resources are placed alongside of its needs, and in the long run it will make no financial difference whether taxation is spread out or localised. The provinces and the Central Government alike have to face the basic fact that, until the taxable capacity of the country is largely increased, there will not be enough money to go round; and the clamour for more subsidies which we expect to hear this winter will not be wholly unprofitable if it helps towards a more practical realisation of this unpalatable truth.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening.*

**The Irish Conference.**

The Conference in Downing Street continues, but unfortunately it has not reached a position in which success is assured. For that reason Mr. Lloyd George was compelled to cancel his berth in the *Aquitania*, and postpone his trip to Washington. It is still hoped that he may attend the later meetings, but the condition of the Irish negotiations was critical two or three times during last week, and while matters were better at the week-end, they may easily become critical again.

The Conference seems at this moment to have left the question of allegiance, which Mr. de Valera's telegram to the Vatican raised in an acute form; and the negotiations are understood to be concerned with the countries of Tyrone and Fermanagh—in other words, the old Ulster v. Rest of Ireland controversy, with its sectarian as well as religious flavour, of which we are most of us heartily sick. According to maps published in the *Daily News*, which is faithful to the Sinn Fein cause, the latter claim and hope to get a good deal more of Ulster than those two counties; indeed, it would be a very attenuated province if Sinn Fein had its way. The suggestion made is a series of plebiscites in the different areas, in some of which Sinn Fein has a majority, while in others the Unionists hold the advantage. It is obvious that this would split Ulster into a series of divided communities, and would make its Government impossible; it is self-determination reduced to an absurdity. Possibly that is the intention of the Sinn Feiners. The Radical papers meanwhile entreat Ulster to be generous and to compromise; it is to be noted they do not address similar appeals to Sinn Fein, which seems once again to be committing "the fault of the Dutch," giving too little and asking too much.

**The Die-Hard Debate.**

It was some feeling of this kind that induced a small group of recalcitrant and extremist Unionists to propose a vote of censure on the Government last week. They had no notable leaders, and they argued their case with more conviction than ability. Mr. Lloyd George easily disposed of them, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain buried the slain.

But the affair is by no means finished. The *Morning Post* congratulated the revolters on making a stand for conscience' sake—conscience being what the *Morning Post* approves of; the rebels, after being killed by oratory, have come to life again, and it is evident that they have a good deal of sympathy from other Unionists, if not active support. Their next move appears to be to make an attack on the India Office and Mr. Montagu; and they are watching critically the attitude of the Home Office in the *affaire* Basil Thompson.

**A Breach in the Coalition Walls.**

It is too soon to say, as some partisan papers on both sides of politics say, that this means the beginning of the end, and the break-up of the Coalition; the wish is father to the thought, no doubt, but the Coalition has still a good deal of vitality. The industrial interests, as distinguished from the political interests, are strong for its continuance, as was witnessed by a circular of the British Commonwealth Union, an industrial organisation which has many nominees in Parliament, appealing to members to continue to support the Government. The fact is that the great industrial interests see clearly that the real alternative to the Coalition is a Labour Government, and they are terrified at the prospect—much more so than the ordinary citizen, or even the Die-Hard Tory.

The weakness of the Die-Hards, on the other hand

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is that they are *au fond* reactionaries, and they do not carry with them the younger and more progressive Tories — the school of constructive Conservatism— whom they are inclined to dub privately as Socialists. These latter are slowly working out a programme of social reform of their own, but their weakness is that they have no powerful organ in the Press. They will, however, count for more and more in Parliament as time goes on, and they, with a Liberal sprinkling, may become the true heir of the Coalition. The big business interests are not really popular on either side of the House.

**Scotland Yard.**

The resignation of Sir Basil Thompson of his post at Scotland Yard caused a great deal of excitement. For the past two or three years he has been in charge of a special detective department whose business it was to probe the work of Bolshevist and other spies and similar unsavoury gentry. The *Daily Herald*, our own Bolshevist organ, hated him, and with some reason, for it was he who exposed those curious financial arrangements of the *Herald* with the Bolshevists.

The Labour Party also seems to have objected to him, and both are triumphant at his departure. The Government story is that he worked badly with his chief at Scotland Yard—that is, independently—and that when that department came to be reorganised, he resigned. It is not a very convincing reply, but it holds the field until Sir Basil, who wields a trenchant pen, chooses to answer. There is no question that he was a very able man, and his work was very efficiently done ; and there are those who do not scruple to say that he, like General Dyer, was sacrificed for ulterior considerations. We shall probably hear a good deal more of this business.

**A New Industry.**

The political chronicle this week seems to suggest that England is full of nothing but discord. But as a matter of fact construction as well as destruction goes on all the time. A few days ago the new Sugar-Beet Factory in Nottinghamshire was opened, and we shall soon be eating our own sugar. The British beet has been remarkably successful in this its first year of growth, and to contain a rather higher percentage of sugar than its continental rival ; its use as a cleaning crop in agriculture is well known, and the new industry has the further advantage of providing rural employment in the winter, when it is most wanted.

The Government has taken a share in the factory, which has been built by Frenchmen, and it is hoped that this will prove the precursor of others in various parts of the country. This new industry is a direct legacy of the shortage of sugar from which we all suffered during the war.

**The Ethics of Suicide.**

While Labour leaders are talking about the Right to Live, the "gloomy Dean" of St. Paul's thinks it time to enliven the world by a few remarks on the Right to Die. An article by him on the ethics of suicide in a recent *Evening Standard* seems to have provoked a mild sensation. He appears to think that there is something to be said for doctors' putting their patients out of the way—to which, I take it, the answer is that they sometimes kill them already without meaning to. But in the main the critics have fastened on the following sentences : "I think a revolver or cup of poison should be placed in the cell of every condemned criminal. We get rid of our worst malefactors for the same reason that we shoot mad dogs ; we have no right to humiliate them unnecessarily." The Dean is too much of a pessimist for my fancy ; but all the same, if he wrote a treatise on ethics, I think it would be more stimulating than most of the dreary discussions that are at present accepted as moral philosophy.

**The Week's Books,**

"The Ideas of Einstein's Theory" (Methuen), by Professor J. H. Thirring, is an attempt to explain the celebrated hypothesis of relativity without mathematics —in other words, Einstein without tears. It is rather a *tour de force*, but within the limits possible I am bound to admit that the author succeeds.

"Europe—Whither Bound?" (Thornton Butterworth) is a series of impressions and sketches of the post-war Continent by Mr. Stephen Graham, whose first love, Russia, has rather deserted him. These pages are brilliant journalism ; not more. Mr. Graham must beware of writing too much. By that sin fell H. G. Wells ; and others may fall farther and fare worse.

"Keir Hardie" (Cassell) whose life has been written by William Stewart, was not an ingratiating person to talk to—a rather dour individual, whose dourness was often mistaken for sullenness. But he was the first Labour Member, and consequently has an importance in history which he would not otherwise have possessed. The beginning of his career as an agitator is instructive. He was a coal-miner, and half way down the shaft the cage stoppped and then ascended. On reaching the surface he was faced by the stormy-faced manager, who told him to get off the Company's grounds, and his tools should be sent home. "We'll hae nae damned Hardies in this pit," and he was as good as his word, for the two younger brothers were also excommunicated.

A very different person was "Viscount Rhondda" (Longmans) whose life has been written by his daughter and others. He will be best remembered as Food Controller. When he found that the orders against hoarding were being disobeyed, he set the law in motion without regard to class or position. Quite a number of the hoarders were well-known people, one of them an M.P., and both social and political pressure was brought to bear on him to spare them the ignominy of prosecution. His answer was peremptory—if there was to be any interference with the prosecutions, any shielding of offenders in high positions, he would throw up the Ministry and let the public know the reason. Incidentally this book recalls the story of the most ambiguous newspaper placard on record : Rhondda, who was then D. A. Thomas, was on the "Lusitania" when she was sunk by the Germans, and was one of those who were saved. A newspaper came out with the placard : 'Great National Disaster : D. A. Thomas Saved.' That is almost as bad as 'Flight of Mr. Balfour,' when that eminent statesman made his first trip in an aeroplane.

"The Defence of Terrorism," by Trotsky (Labour Publishing Co.) explains itself. Again one quotation will suffice. "As for us, we were never concerned with the Quaker—vegetarian prattle about the sacredness of human life, for this problem can be solved only by blood and iron."

OCELLUS.

## A PORTRAIT OF LORD ALLENBY.

A fund has been opened for the purchase of a portrait of Lord Allenby for presentation to Mrs. Allenby, his mother, as a mark of admiration for his work in Palestine and Egypt. Originally it was intended that the picture should be presented to the Field-Marshal himself, but he asked that it should be given to his mother, who is 90 years of age, and that it should become a family heirloom. The portrait, by Tennyson Cole, is a replica of that painted by him for the Turf Club, Cairo. It is on view for a week at the Mendoza Galleries at Selfridge's. Lieutenant General Sir Philip Chetwode, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Bultin, Major-General Sir Steuart Hare, Colonel W. H. Bartholomew, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Dalmeny, who served in Palestine and Egypt under Lord Allenby, are the members of the presentation committee, which will appreciate small subscriptions from N.C.O.'S and men who served under Lord Allenby as much as larger sums. It is hoped to raise £500, and to make the presentation to Mrs. Allenby during the next few weeks. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to "The Allenby Portrait Fund," and sent to the honorary secretary, 4, Cecil House, Marylebone High-street, W.1., or direct to Messrs. Barclay's Bank, Covent Garden branch.

## THE P.E.F. 'QUARTERLY.'

The October *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains two short reports on the work at Askalon, by Professor John Garstang and Mr. W. J. Phythian-Adams ; "Notes on Recent Discoveries," by Mr. Gerald M. Fitz-Gerald "Some Alleged Palestinian Pyxes," by the Rev. Père Ronzevalle; and "Pre-Philistine Inhabitants of Palestine," by Mr. Phythian-Adams. It is pleasing to note that the work at Askalon promises to be productive of very valuable results, and that it is evidently being conducted on thoroughly sound lines. Generous support is necessary if the work is to be carried on without delay and in such a way as to hold its own with excavations being conducted or to be undertaken in the near future by excavators of other nations.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, October 23.*

**Stormy Petrels.**

For the past week Egypt has had its miniature storm in a tea-cup—but a storm that left clouds on the horizon each fresh day. Zaghloul Pasha, with the members of his *Wafd*, has been touring the Nile between the provinces of Upper Egypt; but everything has not gone according to plan. Unfortunately for Zaghloul as the leader of a political party in Egypt, he is an old man—63 years of age, which is very old for the Orient. Also, he is surrounded by a knot of men who all have their own axes to grind. Some are men without the luxury they once possessed; others cherish resentment for things done to them in connection with the riots in the spring of 1919; others have had hopes of decorations disappointed, and are antagonistic to the Government in consequence; and yet others are place-seekers. You could count on the fingers of your two hands the number of his satellites who have the good of Egypt first and foremost at heart. As this is the case, those who are around and about him seek above all things to curry favour with him. They tell him what they think he wants to be told. They purposely delude him into seeing things through one eye—the eye of the Zaghloulist. They told him that the people of Upper Egypt were devoted to him, and that it would be a good idea to visit these people: let them see him, and by exhortation let him bind them securely to his cause. Never was advice more insincerely given, or more misleading.

It is perfectly true that the position of Zaghloul appeals to the fellahin. Is he not the man who is going to get them complete independence—complete independence mainly being the elimination of that strict disciplinarian the British inspector, who refuses to allow the poor cultivators to take their water when they want it? But in Upper Egypt there are also local notables, who are, in numerous cases, not enamoured of the Pasha. But the advisers of Zaghloul made no mention of this fact. Nor, apparently, did they see fit to mention that the present time was not opportnne for the attempt to stir up strong partisan feeling. With a typical Oriental weakness for evading the main issue, they blinded themselves and their leader to the main fact: that the Official Delegation is doing its best in London to get the country as much political freedom as possible, and that to embarrass that Delegation is to embarrass Egypt in her struggle for emancipation. These facts might displease the Pasha; therefore he must not be told about them. Rather must he be encouraged to make a sort of electioneering tour in the South. He has gone. The daily papers have told the result: determined opposition, the decision to kill Zaghloul if he landed—I am quoting an official report—clashes between the respective partisans, and finally an expensive effort by the Government to maintain the peace.

**The Position of Zaghloul.**

It is too early to say what the final result of the tour will be. Zaghloul and his party have yet to return down the Nile, and though as I write he is safe somewhere down south past Luxor, it is impossible to say what will happen on his return journey. Feeling against him is running high; and the Government is determined to maintain order. Meanwhile, he is doing his best to discredit the administration. He believes, or says he believes, that the British Government is instigating the Adly Cabinet to the Machiavellian tactics of arranging artificial opposition in order to impress the world. There again is the trace of what he has been told. Official circles, in possession of all the facts, state that they have not only protected the public at large, but that they have actually protected the lives of Zaghloul and his party, and the steamer as well. Zaghloul's reply is to rave against the Government and their agents. The next decisive stage in Zaghloul's political career will be reached on the conclusion of the negotiations. If they are successful, the old man, ill and weary as he is now, will be deserted because he will be practically powerless, and the lower classes will follow docilely their favourite captains.

The main news about the negotiations now is that they are on the verge of completion. I know not what has been responsible for the change, but I find among the majority of Egyptians and foreigners in Egypt a strong belief that success will be won, that a treaty acceptable to both parties will be made, and that Egypt will enter upon another era. A fortnight ago pessimism was in the air. To-day there is hopeful expectation. Reports from London state that the three thorniest questions, the position of the British forces in Egypt, the right of Egypt to make independent treaties with foreign powers, and authority over the Sudan as far as it refers to riparian rights, are being considered in detail, and that there is every hope of a satisfactory compromise on all three. *In'shallah!*

**Lord Allenby and Egypt.**

The rumour published in a London daily that Lord Allenby, the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Egypt and the Special High Commissioner, was about to change his post has caused considerable interest locally. Its official denial was by no means unexpected, for though Lord Allenby would doubtless be glad to get away from Egypt, since he is a soldier and not a diplomat, it is apparent that the British Government would not transfer him at this juncture, when Egypt is about to enter upon a delicate period, and when Lord Allenby's experience of the country and his prestige are invaluable factors. The same sort of rumour cropped up about this time last year. According to the latest news, the High Commissioner will be back in Egypt within the next few days, and the Residency is already preparing to return to Cairo to have everything ready for his arrival. The Ministry also will probably return to Cairo in the very near future.

**The Tourist Season.**

Fears have been expressed lately that the events in Upper Egypt would adversely affect the coming tourist season. It would be a thousand pities if those localised events were taken to indicate a spirit of unrest throughout the country: they have meant nothing of the sort, the excitement has always been momentary and localised. That the country is expectant concerning the fate of the London pourparlers is perfectly true; but beyond that hopeful expectancy, and a certain hostility to Zaghloul, who is looked upon as jeopardising the hope of an acceptable treaty, there is no reason whatever to believe that the country is not safe for the most timid tourist. Perusal of the guest-book at Shepheard's leads one to believe that the season has already begun. Those in residence at that famous hostelry include Prince and Princess Adil Ben Ayad, Prince and Princess Djemalledine—the bridegroom and bride—Prince Aly

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Fazel, Prince Abbas Ibrahim Halim, Prince Djemil Tossoun, General Chamberlain, Youssef Sadek Pasha, and Mr. S. Vallin, the Diplomatic Agent for Spain. Other prominent social lights are booked to arrive both at Shepheard's and the Continental during the next week or two, and probably there will be a big influx during the first week in November, when the Renown, with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales aboard, will pass through Egyptian waters.

*Cairo, October 28.*

**"Negotiations" Rumours.**

As far as facts are concerned, there is little fresh to report this week. The feeling of expectation referred to in last week's letter has been intensified by reports from London that the end of the negotiations was drawing near. Reuter's Agency, usually well-informed on matters of State, sent a couple of optimistic messages earlier in the week, the gist of which was that the Foreign Office and the Egyptian Delegation, under Adly Pasha, had agreed upon the basic principles of the treaty between England and Egypt, but that there was some difficulty in drafting the agreement in accordance with the views of both sides. Then, this morning, came another apparently inspired message from Reuter's London office, stating that an immediate agreement was not likely, that there were still difficulties to be encountered, but that there was every possibility of agreement ultimately. There has not been time for this latest news to have had any effect on the minds of the native politicians, but in all probability it will cause a distinct reversal of the feeling of hope, and in place of the late cordiality there will come a sullenness which will doubtless be reflected in the native Press.

If this assumption be correct, it will be the natural sequel to the policy of silence which both parties to the negotiations have followed. In the absence of official news, all sorts of rumours have been in the air. Most of them obviously have been inspired by the wish that is father to the thought, but their effect has been, as I explained last week, to induce a general belief in the willingness of the British Government to concede the three main demands:—(1) the disposition of the British troops beyond the Suez Canal; (2) the right of Egypt to make treaties with other nations; and (3) the guarantee of Egypt's rights in the Sudan in connection with the waters of the Nile.

There have been, however, other rumours of an entirely different nature, one of which was that the negotiations would fail because of the refusal of the British Government to take its troops out of the country. It was alleged that the British Government would then issue an Order in Council declaring Egypt to be independent; withdraw all British Advisers; allow Egypt the right to dismiss all her British officials subject to the payment of adequate compensation; and, finally, would concentrate her troops in some zone near the coast, which would be declared to be no longer Egyptian territory. The troops then would be, legally and technically, outside Egypt, but would be at hand in case they were needed to quell serious disorders.

**Government Supporters Uneasy.**

This latest rumour, which appears to have some possible foundation in truth, since it was supposed to emanate from a reliable source, greatly intrigued the notables who are supporting the Government. They flatly refused to believe it, stating that their information was to the effect that an agreement was most likely. To-day's news, however, is causing them to ponder seriously. They have risked much on the venture headed by Adly Pasha in London, and now that the end is looming near, and a semi-official announcement states that there are still "difficulties in the way," they are reconsidering their positions. It is an ominous portent, since they are the backbone of the Cabinet; and if their sudden distrust of the British Government grows, it will be strong enough to cause a defection from the Cabinet which would leave the Ministry in a highly embarrassing position.

Zaghloul, for the time being, is out of the public eye. He is due back in Cairo next Sunday, and demonstrations for and against him were being arranged; but the Cabinet has prohibited both, on the grounds that any excitement may react against the public security.

**A "Nile Projects" Echo.**

Colonel Ralston Kennedy, who was charged in conjunction with Sir William Willcocks with having criminally libelled Sir Murdoch MacDonald and having published seditious matter, is again attracting attention to himself. It will be recalled that when the trial came on Colonel Kennedy became ill, and Sir William Willcocks was tried alone. Colonel Kennedy did not recover his health quickly, and during his convalescence the prosecution entered a *nolle prosequi*. Recently, however, Colonel Kennedy has felt better, and some time ago he sent a letter dealing with the famous Nile Projects to an eminent citizen in Cairo, who replied that, as he was not a technical man, he was afraid that he could not understand the various technical arguments embodied in the communication. Colonel Kennedy sent him another letter, a copy of which he forwarded to the *Egyptian Mail* in Cairo. That journal, however, refused to publish the letter in detail, merely giving a more or less innocuous extract from it. It is thought possible that Colonel Kennedy may be regarded by the authorities as provocative.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, October 31.*

**Yugoslavia, Albania, and Hungary.**

Public opinion here has been very unfavourably impressed with the attitude of the Big Entente. Italy, it is understood, is virtually an open enemy. By the arrangement at Venice, she favoured Hungary's designs in the Burgenland, and now is wriggling to show an attitude consistent with that of the Great Powers. But the pro-Hungarianism of France and England has caused considerable disappointment. It is realised out here that in the west of Europe the true character of the Magyars is not known, that their word is taken at its face value, and that confidence is felt in Horthy; this is compared with the naive confidence of Britain, France and even of Russia in Bulgaria in 1915. Britain's reputation for diplomacy has never been high in Balkan countries—at least since she allowed Germany to replace her at Constantinople. Moreover, she is financially interested in Hungary, and, after all, business is business—which also accounts for British support of Italy in her equivocal intrigues in Albania, where we are credited with having secured an oil and a tobacco monopoly. Such, in brief, is the Yugoslavs' reading of the affair. We notoriously fail to see their point of view, which is very simple. As to the Hungarian question, they know the Magyars, having been their neighbours for so many centuries, and can pierce the outer skin of Europeanism in which they have clothed themselves. They have to live next to them, and must settle their relations once and for ever. They have fought all through the war to rid themselves of the Hapsburg menace and cannot now tolerate that a Hapsburg should again reign at Budapest. They maintain that the Big Entente is dilatory, incompetent, as is shown by its record in Fiume, Vilna and Silesia, undecided and biassed. The Little Entente, on the other hand, is directly interested in the most vital manner, is determined, knows its own mind, and has the will and power to get what it wants. The Big Entente Note is, therefore, looked upon as interference in their most vital interests and consequently, acknowledged, and the Little Entente will act as it thinks fit.

**The Unity of Yugoslavia.**

The Hungarian menace has had one good side, in that it has united the warring parties. There are indeed vague rumours of plots and intrigues in the Hapsburg interest, on the part of agents here in touch with Lehar, the Croatian Legion in Hungary, Gagliardi at Graz, and the Frankovist element in Austria, who have succeeded in keeping some of their myrmidons at large in the country. But had these discontented Hapsburgites had any following at all in the country, they would have

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shown their heads, and the best proof of their ineptitude and real insignificance is the success of the mobilisation, and the patriotic action of the Narodny Club and of Raditch, which must have grievously disappointed interested parties across the frontier, who imagined that their dislike of the Serbs was greater than their hatred of the Hapsburgs.

**Changes in the Orient Express.**

It is reported that there is a probability that the Simplon-Orient Express will no longer run through Yugoslavia. The papers which give this piece of "news" are evidently of that sort known nowadays as "tendencious," for they go so far as to say that a Commission is sitting in Paris to settle the question on the grounds that the headquarters of the Wagons-Lits Co., have received so many complaints about the roughness and incivility of the Yugoslav frontier officials that they have decided to give the country a wide berth in the interests of through-travellers for Bucharest and Constantinople. This might effect Zagreb, for the Orient Express is a post-war luxury here, and it might return to its old route through Vienna and Budapest, but even the pre-war Orient, after Budapest, ran through Belgrade, having an objection to swimming or jumping the Danube, for there is no bridge below Belgrade. At the same time a much more respectable paper, the *Trgovinski Glasnik*, or Commercial Messenger, of Belgrade one of the best papers in the country, states that arrangements are being made to avoid the necessity of crossing a corner of Hungarian territory between Vinkovce and Bucharest, which will avoid a certain amount of delay. Temporarily, it will make things worse, as the train will have to run a few kilometres on a local branch line, and until that is made fit for heavy traffic, there will be no advantage, even rather the reverse.

**A Suggestion.**

A Zagreb comic paper, *Petskalo*, has suggested that Yugoslavia and Britain should exchange Prime Ministers. In both countries there are plenty of people who do not regard their Prime Minister as a demigod, and both sides should be pleased if M. Pashitch were sent to clear up the Irish Question, and Mr. Lloyd George came out here, to secure by his blandishments Fiume and Skadar for Yugoslavia.

*Zagreb, November 2.*

**The Return of the King.**

It was a great relief to everybody when the King returned, for important events are in the air, and his advisers have been sharply criticised for allowing His Majesty to stay so long abroad. The anomalous result of his long absence is that he has not taken the oath to the Constitution within the prescribed period. It is anticipated that he will take the oath immediately after visiting his father's tomb, and that the ceremony will be carried out in state.

**The Big Entente and Hungary.**

Considerable relief is felt that the Big Entente have taken a stronger line with regard to Hungary, and have adopted what is virtually the point of view of the Little Entente, although it is believed that the motive of the Allies was to steal the thunder of the Little Entente, partly to avoid being compelled to swallow a *fait accompli* and partly out of tender feeling for Hungary. For the Magyars will find it less undignified to comply with the demands of the Big than of the Little Entente.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, October 27.*

**Roumania and the Hungarian Coup.**

The return of the ex-King Charles to Hungary is considered here as an attempted violation on the part of the Hungarians of the Treaty of Trianon. This *coup d'état* is believed to have as a main aim the overthrow of the present *régime*, not only in Hungary but also in Austria, in order to bring about the re-integration of the former Hapsburg Empire. It is not thought that Admiral Horthy is an accomplice, but it is feared that he is not strong enough to resist alone successfully. Any change in Hungary, such as that aimed at, would be unacceptable to Roumania, and there is complete understanding between Roumania and the other Little Entente States regarding the measures to be taken to prevent the recurrence of a similar attempt.

**Birth of a Prince.**

On Tuesday, October 25, Princess Helen, Crown Princess of Roumania, gave birth to a son. The newly-born prince will be called Michael, which name was taken from a former Roumanian ruler, Michael the Brave, who in the 17th century held under his sway for a short period a territory equal to Greater Roumania.

**General News.**

M. Fitcheff, the new Bulgarian Minister at Bucharest, presented his credentials to the King with the usual ceremonial last Wednesday.

On Saturday at 7 a.m. an earthquake was felt at Bucharest and other parts of the country. The earthquake lasted for three seconds and had a west-east direction. No damage was caused.

Owing to the scarlet fever epidemic, which is still spreading throughout the country, the authorities have closed the schools for ten or fifteen days. The cinema theatres have also been closed.

The railway tunnel which will be built between Baia-Mare and Satu-Mare (Transylvania) will be the longest in Central Europe.

The Government is now studying the question of declaring part of Galatz a free-port for transit of goods.

Owing to the protracted drought, the water level of the Danube is continuously falling, thus greatly hindering the navigation on this river.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October 31.*

**The Assassination of M. Dimitroff.**

The murder of the Minister of War has been the only topic of conversation here during the last week. The evidence of M. Neheles, the only survivor of the party, and also that of a peasant boy who was looking after some sheep close by, has not shed much fresh light on the case. From their combined statements it appears that the Minister's car was descending a steep hill, at about 15 miles an hour, when two men hidden behind a ditch some 50 yards away, suddenly opened rapid rifle fire on the Minister and his companions. The chauffeur and M. Mareck, a Czecho-Slovakian engineer were killed instantaneously, M. Dimitroff and his nephew were wounded, whilst M. Neheles immediately jumped out of the car, and, although pursued by a third bandit, managed to escape. Not being under control, the car crashed into a telegraph pole on the right of the road, and the murderers finished off M. Dimitroff and his nephew with daggers. Then they robbed the Minister of 100,000 levas, some valuable papers which he always carried on his person, his watch, chain, etc., and made off, gaily singing the while. There were three murderers in all, two on the road and one on the hill, the role of the latter being to give the signal to his confederates when the Minister's car came in sight. So far as is known, the murderers are still at large, and all that is known of their appearance is that two were young-looking, clean-shaven men. The Government has put the task of tracing the murders into the hands of M. Vicogradsky, ex-Chief of Police, and has given the latter full powers to take any steps that he may deem necessary in order that the murderers may be caught. Up-to-date about 200 arrests have been made, and it is understood that the majority of the arrests are Macedonians.

**The State of Siege.**

The aftermath of M. Dimitroff's murder has been very unpleasant so far as the population of Sofia, Kustendil, and Petrich is concerned. A state of siege has been proclaimed in these three towns, entailing the prohibition of circulation in the streets after midnight; the shutting of hotels, restaurants, and theatres at 11 o'clock; the use of the telephone only between the hours of 8 and 11,

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and 2 and 6, and the censoring of telegrams and foreign newspapers. Whilst everyone, no matter what political party he may belong to, is agreed that the murder of M. Dimitroff was a dastardly piece of work, and trusts that the murderers will be run to earth, it is nevertheless hard to understand what the Government hopes to achieve by enforcing these measures, especially that relating to the use of the telephone.

**Speeches at the Funeral.**

M. Stambolisky made several speeches on the 26th, which was the day on which a memorial service was held for M. Dimitroff. Whilst speaking from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he said amongst other things that the Government was determined that this would be the last assassination that would take place, and that instead of the Agrarian cause being weakened by the death of M. Dimitroff, the cruel murder of one of the most stalwart pillars of their party would have the effect of making the other members of the Party redouble their energy. He also said that he attributed the murder to the efforts that M. Dimitroff had made for a *rapprochement* with Yugoslavia. This is tantamount to accusing the Macedonians of being the authors of the crime.

On the following day the body of M. Dimitroff was taken by special train from Sofia to Kesnitza, the native village of the murdered Minister. Many speeches were made on the way, but the one made by M. Stambolisky at Kustendil was the most significant. Allowing for the wrath that the Prime Minister felt at the assassination of his colleague, there was at the same time such an absence of moderation in his language that one is forced to the conclusion that the future policy of the Government is likely to be more and more directed against the bourgeois. The appointment of two new Ministers to fill the places of M.M. Dimitroff and Boteff will serve as a criterion of the policy the Government intend to pursue, and although no announcement has yet been made as to who is to be appointed, it is known that there are two factions in the Agrarian Party who are each wishful that their nominees should be chosen. No names have yet been mentioned for the Ministry of Railways, but that of M. Manoloff, acting President of the Sobranye, is talked of for the War Ministry, although in some quarters it is believed that a soldier may be nominated.

## GREECE.

*Athens, October 29.*

**The Situation in General.**

Greece may now be said to be at one of the most critical periods of her existence, and the entire Nation is anxiously awaiting the result of M. Gounaris' *démarches* in the three European capitals which he is now visiting. It is fully realised that on the result of these *démarches* will largely depend the future of Greece. Should the Greek Premier succeed in his difficult mission, Hellas may look forward to a happy, peaceful existence, recuperating after the sacrifices which she has made, living in friendly contact with her neighbours, and acting as adviser to the Great Powers on matters relating to the Near East. On the other hand, should the mission meet with failure, what will be the result? As to political and diplomatic circles it is very difficult to say; but upon the population in general, the failure of its delegates will, to a certain extent, cause bitter feeling against the Allies, and in a far larger measure against the Government.

News of the progress of the mission so far received from abroad is very meagre, and is not from an official source. The Athens papers comment bitterly on the fact that no definite information has been communicated to them on the interviews which are known to have taken place in Paris. The fact that the Delegation was not officially met on arrival in Paris is commented upon; and in spite of the usual optimism prevailing in Government circles, little success is looked for in the French capital.

The *Nea Imera*, a Government paper, states that the French diplomatists were apparently too absorbed in rejoicing over the Convention concluded between France and the Kemalists, to take any notice of the Greek Delegation, while the *Athenai*, an Independent paper, bitterly comments on the lack of most elementary etiquette and courtesy on the part of the French, who did not even pay an official visit to the Hellenic Delegation. It is pointed out that M. Gounaris and M. Baltazzi have not visited the French capital as private individuals, but as the official representatives of the Greek nation and this lack of courtesy deeply wounds its *amour propre*.

**Royal Interviews Denied.**

Following the report of an interview stated to have been given by the Crown Prince and Prince Nicolas to the Italian paper *Giornale d'Italia*, Prince Nicolas has published, through the Press Bureau, a formal denial, stating that no such interview has been given by him to the above or any other paper. Furthermore, the Foreign Office telegraphed to the Greek Legations at London, Paris, Washington, Berne, and Rome, also denying the alleged interview of the Crown Prince.

**A Sad Anniversary.**

On Tuesday last, the anniversary of the tragic death of the late King Alexander, a Requiem was held at the Cathedral. The Metropolitan of Athens, assisted by the members of the Holy Synod, officiated. The Council of Ministers, the Mayor of Athens, the Chiefs of the Foreign Missions to Greece, and many others were present at the ceremony. At the same time a Memorial Service was held at the Royal Chapel in Tatoi in the presence of King Constantine, the Queen, and the late king's widow, Madame Aspasia Manos.

**New Traffic Regulation.**

Following the failure of the regulation brought into force by the Prefect of Police under the Venizelist régime, to the effect that pedestrians should keep to the right on the main thoroughfares to the capital, a new order has recently been issued by which no pedestrians are allowed to walk in the roadway, unless to cross the road, this being reserved exclusively for vehicular

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traffic, which has increased considerably of late. The number of motor-cars at present at Athens exceeds 4,000, and averages one for every 75 inhabitants!

**A Census of Smyrna.**

The High Commissioner of Smyrna has just created a Statistics Department under Monsieur Drosopoulos. As soon as this Department is in working order, a census of the population and employment of Smyrna and district will be taken.

## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, November* 3.

**The Eastern Frontier.**

Difficulties are still far from being solved. A week ago an important skirmish took place on the Drin, involving severe losses both to the Albanians and to the Serbs, but these latter are more numerous and better equipped. The Serbian objective is Louria, a point of the highest strategic importance, commanding all the positions over Mirdita and Mati. A Russian soldier recently in General Wrangel's army, who has been taken prisoner (he is twenty-five years of age and comes from Teoriski) states that the Serbs directed against Albania four Russian regiments, each of six squadrons, and each squadron consisting of about one hundred and twenty men. The prisoner's regiment is commanded by Colonel Bajdokoff.

**Serbian Irregularities.**

Apart from the doings of the Regular Serbian Army, the Serbian Government is reported to be committing unwarrantable acts. For example, Commandant Miro Martinovitch has been instructed to recruit *komitajis*; six million dinars have been placed at his disposal, and he himself has promised to each of his men, if they succeed in entering Scutari, a reward of two thousand five hundred dinars.

The population of the regions invaded by the Serbs are fleeing to the West (Scutari, Tirana, Elbasan). Their condition is precarious, and epidemics are feared. The delegate of the International Red Cross of Geneva, M. Marcuard, who visited the refugees of the districts devastated by the Serbs last year, has stated that 10,000 of them have died from sickness and starvation. The present exodus will be still more appalling.

**Belgrade Against Tirana.**

I learn that Belgrade denies the attacks upon Albania, and that M. Pashitch has pretended at Paris that the Serbs have only been defending themselves against Albanian aggression. This argument is on a par with that of the armed burglar who, when found in somebody's bedroom, states that he is there in self-defence. Before the Serbian denial, the Albanian Government had asked the British Consul, Mr. Eyres, to make known the true facts of the case to the Foreign Office. M. Eugene Pittard, Professor of Anthropology at Geneva, who has recently visited Albania, has gone to make a declaration before the French Consul at Geneva. The Powers who do not wish to resume diplomatic relations with Albania can still find means in this country of defending themselves diplomatically and of making the truth known.

**An Albanian Consul Officially Recognised.**

M. Pecmezi, Albanian Consul at Vienna, has just been officially recognised by a decree, dated October 12, of the Austrian Republic. He is the first Albanian official abroad thus to be recognised. Albania at the moment has representatives in Paris, Rome, Washington, Alexandria, Constantinople and Vienna.

**The Acting British Consul.**

Mr. Eyres, British Consul, has just obtained leave for reasons of health. His successor, Mr. Heathcote Smith, is expected here to-day. Mr. Eyres leaves behind him excellent memories, and he has contributed much in making the name of Great Britain still more loved in Albania.

**The Albanian Boy Scouts.**

The Boy Scouts of London have just sent a gift to the Boy Scouts of this country, the centre of whose work is at Tirana. This work has been well and very zealously directed by a young Englishwoman, Miss Mosley Williams. This gift consists of clothing for fifty children. A Scout-master from the Boy Scouts Association of London is expected here very shortly.

**The Chamber of Deputies.**

Forty-seven deputies, all those of the popular party and many of the Progressive party, have just combined to form a new group under the name of "Sacred Union." The Government itself is supported by this group. The Opposition consists of deputies from Berat, Elbasan, Durazzo and Drin. It is the South and North of Albania, therefore, which support the Government against the centre.

A recent decision of the Albanian Parliament is worth noting: it is the abolition of the titles "Bey" and "Pasha," which are legacies of the Turkish domination. Another decision is to the effect that any Albanian coming from Turkey who has held a public office there shall be refused admittance into the Albanian Administration until two years after his return. These two measures are designed to cut short the accusation made by Albania's neighbours of her being in sympathy with the Turks. For the Albanians wish to have nothing in common with their old conquerors.

**Stamps.**

The postage-stamps at present in use are printed in Paris. As Albania was in need of fiscal stamps she first applied to Rome, but, having failed to obtain satisfaction there, she has just had them done at the State Printing Press at Vienna. The contract was for a series of 1,670,000 stamps for 474,460 crowns, or about £50.

**An Alarmist Report.**

The rumour has been circulating that Greece was concentrating along the frontier—to the south of Koritsa and of Argyrocastro—bands of *komitajis* and of regular troops to invade Albania, after the Serbian model. This news caused a certain uneasiness, and at once measures were taken to reinforce the Albanian troops in the Southern provinces. Despatches announcing energetic protests to Athens on the part of the Great Powers have, however, calmed matters down.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, October* 18.

**The Coming Elections.**

In several of the towns representatives have already been chosen to attend the all-Greek meeting in compliance with the Archbishop's invitation for October 10 (O.S.). At Nicosia the Greek advocates have chosen M. A. Artémis, an able lawyer, who has acted for considerable periods as Hellenic Consul in Cyprus. He has convened a meeting at his office, in order to determine the views of that body, or at least of a majority of them; for the new opposition party is not likely to lack supporters. The Legislative Council should be dissolved this week.

Several of the present nine members, eight of whom seek re-election, have been visiting the larger villages, and making speeches. An address issued by M. Theodotou, a leading "Unionist," is typical of the standpoint from which these members endeavour to justify their foolish abstention from the meetings of the Council, and may be summarised as follows:—"We cannot suppose that the majority of Greek electors will approve any policy other than that which has been consistently followed since the mission to London was appointed. The Legislative Council has done and can do nothing worth mentioning as long as the Greeks are not represented according to their numerical preponderance in the island. A few years ago it was proposed and accepted that three additional members should be elected; but a condition imposed was that three more official members should be added, and to this the Greeks would not consent. It would be better that there should be no Council at all than one constituted as at present. But if it is destined to be, it would be better that the Greek members should refuse to sit

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in it, for reasons of *amour propre*, and as a strong and emphatic protest against the strangling of their rights and majority. The small minority who think otherwise, and hold our policy to be injurious to the real interests of Cyprus, shut their eyes to the truth of the situation for it is only by local agitation and opposition by all lawful means that the Imperial Government can be moved, and that Greek persistence will bear fruit."

The Greek view begs the whole question, and the statement that the work of the Council can have no value while Greeks do not dominate it is ludicrous. No one imagines that the present members will change their attitude, so that the only hope of saner tactics is that men of more reasonable views will be elected, and it remains to be seen whether the farce of recent years will be allowed to continue. Meanwhile the opponents who are accused of blindness can certainly retort that it is a case of blind guides seeking to lead the blind.

**General News.**

His Excellency and the offices have come to Nicosia from Troodos, and winter hours are being adopted.

Mr. Bowring, Receiver General, goes to Aden and Somaliland on a mission from the Imperial Government, for two months.

A young Moslem employee of the Medical Department at Nicosia, has been found shot dead by a revolver. So far it is not known whether it is a case of murder or suicide.

## ARAB AND JEW IN PALESTINE.

( *From a Correspondent* ).

*Jerusalem, October* 17.

The Twelfth Zionist Congress has on the whole been regarded here as satisfactory. The whole organisation has been built up again, the Administration strengthened, and a programme of practical work adopted for the next two years, with a budget of a million and a half. It is understood that the High Commissioner is particularly pleased with the resolutions on the Arab question, in which Zionists again asserted their desire to live amicably with all sections. A telegram of good wishes was read at the Congress from His Excellency.

General Haddad Pasha, who has been the guest of the High Commissioner, and is going to Amman, granted an interview to the *Mokattam* while in Egypt. His mission in London, he said, concluded with the accession of King Faisal to the throne of the Irak ; he defended King Hussein against the rumour that he was merely actuated by selfish motives ; and regarding the French and British mandates he urged upon the Arab people not to take sides with either Power, but to work in friendliness with both. He preferred not to refer to the exit from Damascus of the Emir Faisal, whose government in Mesopotamia was proving most successful, and he hoped that France in Syria would be as liberal as Britain had been. Speaking of Palestine he said that Arabs could not ask Great Britain to withdraw the Balfour Declaration ; they would not care to have British pledges to themselves annulled. He believed Great Britain would act justly towards the Arabs in Palestine, and he was convinced that her policy could be carried out without infringing the rights of anyone. He suggested that a Parliament should be formed in Palestine.

This suggestion evidently refers to the new Constitution which has been drafted ; but it should be noted that the members of the Consultative Committee of Moslems and Christians ( which the High Commissioner formed as a parallel body to the Zionist Commission ) have already broken off relations with the Government, only seven of the forty-six notables invited having attended the last conference with His Excellency. This attitude has been adopted at the instance of the Arab Delegation. Moderate opinion, as voiced by Haddad Pasha, will certainly condemn this policy ; and one Arab paper, a supporter of the Delegation, has already criticised it as being both uncomplimentary to the High Commissioner and unfruitful. The Report of the Haycraft Commission on the May Riots emphasises the Arabs' grievance that they have no body to represent them, as the Jews have in the Zionist Commission. The Arab leaders themselves have now rejected the use of such a body after its formation, although as composed it could have been of great value not only in their own interests but in helping to arrive at an understanding with the Government.

## IN GEORGIA.

The Georgian Information Bureau, learns from Constantinople that the terror imposed on Georgia by the Bolshevist authorities is becoming more and more merciless. To avoid persecution and death thousands of citizens have to leave their homes and take refuge in the forests and mountains. These refugees include a great number of officers, former employees of the Republic, as well as all the officers of the People's Guard.

Recently 29 workmen were imprisoned at Borjom and others have fled to avoid the same fate.

Deserters from the Bolshevist army infest the country, pillage the districts, rob travellers on the highways, and make traffic almost impossible. Under pretext of fighting the bandits the Bolshevists send detachments of their troops in every direction, but the latter are a greater danger to the population than even the bandits themselves. A considerable increase in brigandage has been reported in Gouria, Mingrelia, and Ossethi. In the districts of Kislovodek and among the mountaineers also it is increasing. In this respect the general situation in Daghestan is very much aggravated. In Urmia, Makin, and other districts of Persia, brigandage has adopted a " mass " character.

In Kutais a great many merchants, accused of not having paid the tax levied on them, have been imprisoned. In Kakheti (Eastern Georgia), and the district of Doucheti a sanguinary struggle is in progress between the peasants and the Bolshevists, who are compelling the population to pay overwhelming impositions.

A new scourge has just fallen on the district of Signaki : the Bolshevists, reviving the Tsarist Government's old policy of colonisation, are transferring the famine-stricken inhabitants of the Volga and settling them there, to the detriment of the interests of the native population. The Georgian towns are burdened with fresh arrivals from Russia, clerks, " Red" soldiers, officers, Communist agents, and common famine-stricken peasants with their families. The Bolshevist authorities, in order to accommodate their own people, are compelling the Georgians to vacate their dwellings, and often throw them into the street.

The people's hatred for the invaders increases more and more while the famine, misery, and " Red " terror grow in intensity.

## RIOTS IN JERUSALEM.

On November 2, the anniversary of the so-called Balfour Declaration there were disturbances in Jerusalem. *The Times'* correspondent in that city reports : Afte. a demonstration by an Arab mob on the Jaffa road which the police broke up, the crowd proceeded to attack the Jewish quarter. A fight ensued between Jews and Arabs in which shots were fired and knives were used and a bomb thrown. The police saved the situation, but four Jews and one Arab were killed and 15 persons were wounded. Subsequently troops patrolled the city, and the Governor and G.O.C.,accompanied by Moslem notables, traversed the streets and order was restored."

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

## Egypt.

Under the heading "Britain's opportunity in Egypt," the *Observer* of October 30 expresses its conviction that "the questions that are for settlement are now perfectly capable of settlement":—

At the present moment the Egyptian question is no longer a military question. Sometimes it is hard to localise a strategic object and detach it from political surroundings. But the Canal position stands out by itself. We need the assurance of complete security for this vital link in Imperial communications. The route to India must be unequivocally safe. That was the reason why we first went to Egypt. It is clearly quite possible to safeguard the canal without maintaining control of the whole of Egypt, Upper and Lower. Lord Milner, whose practical experience of similar questions in Imperial policy is at least as long and as successful as that of any member of the Cabinet, knew perfectly well what he was about when he and his fellow commissioners drafted their proposals.

If we remember that it was the importance of the Canal which first brought British troops into Egypt we shall see more readily that we have no interest in inventing other reasons for keeping them there. Forty years of British control have transformed Egypt. Western inventions and Western ideas have spread during this period of contact. Egypt, as a result, is to-day prosperous—and discontented. Quite apart from the abolition of the Protectorate and the angry burst of nationalism which that false step aroused, we have come to the end of the *status quo* in the country. Quite clearly, if the association of Egypt with the Empire is to be continued with success, it must be continued under new conditions. It is settled in principle that Egyptian independence is to be recognised in fact, as we have always recognised it in form. A permanent treaty between Egypt and Britain is to be concluded. It is not possible to see how a settlement on these terms is consistent with permanent cantonments of British troops throughout the Egyptian interior. There is no possibility of creating, or, rather, of re-creating, cordial relations between the two peoples while we insist on a safeguard which makes nothing of the change proposed. The presence of the garrisons would be a perpetual provocation of native hostility. Egyptian nationalism would protest, and we should have no answer to it, that it had never had a fair and open chance of showing its capacity for responsible government. It would still be a mixed régime under which neither the British nor the Egyptian element could show its best. What we give with one hand the other would threaten to take away. Every potential gain of the new position would have been squandered on a stipulation not strategically essential to us. The unique chance of a lasting settlement would have been wantonly thrown away.

And finally it asserts the old doctrine, that, a change having to be made, let that change be made boldly and thoroughly:—

A change has to be made in Egypt. No one denies it. Critics of the change have the onus of propounding the alternative. But if the change is to be made, let it be made thoroughly enough and boldly enough to assure to both countries its advantages. We ask nothing incompatible with Egyptian liberty in seeking the inviolability of the Canal. That problem solved, there remain the future of the Sudan and the maintenance of law and order in Egypt. The status of the Sudan is on quite a different footing from that of Egypt itself. It requires to be settled on other lines. Independent Egypt may properly require and can be given the guarantees necessary for its economic and political security, especially guarantees affecting the Nile water supply. But Egyptian liberty does not require the abrogation of British control in the Sudan, nor can anything in the history or prospects of Sudanese development justify any such course. We do not think that Egyptians would be foolish enough to show intransigence on this point as long as their legitimate demands under other heads had been met. As regards the future of public order and the protection of foreigners in Egypt, we do not overlook or seek to minimise the difficulties. The use of freedom has to be learnt. Its exercise is sure to be accompanied by mistakes and failures. There might be a renewal of the anti-foreign riots. It is a risk to be faced. But we must face it if the Egyptian is ever to have the chance of showing his capacity. In the event of serious trouble we should have to intervene at Cairo and at Alexandria, not a difficult operation if events compelled it. But this, after all, is a contingency. If we have to reckon with it we have to reckon also with the existing conditions in Egypt. Were the negotiations to fail altogether, foreigners would be exposed, as events have shown, to immediate and permanent risks from a people which has woken to the idea of its independence, and is exasperated by foreign control. We cannot better what is without risking what might be. But there is this deep difference—the one danger is unalterably inherent in the present state of Egypt; the other is not unconditionally inherent in Egypt under self-government. If self-government succeeds foreigners will live in greater security. Even its temporary failures will not expose them and their interests to jeopardy as great as the attempt to govern a recalcitrant country by force. The knowledge that it is an Egyptian and not a British Government which will be held primarily responsible for their safety is the best devisable check upon reckless racialism. It is the very doctrine of responsiblity which British rule aspires to teach.

And the *Westminster Gazette* of October 28 treats the question, in an article called "The Problem of Egypt," in much the same way. It says:—

What is now proposed, therefore, is to give the Egyptians the opportunity of making their Government in fact what it already is in theory. We have again and again declared this to be our aim and intention, and we could not for ever go on postponing the fulfilment of these assurances without destroying the belief in our good faith and combining the Egyptians against us in active or passive hostility. This being our resolve, we must give effect to it fully and generously and with as few reserves, mental or material, as possible. It is desirable in our interests as well as theirs that the responsibility of the Egyptians for the government of their own country shall be real and openly acknowledged, and that they shall reap the credit of success or the discredit of failure. But the Egyptian case is no simple one of internal administration. Egypt, without a powerful friend, would be at the mercy of European adventurers; we, without any settled relationship with the Egyptian people and their Government, would feel the spinal cord of our most vital Imperial communications to be in danger. This problem can only be settled by a friendly compact between the two peoples. A hostile and discontented Egypt held down by force would be an immense expense to us, and scarcely, if at all, less dangerous than an Egypt entirely outside our orbit. A permanent and peaceful relationship is essential to British interests and to Egyptian independence.

It then passes in review the consequences of the "unhappy attitude taken up by Zaghloul Pasha," which, though it has caused great difficulties, should not be a cause "for any hard driving" in the matter of a permanent garrison in Egypt. The article concludes:—

The Egyptians, if they are wise, will recognise that recent events in Egypt have created a difficulty for our Government which needs to be met by certain precautionary measures for the time being. But these measures need not be treated as part of a permanent arrangement between us and them, or stamped with the finality that incorporation in the Treaty would give them. If riots and disturbances between different parties and factions were treated as a disqualification for self-government, which country in East or West would be qualified? Abrupt transitions from the old to the new are as undesirable in Egypt as elsewhere, and it would no more be to the interests of Egyptians than to our interests that securities should be too abruptly withdrawn. But these transitional measures should go hand in hand with complete assurances on the principles agreed upon, assurances, for example, that we do not intend to make the British force in Egypt an "Army of Occupation" or to keep it permanently stationed in the towns of Egypt. The one guarantee for law and order in Egypt and peace between Egyptians and foreigners is the restoration of good-will between British and Egyptians. A friendly Egypt will be a far greater security to foreigners than the peppering of the country with small British forces which will be a constant source of irritation. Having chosen the friendly policy, let us go for it whole-heartedly and see that it is not marred by niggling reserves and petty timidity.

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**Articles to note.**

"Our Manifest Destiny—Egypt," by Commander Lord Teignmouth, R.N.; "Tiger-hunting in Hyderabad," by Brig. General R. G. Burton; and "The Jewish World Problem," by Lord Sydenham, in the *Nineteenth Century* (November).

"The Prospect in Yugo-Slavia," by O. de L.; and "The Moplah Warning," by Demetrius C. Boulger in the *Contemporary Review* (November).

"The Fealty of the Tribes: A Chapter in the History of 'Iraq," by Iraquijah, in the *Fortnightly Review* (November).

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## THE ALBANIAN FRONTIERS.

Reuter's Paris Correspondent reports that on Saturday the Conference of Ambassadors approved the report of the Commission on Albanian Affairs and will sign at its next sitting the document embodying the decision of the Allies in regard to the Albanian frontiers. The Conference also considered the methods of procedure for the carrying out of the Venice Agreement governing the Austrian Succession States.

The *Temps* understands that the frontiers of Albania as fixed are identical with those fixed in 1913, with the exception of the following minor adjustments:

The Lim district goes in its entirety to Albania.

The whole of the Dibra-Struga road is assigned to Yugoslavia.

A frontier adjustment favourable to Yugoslavia will be made in order to combine Prizrend with its environs.

In the north of Scutari slight alteration will be made in the frontier so as to guarantee the approaches to Podgoritza.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

### Opera at Covent Garden.

The Carl Rosa Opera Company is pursuing its sincere way at Covent Garden, and is now well into its repertoire of Wagner operas. No one would pretend that this company excels in Wagner's operas, but that it should attempt him at all is something for which the ordinary man is grateful. On November 1 "Lohengrin" was given, and a performance was secured that was like the curate's egg. The orchestra, under Mr. Eugene Goossens was for the most part excellent—Goossens' musical resources are apparently inexhaustible—excellent, not merely when playing by itself, as in the overtures to the first and third acts, but also when supporting or maintaining the vocal parts. The playing of the strings in the "Swan Music" in particular was first-class. And there was not much seriously to complain of in the work of the principals: Mr. Harry Brindle, for instance, sang the part well, if he did not look it, of Henry the Fowler, and the opposite may be said of Mr. Booth Hitchin as Count Telramaud. Mr. William Boland as Lohengrin had many merits, though his somewhat earthly mould did not lend easy belief to the fact that he was half-divine; he had, moreover, a bad tendency to slur upwards to a note with a sudden intensity that bespoke only too convincingly his connection with the common world. Otherwise he is extremely competent. The parts of the sorceress Ortrud and of Elsa of Brabant were adequately done, without being distinguished. The one really bad stain in the presentation was the poor choral singing. So much depends in this opera on the dignity and spontaneity of the choruses that their uncertainty, both in rhythm and in intonation, was a great pity. Mr. Goossens did his all to infuse life into and to express tone from them, but they remained to the end consistently indifferent. An improvement in their mass singing is the first essential in that short step to imaginative greatness which we all hope the Carl Rosa company is shortly to take.

### A Roumanian Singer.

It was a hearty welcome that Mlle. Costopol Aïdonne d' Etolie, the Roumanian prima donna, received at her recital on November 2 at the Æolian Hall; both hearty and deserved. She has a powerful voice, of wide range, and flexible enough for most purposes. Perhaps her chief feature is the possession of a really musical intelligence, for everywhere she displayed individual and for the most part interesting ideas, though in one or two places those ideas were in advance of her technique. This musical intelligence was shown not only in the songs we already knew—by Brahms, Saint-Saëns, and Debussy, for example, but especially in her choice of song. Particular praise must be given to her inclusion of Roumanian and Greek songs in her programme—an enterprise all the more worthy as it is so rare. For there is musical stuff in the Balkan countries and in Roumania that Near Eastern artists, when they visit this country, seem strangely loth to exhibit. No one really wants to hear eternally the old hackneyed arie and songs, whoever the artist may be who is performing them: it is rather in the search into and the performance of new or unfamiliar music that the value of the singer is considered nowadays to lie. Mlle. d'Etolie, then, proved herself to be an interesting singer. It is true that she had faults, most noticeable of which was her tendency to mal-intonation, and, when once on a sustained note, to slip slightly from the true pitch. Again, she could so indulge in sentimentality (as in Brahms' "Immer Leiser," which, incidentally she sang in English) as to mar her rhythm; and her lack of consonantal attack and of characterisation of vowels made her words, especially in English, a little difficult to hear. But her mezzo-voice was generally exquisite; it was her subtle employment of this in Saint-Saëns' atmospheric "La Cloche" that made her interpretation notable. And she achieved tragic splendour in Ponchielli's "Suicidio." For neither of her Greek songs did I care greatly. The first, "Diati," had an unoriginal melody, and, moreover, seemed to be poorly arranged by Xantopoulo, with very thin harmonic support to the voice. Again, in the second, "Mana ke ios," which had been set by Samara, the climax to the sentimental story was left for the voice almost alone to tell. But Mlle. d'Etolie excelled herself in the two Roumanian songs, "Mi-e dor," and "Fluerasal," both by Andreescu-Jassy. Except for the fact that the top notes were too loudly focussed, the first had a beautiful interpretation, the triple repetition of "Mi-e dor" in the final lines being perfectly conceived. There was a very pretty fancy in the pianoforte accompaniment to "Fluerasul," in which, after florid and sometimes unsupported vocal phrases, the pianoforte would effectively break in with its suggestion of the flute. For an encore, Mlle. d'Etolie sang an extremely attractive Roumanian popular song. I hope that she will be encouraged and persuaded to give another recital in London, so that she may show us further examples of the musical art of her own and of neighbouring countries.

### The Royal Philharmonic Society.

The Royal Philharmonic Society began their 110th season at the Queen's Hall with an excellent programme on November 3, the works being Elgar's Enigma Variations, Brahms' pianoforte concerto in D minor, Ravel's "Ma Mère l'Oye," and Stravinsky's "Petruchka." Mr. Albert Coates was the conductor, and M. Cortot the solo pianist. Unquestionably the finest thing of the concert was the Elgar, in which Mr. Coates revealed unexpected sensitiveness and insight. The combination in these Variations of almost female delicacy with noble strength is a very subtle thing to interpret, but they were conducted with wonderful restrained perception. Of the Brahms it is not possible to say much except that it is a dull work, which not even the steely brilliancy of Cortot could make to glisten. The Ravel was delightful from beginning to end, with the orchestra revelling in the exquisitely rich effects. "Petruchka," an early masterpiece, was also excellent fun, though not so well conducted. Its impudent cheek is amazingly successful, and it says much for the Society's musical sense that they could be persuaded to include it in their first programme. The next concert is on November 17.

### M. Thibaud.

M. Thibaud, the greatest French violinist, has recently given two recitals at the Wigmore Hall, and has re-impressed everybody with the fact that he is the purest fiddler living. A Kreisler may be greater rthmically, an Ysaye lyrically, but for intellectual clarity and directness of interpretation there is no one to surpass M. Thibaud. Bach's "Chaconne" was extraordinary for the deliberate, calculated way in which this fiddler first held, bound, and finally entranced you. It was playing of the highest possible kind. Because his sense of form is so perfect he is one of the very few who excel in the longer kind of works, particularly in those of sonata-form. A Mozart sonata therefore was (with the alert and sympathetic Mr. Harold Craxton at the pianoforte) as exquisitely finished as it is possible to imagine. M. Thibaud is a supreme artist whose virtuosity is his first but least possession.

Andante.


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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN.

**"THE RAJAH'S DAUGHTER." By F. E. Penny. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 7s. 6d. net). "MAKI." By R. J. Minney. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net).**

Mrs. Penny, whose stories of life in India are always enjoyed by her many readers, writes in her latest book chiefly of the conditions of life for Indian women. Princess Charma, daughter of the Rajah of Dharpur, has been sent to England on a visit, and, the war having begun soon afterwards, has been obliged to spend many years there, and has grown accustomed to the freedom of English life. Mrs. Penny shows very cleverly how terrible it is for her to return to the ordinary conditions of life in her Indian home, and at the same time how the training of the generations before her, her own character, and the subtly woven web of circumstance make it almost impossible for her to escape. The reader will be thankfully relieved that Mrs. Penny does in the end enable her to do so.

There is an English girl in the story too, Alma Beaufort, very modern and independent. She accompanies Charma to India in the capacity of chauffeur, but finds herself powerless to help the girl, as she had hoped, to free herself from the heavy chains of tradition. Even the Rajah's secretary, the well educated and broad-minded Raman Das, while sympathising with Alma's opinions can do nothing beyond assuring her that "it is the custom of the country."

There are two excellently described comic incidents in the book. One is in the opening chapters where Alma, very cool and capable, acts as chauffeur on a motoring tour to Downham who has been in India all through the war and cannot get accustomed to the new place taken by women in the scheme of things. The other is the description of the visit which Charma's betrothed, a fat and elderly Zemindar, accompanied by all his female relatives, pays to the Rajah of Dharpur's palace.

Mr. Minney also deals with the question of the tradition-bound lives that are spent by the women of India. Maki is the beautiful daughter of a rich merchant in Calcutta. We first find her craning her neck to see as much as possible of the world from the little window of her room at the top of her father's house. She is fifteen and, although betrothed, still unmarried. "An old maid almost according to Indian standards, but it was her parent's affection that kept her with him till so late in life." In spite of the absolutely uneventful chillness of her life, there is at this time a stirring of hope and interest in Maki's heart, but we are not allowed to see her happy, even in this negative way, for long. Presently her father decides to take her to live with his sisters and brothers' wives. There she is so miserable that she attempts suicide and brings upon herself a period of torment while the devil who is supposed to be in possession of her is exorcized. After this her father hastens her marriage, but she finds herself as unhappy as ever in the Zenana of her father-in-law's house. His family finally decide that she is mad, and she is returned to her father's house. Maki manages to run away and gains freedom, but only to find herself the unprotected victim of persecution on account of her beauty. At last she meets Hira, the son of the flute player, a boy who lived in the little court which she could see from the window of her childhood's days. In their mutual love they find for a time great happiness together, until Hira is imprisoned as a dacoit, and there follows another period of misery for Maki. She remains triumphantly faithful to Hira and after some years they meet again. But the last we see of her is as a blind disfigured beggar woman, sitting with her head against the brick wall at the corner of Zachariah Street and Chitpore.

The book achieves an atmosphere of unrelieved subdued gloom in which the tragic tale, with its descriptions of Indian stage life and "the perfumed underworld that fills so large a space in native Calcutta," is quietly and effectively unfolded. We are however, puzzled as to what the author means us to understand with regard to the love of Maki and Hira. Although she feels at the last, that he has failed her, their love does seem to rise to a great beauty of faithfulness and devotion, and to envelope them in sublime happiness in the midst of the squalid slum where they live. This being so, it would be more artistically true if it were made to blaze out in vivid colouring from the drab background; the author has allowed it all to be woven into the same grey pattern, and has we think lost an opportunity of giving his story an even greater power than it already possesses of compelling our attention and gripping our sympathy.

## A TALE OF IRAK.

**"A SONG OF ARABY." By John Guisborough. (London: Mills and Boon. 8s. 6d. net).**

In a note accompanying this book, the publishers express the hope that we shall find it a prize novel of exceptional merit; and we are pleased to be able to say that the hope is well founded. There is excellent material in the book; it avoids wishy-washiness and sickly sentiment in a way beyond praise; and if the author sometimes irritates us by wandering too far down attractive byeways, we are bound to acknowledge that they usually *are* attractive. What we like least about him, if we may say so quite frankly, is his air of appearing in print so entirely satisfied with himself; it may be merely an unfortunate accident, but it mars an otherwise wonderfully good novel.

Perhaps the book owes a good deal of its interest to the fact that the scene is laid in Lower Mesopotamia—a region which has as yet been used but little for such purposes, we think. The author seems to us to know this ground well, and we should not be surprised if we discovered some day that his interest in it was not that of the soldier only, that as an archaeologist he knew something of the excitement of 'digging for the gold beneath the rainbow.' His story seems to contain a good many references that we would expect from such an one. However — ! The main thing is that he has a story to tell, and a quite good one too. It concerns itself with the war, with spies and counter-spies, with a Hunnish engineer in the Mesopotamian marshes, a mystery gun, and—chiefly—with the adventures of an Englishman and an Englishwoman who, having before the war followed the calling of explorers in Arabian lands, now turn their somewhat rare knowledge to their country's advantage. We like this pair immensely, and if we refrain from saying much about their adventures here, it is in the hope that our readers will be tempted to read the book for themselves. It is worth it. But we warn 'Mr. John Guisborough' that the next time he writes a novel he will be well advised to avoid tempting byeways and lengthy digressions, such as that on pp. 80 and 81 (his apology at the end of the latter page is certainly called for!), and that he should not leave quite so many loose ends in otherwise good sound work. Having told us so much of 'Winkle' and 'Penthy,' for instance, why did he not tell us more, and round off the story? But we honestly congratulate hin on his first venture in the field of fiction, and wish it every success.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Out of the World, North of Nigeria." By Captain Angus Buchanan, M.C. Illustrated. (London, John Murray, 16s. net.)

"Some Cairo Mosques and their Founders." By Mrs. R L. Devonshire. Illustrated. (London, Constable & Co., 17s. 6d. net.)

"The Island of Youth." By Edward Shanks. (London, W. Collins & Sons, 5s. net.)

"Made to Measure." By Mrs. Henry Dudeney. (London, Collins, Sons & Co., 7s. 6d. net.)

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-day.**

November 10 (New Style).
October 28 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 10, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshvan 9, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Robert and Lady Aitken have left England for Bombay.

Sir Philip Grey-Egerton is leaving to-day for several months' shooting in India.

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington and Lady Harington left London on Saturday for Constantinople.

Queen Olga of Greece has arrived in Paris on a visit to Prince and Princess Christopher of Greece.

A Reuter Alexandria telegram reports that a daughter was born to the Sultan of Egypt on November 5.

M. Athanasoff, formerly Minister of Railways, has been elected President of the Bulgarian Sobranye.

M. Radu Th. Djuwara, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London this week for Bucharest, on leave.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, High Commissioner for Egypt, left London on November 5 for Egypt.

Earl and Countess Fortescue are shortly leaving for India to visit their son, Viscount Ebrington, who is stationed there with his regiment.

Sir Stanley Reed has left London for Bombay. Lady Reed will be at 62, Chester-square for the winter. (Telephone, Victoria 1824).

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant P. S. Cooper, R.N., and Miss Francis M. R. Clarke will shortly take place at Malta.

Sir Ronald Graham arrived in London on Saturday from The Hague. On the eve of his departure from Holland, the Anglo-Batavian Society of The Hague entertained him to a farewell dinner.

The marriage took place on October 12, at Multan, India, between Cuthbert King, I.C.S., and Elsie Vivienne elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Harris, 2, St. Aubyn's Court, Hove, late of Wrayfield, Reigate.

Our Bulgarian Correspondent writes from Sofia (October 31):—Mr. Rodd, Secretary to the British Legation, has left for England, on leave. Mr. Panaretoff, Bulgarian Minister in Washington, is spending a few weeks at Sofia.

The marriage was celebrated on October 24, at the Cathedral, Bombay, between Ernest Purton, youngest son of Mr. John F. Purton, of Fox-lane, Palmers Green, and Mary, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Melville, of Old Park House, Palmers' Green, London.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Calcutta in December, between Ronald Malcolm, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Thompson, Farnaby, Sevenoaks, and Marie, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Byrne, of Ingoldsby, Moseley.

The marriage took place on November 2 at Cairo, between William, elder son of the late W. Allard, J.P., and of Mrs. Allard, Crescent-road, Kingston-on-Thames, and Dorothea, youngest daughter of the late Charles Mann and Mrs. Mann, Talbot Road, Highgate, London.

The marriage was celebrated on October 18, at Christ Church, Simla, by the Bishop of Lahore, between C. L. Seton-Browne, the Leicestershire Regiment, surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Seton-Browne, "Dumfermline," Grenada, N.W.O., and Agnes Majorie Bruce Heard, elder daughter of Colonel Heard, I.M.S.

The marriage was celebrated on October 31, at the Cathedral, Bombay, between Captain James Smyth, Indian Army, son of the late Mr. R. A. M. Smyth, Peasenhall, Suffolk, and Mrs. Smyth, Ipswich, and Dorothy Gunn, daughter of Mr. James Allan, Glenbourne, S. Oswald Road, Edinburgh.

A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place, between Henry Monck-Mason Moore (Colonial Secretary-Designate, Bermuda, late Ceylon Civil Service) son of the Rev. E. W. and Mrs. Moore, of Stoke Doyle, Oundle, and Daphne, only child of Mr. W. J. Benson, C.B.E., and Mrs. Benson, of 76, Redcliffe Gardens, South Kensington.

The marriage was celebrated on November 1, at Christ Church, Newgate, E.C., by the Rev. R. Hine-Haycock, between Hugh Stanton Chatfield, Barrister-at-Law, Trevandrum, South India, youngest son of Kyrle Mitford Chatfield, of The Argoed, Monmouth, and Edith Mary Moore, youngest daughter of the late John Moore, of Wellington Park, Belfast, and Mrs. Moore.

The marriage was celebrated on October 31, at St. James's, Piccadilly, by Canon A. Sewell, assisted by the Rev. H. F. Webb-Bowen between Captain B. E. Chicheley Plowden, 82nd Punjabis, son of the late Richard Chicheley Plowden, Indian Police, and Mrs. Plowden, and Tempe Mary, daughter of the late Dr. Edward Bagot and of Mrs. Bagot.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania, on November 6, honoured M. Michel B. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, with his presence at luncheon at the Bachelor's Club. The other guests included M. A. Rizo Rangabé, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, and Sir Harry Brittain, M.P., and Lady Brittain.

On November 2, M. A. Rizo Rangabé, Greek Charge d'Affaires, and Madame Rangabé entertained at dinner at the Legation, 51, Upper Brook-street, the Grand Duchess George of Russia, M. Gounaris, Greek Premier, M. Baltazzi, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, General Stratigot, Admiral Malikopoulos, the members of the Greek Mission, and the *personnel* of the Legation.

The marriage was celebrated on October 27 at St. Mary Abbot's Kensington, by the Rev. E. F. Walker, brother, assisted by the Rev. Colin Walker, cousin, and the Rev. E. P. Woollcombe, Head of Oxford House, between Northcliffe Fourness, of Calcutta, only son of the late Frederick C. Thompson, India Office, and Helen Vavasour, only daughter of the late Frederick Walker, Solicitor, of 18, Durham-Villas, Kensington.

The marriage was celebrated on November 1, at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, between Louis Reynolds, of the Air Ministry, late Major, 8th London Regiment and Royal Air Force, only son of the late Colonel E. S. Reynolds, Indian Political Department, and Mrs. Reynolds, and Peggy, only child of the late J. H.

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Middleton, D.C.L., Litt.D., &c., Director of the Art Museum, South Kensington, and Mrs. Middleton, of 19, Ashburn Place.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes :—The Right Rev. Bishop Bury, Episcopalian Bishop of Central Europe, was the principal guest at Lady Lamb's "At Home" on October 27, at the British Consulate-General. The Greek and Armenian Bishops, the British American and Dutch Clergy, and representative members of the British and American Colonies had also been invited. Bishop Bury is staying with Mrs. Edward Whittall, of Bournabat, and intends to visit Ephesus and other places of historical interest in the neighbourhood.

## THE PRINCE'S TOUR.

After opening the Parliament at Malta H.R.H., the Prince of Wales, in the Renown, proceeded to Port Said, which was reached on November 5. He was visited by the Governor of the Suez Canal, the British Consul and other officials, and afterwards went ashore for a short time. The Renown passed through the Canal on Sunday.

## APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Rear-Admiral John Luce, C.B., took up last week the appointment of Rear-Admiral in charge at Malta, and Admiral-Superintendent of the Dockyard. He succeeds Rear-Admiral Brian H. F. Barttelot, C.B., M.V.O., who was appointed on April 1, 1919. Paymaster-Lieutenant N. H. Beall, O.B.E., will serve as secretary to the new Admiral-Superintendent, with whom he served in the Glasgow during the first part of the war, including the battles of Coronel and the Falklands and the sinking of the Dresden, and also at the Royal Naval Air Station at Cranwell. This is Rear-Admiral Luce's first appointment since his promotion to flag rank last year.

## OBITUARY.

The death is announced in a Reuter message from Arnhem of Baron Eric Mackey, heir to the Scottish titles of his uncle, Lord Reay, formerly Governor of Bombay, who died last August.

The death is announced of Viscount Sandhurst, who had been Lord Chamberlain since 1912. William Mansfield, first Viscount and second Baron Sandhurst, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., was born in 1855. In 1895, the Roxbury Ministry appointed him to the post of Governor of Bombay, which he held until 1900. He had held the position of honorary Colonel of the Bombay Rifles since 1895.

Mr. Edward Bothamley Freeman, I.S.O., formerly British Consul-General for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and a Crimean veteran, had died at Exmouth at the age of eighty-three. He was assistant superintendent of the Dardanelles Depot of the Land Transport Corps in 1855, Chancellor in the Consulates of Diarbekir and Serajevo, 1858-76 ; Vice-Consul at Mostar, 1876 ; Consul at Sarajevo in 1879, and Consul-General for Bosnia and the Herzegovina from 1891 to 1905.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is reported from Constantinople that the negotiations between the Sublime Porte and the Albanian Government for the resumption of diplomatic relations are nearly concluded, and that an Albanian Legation is to be created at Constantinople with Nezir Remzi Bey as Albanian representative.

In view of the imminent disbandment of the Russian Army refugees now in Turkey and the abolition of all the organizations of his civil administration, General Wrangel has issued a farewell order, in which he records the services rendered by the refugees and the various Russian organizations in Turkey.

The Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Prince George of Greece was expected to leave for Smyrna yesterday to represent King Constantine there, and that this move is considered to be of political importance as indicating the progress of M. Gounaris's mission in Western Europe.

The Ali brothers and Dr. Kitchlew have been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

A seven-pointed red star, on a white background, is the sign which has been selected for the medical corps of the 'Iraq army. The name given to it is The Red Star.

Representative of the Bolshevist Governments of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia are conferring with Nationalist Turks at Kars.

On Armistice Day (to-morrow) the Arab Delegation in London will place flowers on the Cenotaph.

Sultan Fuad has signed a decree extending the mandate of the Egyptian Mixed Tribunals for an indefinite period.

A man named Marinkovitch, who is alleged to be the author of the attempt to assassinate King Alexander of Serbia last June, has been arrested at Athens.

The members of the International Commissions for the delimitation of the Serbo-Bulgarian and Greco-Bulgarian frontiers have left Bulgaria for Paris, where they will meet to investigate certain questions of minor importance regarding the frontiers which not been settled owing to differences of opinion. It is hoped that the Paris discussions will enable them to settle the questions : but if they are unable to come to an agreement, the Commissions will be obliged to return to Bulgaria next spring.

## ARAB PORTRAITS.

Art exhibitions are seldom held which deal with the Near or Middle East, and when they do intimately concern this journal their subjects as often as not are the stock ones of the ordinary tourist. It was with the keenest and unusual interest, therefore, that one visited Mr. Eric Kennington's recent exhibition of "Arab Portraits" at the Leicester Galleries. Here was the work of a young man who went and drew whither his art and his psychological insight impelled him. For it is not merely the attractive exterior of the Arab that he has seized ; he has at once exposed and discovered him.

In a wholly admirable preface to the catalogue, Mr. T. E. Lawrence, writing from Aden, thus describes the people whom Mr. Kennington has drawn :—"Old people, who are very impatient of those they think fools, men without ties, or duties, or chains, rank individualists who cling to their barren country that they may owe nothing to any man, and be owed nothing in return. Very difficult sitters they are." Many types have been represented, the prince, the military officer, the camel-boy, the descendant of the Prophet, and so on. The hard, direct line of character is wonderfully done in each, and apart from the colour the artist's line stamps the man who is his subject. In most it is intensity of purpose, sometimes good and often bad, rather than intellectual force that is reflected in the portraits of these men. If some must be particularly mentioned, one would choose Nos. 2 and 3, "Matar il Hmoud : min Beni Hassan ; Ibn Gallab Section," and "Fahad ibn Mohammed ; Nejd," as examples of a perfect fusion of line and rich colour ; No. 8, "Alayan : a spy," a study of a vile type, one would imagine, though Mr. Lawrence says he was "our most excellent informant in the War ;" No. 16, "Sindah al Harrass: Beni Etéba : Hedjaz,' perhaps the finest portrait in the exhibition, with the extraordinary beauty of its colouring, the noble visage with seer-like, deep-set eyes ; and No. 22 "Colonel Ghalib Bey Chalan, Adviser to the Emir Abdulla," a very faithful study of the officer with the Kaiser-like moustache who defended Medina during the war. And finally, one is very glad to mention the success Mr. Kennington has had in drawing the Englishmen who are best known in this part of the world: Mr. T. E. Lawrence, whose second (No. 16) is an exquisite representation of a fine head ; Mr. Charles Doughty, the nobility of whose face alone is enough to make him eternally remembered by the Arabs who are his friends ; Field-Marshal Lord Allenby, clear-cut and determined ; General Storrs, the second study (No. 28) of whom is full of mature dignity ; and Major-General Sir Edmund Ironside, a typical drawing of a typical fearless British officer.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1921.


## THE NEAR EAST CRISIS AND THE WAY OUT.

There can be no doubt that the agreement between France and the Angora Government calls for more explanation than has been given up to the present. It is, therefore, satisfactory to learn that a written communication from the Foreign Office has defined the British objections to the pact, and we may hope that the French Government in its reply will deal not only with the actual provisions of the Angora Agreement, but also with the reasons that prompted it to undertake separate negotiations with the Turkish Nationalists. If France can show that she had begun to despair of ever persuading the British Government to face the facts of the situation in Asia Minor, she had sufficient cause for coming to terms on her own account with Mustapha Kemal Pasha. The step from many points of view is unfortunate, but responsibility will attach in no small measure to Great Britain for clinging to a policy which had long since been proved impossible. Any disadvantages resulting from the clear indication that the Allies are not yet agreed upon a settlement of the Near Eastern question may, however, be negatived, if France's action has the effect of forcing a decision on the only lines possible from the British Government. The Angora problem can hardly be left as it now stands. Italy is understood to be trying already to follow in France's footsteps, and if she succeeds also in making a separate agreement, the Nationalists' quarrel will be with Great Britain alone, and the British position, apart from the serious reaction upon our relations with our Moslem fellow-subjects and the rest of the Moslem world, will have been completely undermined by our Allies. From this it does not follow that France's action has been right. In spite of the assurances of the French Prime Minister there can be little doubt that the agreement signed by M. Franklin-Bouillon does encroach upon matters that ought to have been dealt with only by the Allies acting in concert.

The Angora Agreement may prove to be less comprehensive in its provisions than report credits it; but if it should restore to Turkey any substantial section of territory entrusted to France under a mandate, and if it deals in any way with the Baghdad Railway, the French Government has clearly trespassed upon some of the larger issues that ought to be reserved for the joint consideration of the Allies. In any case the pact is equivalent to a separate peace between France and Angora, and to be consistent the French ought to withdraw from the Allied occupation of Constantinople. Consistency, however, has never been a weapon in the Allies' armoury, and they are unlikely to make use of it at this stage. The best that can be hoped for from the Franco-Turkish pact is that it will compel an immediate settlement of the whole Turkish question. Even if there should be no undertaking on the part of the French Government to press for a solution that will favour the Turks in regard to Asia Minor and Thrace, it is well known that the whole weight of French influence will be exerted to this end. Outside of Greece no serious fault will be found with this action, except among those who pose as the best friends of Greece, while being in fact her evil counsellors. They are playing the part, in circumstances very similar, of those who egged on ex-King Charles to his undoing in his recent effort to regain the Hungarian throne. With a little patience the exiled Monarch might have found himself firmly seated again on the throne of St. Stephen. He made a premature attempt and has failed, apparently for all time. Few will doubt that it is the destiny of Greece to play a conspicuous rôle in the ultimate development of the Near East, But a premature move on her part may jeopardise her chances of so doing, also for all time. She made a false move, when M. Venizelos insisted upon Thrace and a portion of Asia Minor being allotted to her by the Treaty of Sèvres. The costly advance into Anatolia merely brought her more rapidly up against the dangers to which M. Venizelos's policy had exposed her, but it may yet be the means of saving her from the gradual undoing which she would have experienced if the Treaty of Sèvres had been carried into effect. For Greece would have had both her physical strength and her administrative capacity taxed beyond her powers, and that way lie political chaos and national decay. It was not merely a question of gaining territory from the Turks and of holding it; she was establishing immediately beyond her frontiers one implacable foe, while on another front she had two potential enemies, always covetous of some of her possessions. Greece could not have dealt with such a situation single-handed; she must have become ward for all time of one or more of the Great Powers; foreign control of her Debt would have been permanently riveted upon her, and her own belief in her destiny as well as that of others must have vanished. The advice that we now tender her may not be palatable, but we are convinced that only by following it will she be able to work out her own salvation. If her future is of necessity to be linked up with the incorporation of Western Asia Minor and Thrace, and the possession of Constantinople, let her wait for them until she can hold them without imposing any undue strain upon her military resources or her administrative capacity.

A solution on these lines would serve Greece's real interests, would satisfy the Turks, and would restore to the Allies' policy in the Near East the semblance of agreement. A further, and by no means minor, consideration would be that it would go far towards undermining the agitation with which Great Britain is confronted in Moslem countries. As France has concluded a separate agreement with the Turkish Nationalists, the most dignified course for Greece to adopt would be to make a separate arrangement with Great Britain, to whom she could transfer the authority and responsibilities which the Treaty of Sèvres imposed upon her. By this means she will shift to other shoulders, stronger than her own, the burden of safeguarding the minorities of Asia Minor. However far afield Greek jurisdiction extended there would always be Christian minorities in Turkey, and there has never been a suggestion that Greece could protect them in any other way than by the threat of reprisals on Turks within her own territories. The end in view could not have been attained by such methods. A different course, therefore, must be tried. In the light of past history it may be held that the only policy open to the Allies—the one that France has adopted in her agreement with Angora—is doomed to failure. It will at least be tried under new conditions, if all provocation is removed from the Turks, and judgment may be suspended until it has been shown to have failed. Greece can secure in many other directions her *quid pro quo*. M. Gounaris may well find it possible to return from London with more than enough in the way of compensation to disarm the criticism of his political opponents on the question of his championship of Greek rights. Apart from having had to yield to *force majeure*, he will be able to show that his Government has done its best to make good in regard to the mistaken policy of its predecessor. There will be no difficulty in proving that the true interests of Greece have been consulted, and in this confidence no Prime Minister who claims to deserve well of his country will hesitate to subordinate personal considerations to duty. But Great Britain and France owe it to Greece to help her in every way possible to bear her disppointment without risk to the unity of the nation now happily restored.

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## A MIXED BAG.

*By "Majnun."*

It was an evening of gentle breezes and grey clouds as the fisherman and I pushed off from the bank, the former, with an eye on the ruffled water, predicting that it was a grand evening for sport.

Our boat was a little black pitch-covered canoe, known in these parts as a *Mashoof*, with a high pointed stern like some uncouth beetle's horn, and a most contrary character; but the fisherman always insisted that it was my ignorance of ships, and not the boat's contrariness that caused the trouble.

Soon we were on our way through an irrigation channel too narrow for the use of paddles, and so we stood up and punted with our long bamboos, Arab-fashion, which looks easy, but is in truth a Blondin-like performance and in our case generally ended in a ducking.

The palm tops were just beginning to catch the green-gold light of the sloping sun as we emerged on to the marshes and our journey was nearly over, for it was somewhere out here that the fisherman had spotted the abiding place of "the real big 'uns." After about ten minutes more poling we came to a bank which divided the marsh from the flood water and here we tethered our contrary boat and got ashore, the fisherman laden with rods, fly-books and landing net and actually remembering his reel; this is mentioned as it was an unusual occurrence.

I left the fisherman fixing up his rod and walked along the bank wondering how far these apparently limitless marshes stretched, for as far as one could see lay mile upon mile of waste water and reeds and desolation.

Away in camp, a band was playing 'The Blue Danube,' the voice of a long forgotten existence that reminded one so dimly of shining floors and lights, and laughter—and other things of civilization; it seemed impossible that these could exist in the same world as the scene before me.

I was roused from my rather dreary thoughts by a shout from the fisherman, who had evidently got something on the other end of his line, and was in need of assistance. As I joined him there was a flash of silver some twenty yards out in the pool, and his reel gave a screech while the line sawed about in the water, taut as a wire.

Presently he began slowly to reel up, which produced more convulsions on the part of the fish, and periods of agonised suspense on my part, wondering whether all were lost! Gradually, much to my relief, the reeling-in process became more rapid, and finally we "grassed" him. I say "we" as I put in some expert work ladling him out with the net before he lay safe and sound at our feet.

For some time the sport continued in silence and was uneventful but for the brief excitement of landing two small fish and the fisherman's language when he lost a fly in the reeds; it seemed a peaceful occupation, though somewhat monotonous, and I became almost hypnotized as I watched cast after cast into the pool. But not for long.

Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye I saw a flash, and immediately afterwards a crash rent the air and shook the banks beneath us.

The fisherman turned quickly. "D—— those guns," he said, "that's done it."

For some 400 yards to our left was a battery of "heavies" and opposite them 6,000 yards away across the marshes was a low ridge of sand, where were Turks: and this was May 1915—all of which is enough to explain this interruption.

Again the guns crashed and a shell clattered away towards the horizon; then silence for an age it seemed, till far away we saw a dark spout of earth and smoke smudge the sky, and lazily over the water came the thud of the exploding lyddite.

Even the fisherman turned to watch; presently from the low ridge of sand there were two flashes. We waited—there came the two double reports, and soon after, high over the palms some 1,000 yards from where we stood, two star-like flashes and the long-drawn ping of shrapnel; "long bowls" for them, but they evidently meant to have a try.

We watched for some time and then the fisherman, with muttered curses, turned to his work again, and strange to say the frightfulness seemed to have little effect on the fish—though none appeared to be feeding on the surface, three more were caught in the next half-hour.

Presently there was a lull in the bombardment, and after the crash of the guns the silence seemed heavy and almost tangible, and the twittering of the birds sounded far away. Then sounded another voice, singing over the floods—something wild, yet gentle, pathetic yet commanding. The Muezzin was calling from his tower for true believers to hear; and in the eastern sky the violet shadow grew dark, so that all men might know the hour of evening prayer was at hand.

In the west a broad path of gold flamed over the water into the heart of the sun—here and there about it were pools of blue reflection from the sky, bars of green shadow from the reeds. We poled slowly homeward through the gloom of the palm trees, the fish shining like a heap of silver in the bows.

Just as we ran up to the bank, the bombardment re-opened, there was a star-like flash against the deep violet of the sky and immediately a sulphur tongue of flame and a crash from our batteries in answer.

"What's the bag?" said the fisherman, "Six? Now for camp and a bath."

Six fish, 'The Blue Danube' and its strange memories—the crash of heavy artillery, and last of all, trailing away into the sunset, the Muezzin's call to prayer—indeed a mixed bag.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## "BEDOUIN."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—Since your reviewer objects to the use of 'Bedouins' as an English plural, and we cannot admit 'Badawin' as the plural of 'Badawi,' it being neither English nor good Arabic, I suggest to him 'Badawis' or 'Badwis,' or the phonetic 'Bedwis,' which would satisfy the rules of both languages.

There is no other way for him, nor can we take exception to the French 'Bedouin,' which is also a regular French formation of 'Bedoui;' and so it remains true to Arabic and to French, whereas his 'Badawin,' would be true to neither English nor Arabic!

He may rest assured that London University knows as much of the Arabs and their language, religion, and history, as they themselves, have ever known.

I am, etc.,

A. Sefi.

## INEBOLI.

A corrrespondent sends us the following notes upon Ineboli, interesting in connection with the recent exchange of British and Turkish prisoners:—

Ineboli is a very important seaport of Asia Minor, situated on the south coast of the Black Sea, having a good anchorage, but is practically an open roadstead, being exposed to the gales from west, north and east. Its population is about 10,000. It is built on a hill and is a very picturesque little town, but of great commercial value. Its beach is just large enough to allow of small craft being hauled up at the least indications of a gale.

The remains of a sea wall, forming a harbour of limited dimensions, built by the ancient Greeks, are still visible under water. It is the port for the rich "vilayet" of Kastamouni, the exports consisting principally of minerals, especially copper, wool, mohair, sheep, cattle, poultry, fruit, etc., etc. Of apples alone the annual shipments pre-war amounted to about 200,000 tons, the season being from September to April, the greater proportion of which were shipped to Alexandria,

## NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

**Albania and Serbia.** *November 2.*

Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Greek troops are concentrating on the frontier of Southern Albania; if Albania itself has been invaded; and how many villages have been burned?

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Cecil Harmsworth): According to official assurances received from the Greek Government, there is no truth in these allegations.

Lord R. Cecil asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had any information as to the alleged invasion of Albania by Serbia, and, if so, what steps the Government are taking in the matter?

Mr. Harmsworth: I have no actual information at the present moment.

**South Persia Rifles.**

Colonel Sir C. Yate asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on what terms the men of the South Persia Rifles have been disbanded, and what has become of these men; whether the equipment offered to the Persian Government has been taken or not; what proportion of the guns, rifles, horses, mules, stores, and munitions supplied by the Government of India have been withdrawn to the coast; what have been destroyed locally; and what sum the Persian Government is to be called upon to pay to recompense the Government of India for its expenditure on this Persian force?

Mr. Harmsworth: The detailed information now asked for is not yet available, but I will not fail to inform the hon. and gallant Member when the necessary particulars shall have reached me.

## TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those in the official report:—

Albania.—Egypt.—Turkey.—Russian and Armenian Refugees.—Kenya Colony (Indians).—Palestine (October 27).

India.—Army Officers. Village Industries (October 28).

Bulgarian Reparation.—Greece.—Turkey (Tobacco Fields).—Constantinople (Labour Dispute).—India.—Seditious Leaflets. Moplah Rebellion, Fire Brigade Superintendent, Lahore (October 31.) ..

India.—Budget (Council of State). Bokhara and Afghanistan Constantinople (Labour Newspapers).— Yugoslav Debt.—Syria (Currency). (November 1).

Albania.—South Persia Rifles.—India Office (Legal Department).—Sir Basil Zaharoff.—Greece.—Franco-Turkish Treaty.—King Constantine (Recognition). (November 2).

## THE PRO-JERUSALEM SOCIETY.

Since its foundation, just three years ago, the Pro-Jerusalem Society has accomplished a good deal of useful work in an unostentatious way. In the first two years of its existence, we learn from a report lately received, it raised about £5,000; and this has been spent on: Repairs of the South Qat-anin (£1,000), weaving enterprise (£250), Dome of the Rock repairs (£250), Citadel cleaning (£200), Citadel gardens (£500), Rampart Walk (£500), Children's playground (£100), Park and Garden system (£400), Town plan, including tree planting, etc., (£450), Registration of Monuments, Archaeological work and Records (£200,) Museum (£100), Technical Education (£500), and Repairs to the Citadel, the Gates and Guard Houses (£250).

To read this list is to understand something of the value of the Society, and its founders have every reason to be proud of their creation. Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner of Palestine, is its Hon. President, Mr. Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, its President, and Viscount Milner is an honorary member of its Council; and practically all the principal communities and interests in the Holy City are represented on the Council. Membership of the Society is secured by payment of an annual subscription of £5 or a donation of £25, or over, and there is also a class of Associates, who contribute according to their means. Applications for membership or associateship of the Society should be made to: The Hon. Secretary (Mr. C. R. Ashbee), the Civic Advisor, Governorate, Jerusalem.

Reports from Constantinople state that great activity is displayed by the Azerbaijan Nationalists, who are fighting the Reds. The Samur railway bridge has been blown up, and all communications between Azerbaijan and the Northern Caucasus has stopped

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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### P. and O. Dividend Reduction.

In view of the conditions that have obtained for many months in the shipping trade it was scarcely to be expected that the distribution of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company would be the same as last year, but the final dividend of 6 per cent. making the total distribution for the year 12 per cent. tax free evidently disappointed the market, judging by the subsequent fall in the price of the Deferred stock. The total distribution last year was 12 per cent. and a scrip bonus of 3 per cent., making 15 per cent. free of tax. The present dividend, it will be noted, is payable on an increased capital, and represents a fraction over 12½ per cent. as compared with last year's declaration.

### Loan Offers to Bulgaria.

While certain countries are finding it a matter of considerable difficulty to raise loans abroad Bulgaria would appear to be in the happy position of having, to use our Sofia Correspondent's phrase, "a surfeit of 'loan offers.'" Briefly three financial proposals are stated to have been made, one of them being an offer by Messrs. Balfour, Beatty & Co., of £2,500.000 at seven per cent. Then the Franco-Belgian Syndicate have made a further offer of two hundred million francs, while an American firm are also understood to be engaged in negotiations. According to our Correspondent the British proposal is said to be very advantageous for Bulgaria. It is scarcely necessary to emphasise the beneficial effects that would accrue to British trade from the grant of credit by this country, and it may be hoped that the negotiations will be successful. The Bulgarian Government is at present considering the various offers, but the last word rests with the Reparations Commission.

### Constantinople Loan.

At the meeting last week of Bondholders of the City of Constantinople 5 per cent. Loan of 1909, a committee was appointed to safeguard their interests. The position with regard to the Loan was dealt with by Sir Henry Babington Smith, who pointed out that the assigned revenues of the loan had been paid to the National Bank of Turkey during the war, and were still being paid. Since the war began no coupons have been paid except to Ottoman subjects or the Allies of Turkey, and the accumulations at the bank total £T700,000. Unfortunately the exchange made it difficult to remit even at nominal rates. Sir Henry said it would be, therefore, a question of serious importance for the proposed committee to decide whether, and to what extent, the funds available should be remitted or retained for a more favourable opportunity.

### Imperial Ottoman Bank.

At the annual meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, a report of which will be found in another column, the Chairman, Viscount Goschen, dealt at length with the adverse conditions under which the bank's business had been carried on during the past year. The non-ratification of the Treaty of Sèvres, political conditions in Turkey, renewed hostilities in Asia Minor, and local disturbances, had contributed, he pointed out, "to the continuance in the East of a state of instability and unrest, the effects of which, from the economic and financial point of view, have been aggravated by the world crisis."

### Activities Continued.

In the circumstances it speaks volumes that despite the difficulties of the position the operations of the bank should have continued to develop in the East. It is worthy of special note that important progress has been made in Constantinople and Smyrna, though in Anatolia naturally enough operations had to be reduced. In other countries the bank has progressed, and the Chairman was able to state that there had been "a large movement of business in Mesopotamia." Finally, encouraging results attended the first year's working of the Tunis branch of the bank.

### Morums Oriental Stores.

An apt commentary on the commercial conditions that have been obtaining in Egypt is afforded by the results of the operations of Morums Oriental Stores for the year ended June 30. There was a loss on trading for that period of £74,215, and with allowance for depreciation the total loss amounted to £164,333. For this result the world-wide economic depression, very greatly accentuated in Egypt, it is pointed out in the Chairman's speech, "by the prevalence of local disturbances, social, political, and financial, particularly inherent to the country" is responsible. From the Chairman's review of the position it is evident that the company has come very well out of the critical position arising from the "slump" in prices, and in view of the gradual improvement of the position in Egypt and elsewhere a very different report may be reasonably anticipated next year.

**Commentator.**


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, October 28.*

### Advisory Board for Agriculture.

Mr. C. E. Depuis, formerly of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, has just returned to Egypt to become the head of an advisory board, complementary to the Ministry of Agriculture. The intention is ultimately to re-organise this Ministry and incorporate the Irrigation Department, but the re-organisation is not to proceed immediately. In the meantime Mr. Depuis, with some of the senior members of the Irrigation and Agricultural Departments, is to investigate various schemes for the agricultural development of the country. Incidentally the Cotton Research Board issued its first annual report to the public a few days ago. The report shows the nature of the experiments that have been made to determine the best variety of cotton cultivable in Egypt, and adds that it does not wish to be pushed to form premature conclusions. Its work to date has been mostly negative, since it has been found that certain varieties cultivated here do not give the best results, but it has yet to discover—and doubtless will discover in time—just what varieties are most advantageous to the grower, and to the manufacturer.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, October 28.*

### Fiscal Reforms.

As the statements of M. Titulescu, Minister of Finance, to which I referred briefly last week, have an importance for a proper understanding of the financial situation, I am sending a fuller report of what he said. Dealing with the principal charges brought by the Opposition that the reforms are inapplicable and the taxes too onerous, M. Titulescu pointed out that part of the reforms have already been applied, i.e. the taxes on salaries, turnover, luxury articles, inheritances, etc. The tax on real and landed estate had always existed in Roumania, and by the new reform it had only undergone certain modifications; while the levy on industrial and commercial profits could easily be ascertained by checking the books of each firm. The brunt of the campaign was the tax on capital, but it only affected a certain minority, namely, the war profiteers, and moreover had been successfully applied in other countries. He denied that the taxpayers' declarations were too complicated, but he had appointed experts at every assessment office to assist the taxpayer in making out his declaration forms. With regard to the objection that the taxes were too high, he stated that he had repeatedly declared his readiness to reduce them, should they prove to exceed the Exchequer's requirements. The gist of the new fiscal reform was not so much the rate of the tax as the principle that it was desired to introduce, for the quotas could be modified every year by Parliament.

As for the Swiss Loan the Government had not pledged itself to import from a Swiss Consortium unnecessary goods to the value of 24 million Swiss francs. The extraordinary budget included expenditure for economic reconstruction, and if the material could not be obtained in the country Roumania was obliged to procure it from abroad. In the ordinary course the goods would have to be paid for in lei; but to make payments in lei abroad to-day would have meant a further depreciation in the Roumanian exchange; so other means of payment had to be found, and a credit from State to State was regarded as the best method. The conditions of the Swiss Loan are that the Swiss Government grants Roumania a credit of 40 million Swiss francs, of which 16 millions in cash will be at her free disposal, and not for payment of a debt, while 24 millions are also in cash, but destined to cover the orders placed by the Roumanian Government with Swiss factories, which orders, however, the Roumanian Government can place where she likes, and at the prices that suit her, with absolute freedom. The 24 millions will enable the Government to cover part of the extraordinary budget for reconstruction purposes. M. Titulescu added that he intended to propose that this credit should be used for improving the postal, telegraphic and telephonic services, and with the remainder to procure special material for the railways which he considered of paramount importance for the economic development of the country. The industrial capacity of Switzerland, he pointed out, was not generally recognised. The loan would be guaranteed by 7,500 waggons of wheat to be delivered up to May 1922, and by a further quantity of 7,200 waggons of wheat to be delivered from the 1922 crop, based on the price prevailing at Antwerp at the time of delivery. The contract with France, he declared, was about to be liquidated, as 13,000 waggons of wheat, out of a total of 15,000, had already been delivered. With regard to the rate of exchange, M. Titulescu continued:—

"I intend to propose to the Cabinet a series of measures destined to stop as far as possible the discrepancy between the buying power of the leu within the country and the buying power of the leu abroad. Nevertheless, I still maintain that the leu is a healthy currency. Our bank-note circulation, which will be gradually reduced, is much smaller per head than that of other countries with a higher rate of exchange. It must not be forgotten that the increase of the banknote circulation, from the Armistice on, is only due to the unification of the different currencies which existed in the country by its "aggrandisement," and that we do not belong to that category of States that found the financial solution in the printing machine. As far as this Government is concerned, it must further not be overlooked that when we came to power we found war debts unsettled, which we have settled by extensions; we have found unpaid coupons due to England and France, which have since been paid; and we have further found matured Treasury Bonds, which we have settled by paying at least the interest with great sacrifices. Unfortunately, not every one was satisfied only with the interest and hence the difficulties. I admit there is still a lot to be done in this connection, especially with our floating debt, in regard to which I shall propose to the Cabinet the necessary measures. At any rate, nothing would be more harmful for our credit than a Moratorium, to which I am absolutely opposed. Our expenditure in foreign currency must be reduced to strict necessities, and I will request the banks to stop granting credits in lei for payments of any kind abroad..

With regard to the financial situation for the fiscal year 1919-20 the expenditure amounted to 4,430,000,000 lei, and the revenues to 1,114,687,000 lei; showing a deficit of 3,315,313,000 lei. The definite figures for the fiscal year 1920-21 I shall be able to give shortly; they show a considerable decrease of the deficit. From April 1 to August 31 1,945,738,580.37 lei have been collected on account of the present budget, and 1,609,739,695.07 lei have been expended. We have, therefore, for the first five months an excess of about 335 millions, which indicates a very hopeful improvement in our State finances. Naturally these 335 millions have been used to cover, to a small extent, the deficits of previous years. In addition, the figures under the heading of collections do not show the railway revenues, although the railway expenditure has been shown in the respective figures. Therefore, the budget that we have voted can be borne without resorting to loans. It is true, one could say: Why these high taxes, if our situation is so brilliant? The explanation is that besides the ordinary budget we have also the extraordinary budget, which cannot be covered by loans. However, as soon as the direct taxes have been levied, we shall have to start reducing a good many of the indirect taxes, which cause the high cost of living, but the indirect taxes are the only quick and sure means of raising funds so urgently needed by the State."

### Trade Depression.

Local merchants are going through very critical times owing to the continuous depreciation of the Roumanian leu. On the one hand they are afraid to give orders for goods from abroad, and on the other hand, they have got to limit the sales of the stocks in hand, wholesale as well as retail, not knowing at what prices to sell. In consequence for the last three to four weeks transactions have been excessively reduced. Consumers are also adopting a very ostentatious reserve, and only buy what is absolutely indispensable. Prices of goods have risen by 30 to 50% and are soaring almost as fast as the Roumanian leu is dropping in value. Everybody is very gloomy especially those who have bills in foreign currency

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falling due. To enforce payment at the present rate of exchange would mean wholesale bankruptcy.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, October* 31.

**External Loans.**

On October 28, M. Tourlakoff, Minister of Finance, announced in the Sobranje that the English firm of Messrs. Balfour, Beatty & Co., had offered Bulgaria a loan of £2,500,000 pounds at seven per cent. interest. He went on to say that the Franco-Belgian Syndicate who made an offer of a hundred million francs loan to Bulgaria last July, had renewed their offer, and were now offering two hundred million francs under better conditions. The Minister did not divulge what the new conditions were, but he said that an American firm were also engaged in negotiations which might lead to the offer of a loan. The Balfour Beatty and the Franco Belgian loan are both intended for furthering the construction of railways. Bulgaria thus seems to be suffering from a surfeit of "loan offers" but it is well to remember that no external loan can be accepted without the consent of the Reparations Commission. Another difficulty is the continual fall of the leva, which is to-day 640 for a pound sterling, as it will not be easy to raise money for a country whose currency is always depreciating in value. On the other hand it is said that the scheme put forward by Messrs. Balfour, Beatty contains many conditions which will be very advantageous for Bulgaria. It seems that M. Dimitroff, the recently assassinated Minister of War, arranged this loan with the firm whilst he was in Switzerland. The present position is that the Government are studying the various offers, and after they have decided which is the most favourable they will pass on the matter to the Reparations Commission for their consideration.

## GREECE.

*Athens, October* 29.

**Workers' Demand.**

The President of the Federation of Electric Transport has submitted a report to the Minister of Communications to the effect that the Syndicates forming the Federation demand an increase of 200 drachmae per month for the workmen belonging to the Syndicates, the increase to be temporary and in force until the Government takes the necessary steps to bring down the cost of living. The Minister promised to study the demand.

**Shortage of Flour in Crete.**

A telegram from the Governor General of Crete to the Minister of Supplies states that the population of Candia have been without white flour for over a month, and that protest meetings are being organised. The Governor General adds that he will not hold himself responsible for the upholding of law and order in the event of flour not being immediately forthcoming.

**A Mission to America.**

M. Spyro Papafrangos, a Director of the National Bank of Greece, is about to leave for America on a mission for the Government, with a view to negotiating the settlement of the balance of the loan of 33,000,000 dollars which the United States had granted to Greece.

**Miscellaneous.**

According to a telegram from the Commercial Attaché to the Greek Legation in London, the stock of Greek tobacco at present in England amounts to 34,000 bales, 10,000 of which are from Asia Minor.

A Royal Decree has just been signed forbidding all expropriations of rural and urban property in Thrace. Only the Council of Ministers has the right to give judgment against this Decree.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, October* 18.

**Agricultural Outlook.**

There have been some heavy rains, and many of the torrents have come down in flood. Villagers are sowing potatoes and other early crops. The picking of olives has begun. The gathering of honey is taking place. Cyprus bees are celebrated in Europe and America, and the honey is of excellent quality, but the methods of hiving call for much improvement. The flavour of the honey in several parts bears a strong resemblance to that of the renowned Hymettus yield near Athens. The average output of a hive is given as about 15 okes, or 42 lb.

Complaints are being made by merchants of a shortage of trucks on the railway from Famagusta to Nicosia. This, if a fact, should be remedied.

## BAKU OIL INDUSTRY.

We are indebted to the Georgian Information Bureau for the following extracts from reports of the Soviet Economic Council of Baku :—

"Our position in Constantinople has been undermined, and we have been defeated on the Constantonople market owing to the fact that chaos prevails in Baku and that we have no economic system. The only country with which we can trade is Germany; but owing to absence of means of transport it is doubtful whether we shall obtain any orders worthy of mention, and even then we shall not be in a position to deliver the oil. Formerly, under normal conditions, 1,500,000 pouds (poud=36 lbs.) were transported in tanks on the railways. We are now unable to do this; the local situation is also becoming very much aggravated, and we are on the point of a catastrophe. It is true that we are not lost, but we are at the highest point of the crisis as regards the oil output, and have no technical equipment to improve the situation. The pumping machinery has broken down, and we are ruining the oil-wells by using unsuitable instruments. We must at all costs, get machinery or we shall be ruined. If we do not obtain the necessary machinery from Germany and America, Baku will not be able to exist even one year. The crisis is aggravated still more by the fact that the workers refuse to work. The Persians, who as skilled pumpmen are the most important workers in the Baku oil industry, are leaving the town; the Russians are unsuited to this work. If we do not get experienced pump-men the industry will be ruined at one blow. There are many causes for the refusal to work: the workers do not get sufficient salary, and one and a hali pounds of the blackest bread are inadequate absolutely for a man doing such heavy work; moreover, the Persians could not adapt themselves to the prevailing conditions.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

## THE 1921 MOTOR SHOW.

The great Motor Show at Olympia and the White City is not only a magnet which draws its enthusiasts and votaries from all parts of the world, but it is accepted as being a fashionable rendezvous of society. Crowded as it was last autumn, it is believed that the attendance this year will surpass all previous records, and from what I have seen I can confidently assert that the British motor trade has reached a higher pitch of development than that of any other country.

There is considerably more interest being taken by the general public in motoring than there was during even the boom year of 1919, incredible though this may seem. The number of cars of all kinds in use in the country to-day is 243,000 odd, an increase of over 18,000 during the past six months. And these figures show every indication of maintaining a steady rate, according to data furnished by manufacturers.

Contrary to what was the case before the war, this year's motor show is marked by the limited number of models produced by each manufacturer. Due to the steady improvements which have been made in design, and the increased flexibility of the engines, the improvement of gearing and transmission, and the use of higher quality materials, there is no longer any need for a number of models of different horse-power as in the past. At one time anything below 15 h.p. was looked upon as a good light car for knocking about in, but of little use for touring work. One of from 20 to 30 h.p. was supposed to be, and indeed was at that time, necessary for driving in hilly country, and the higher engined models were powerful, go-anywhere propositions that depended for their reputation on the size and power of their engines.

Now all that is changed, and it would seem that owing to the improvements that have been made a higher grade car of 15 or at most 20 h.p. is capable of taking an average load at a fair rate of speed up any gradient likely to be met with in any part of the country. There is no need for anyone to buy a car of higher engine power for utility alone. If he buys such a car it is because he wants a little better springing, a little finer quality upholstering, a little more nickel plating, or a rather better quality of varnish. The makers of the small power cars are competing with each other to supply all these, and the day is quickly coming, even if it is not already here, when the car users of this country will be in two classes, and the cars of this country will be in two classes also; the class of utility, which will be those products ranging as regards engine power from 10 to 20 h.p., and the "quality" class, comprising those which certainly have more powerful engines but which make their chief bid for favour by reason of their magnificent equipment.

The show demonstrates strikingly this year the remarkable efficiency of the modern productions. Designs have steadily progressed, the weight of reciprocating parts has been reduced, we show a more thorough knowledge of thermo-dynamics, and of the underlying principles of carburation. And one of the most interesting, although perhaps least obvious, features of the show is the way in which the modern iniquitous system of taxation has affected design.

It is common knowledge that the Treasury rating for motor vehicles depends on the bore of the engine cylinders and not upon their cubic capacity. There are many reasons why this should be; as things go no motorist would wish to see the Treasury system of rating altered for one which took regard of cubic capacity. But the actual brake horse power of an engine, apart from its taxable horse power, depends on the cubic capacity of its engine cylinders, that is to say, on their bore and stroke and not on the bore alone.

The heavy taxation of £1 per horse-power has naturally had the effect of inducing makers to cut down the apparent horsepower by keeping to as small a bore as practicable for the cylinders, and to increase the actual horse-power by lengthening the stroke. At one time it was considered by engineers that the best ratio of bore and stroke was as one to one, and there was considerable talk regarding the high efficiency of the "Square" engine, as it was called. In the exhibits at Olympia and the White City this year it will be seen that the stroke-bore ratio of the majority of the exhibits is in the neighbourhood of two to one. In particular British and French cars both show this tendency to a marked degree, but for some reason American designers have gone rather in the other direction, and most of the Trans-Atlantic exhibits have square engines.

**Accessibility.**

Another striking feature of the exhibits at this year's show is the improved accessibility of all the essential parts. The days when an owner-driver, in search of trouble, had to be down in the road under his engine, are gone for ever, and, instead, all he has to do now is to lift up some plate or other, or take off a cover or so. To-day, as never before in the history of motoring, is the day of the owner-driver, and makers, recognising the fact, have done all in their power to produce cars which under ordinary circumstances give no trouble, and which, should they do so, can be attended to without any discomfort or fuss.

The keynote of the exhibits may be said to be economy. Whilst one section comprises the luxury cars that will ever be in demand, another and numerically larger portion is devoted to cars that cost from a trifle over £100 to about £600 or thereabouts.

Of the latter there is a very wide choice, and, as I mentioned above, most of these are fitted out with every reasonable accessory. On the other hand the luxury or "quality" cars themselves may truthfully be termed economical, for never were such perfect carburation devices or such savings in unnecessary weight than are to be seen on the big Napiers, Rolls-Royce, Vauxhall, Daimler, Sheffield-Simplex, or Sunbeams. Fuel in cars of this type will now yield a mileage easily double what it would before the war; equable torque lengthens the life of tyres, and the cars are so free from mechanical troubles and defects and their subsequent expensive correction that the cost of motoring as regards these items to-day is considerably less than it was a year or so ago.

Another point evident to a visitor to this year's show is that comfort has been studied to a far greater degree. Coach-builders seem to have surpassed themselves; ample leg room for both front and back seats is universal, and the seats themselves can generally be tilted or moved backward or forward. Bodies are provided that will guard against any vagaries of the weather. Whilst the exhibition displays the popular open touring cars and the ordinary enclosed bodies, it is also of interest by reason of the large number of all-weather bodies shown. Concealed hoods have been generally adopted, whilst the majority of the town carriages are fitted with windows that can be raised or lowered.

**The Light Car.**

The feature, this year, is undoubtedly the supremacy of the light car. It is everywhere, on stands devoted solely to its existence, and on stands housing a larger, heavier, and more expensive model. Some members of the class are simple, with air-cooled engines of two cylinders; others are replete with almost all the refinements to be found on heavier models. But even in its cheaper form the light car as seen at Olympia and at the White City this year is a sound and reliable production, lacking the cheap appearance and rough finish of some of those shown at the recent Paris exhibition.

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The 200 mile race held the other day at Brooklands has shown what the British light car can do, and there is no need at the moment to say anything further regarding this class of productions.

Incidentally electrical engineers will be interested to note that, contrary to the opinion held last year by so many, the magneto holds its own in popularity as a means of ignition. Here and there one sees dynamo ignition adopted, but the great majority of cars are fitted in the usual way with magnetos. Electric starters and electric lighting systems are even more popular than before, and only a very few of the cars shown, and those only of the lowest power have to be started by hand.

In our next issue, following our usual custom, we shall deal with some of the most interesting models shown, and give a detailed description of the various engineering innovations that were noticed.

### The Norton Motorcycle.

Mr. Victor Horsman, probably the best known motorcyclist in the competition world, has finished up this year's succession of notable performances in a manner most fitting both to himself and his mount, the redoubtable "Norton." On October 7 he secured that most coveted record, the "Hour" in the 500 C.C. class by covering no less than 73.38 miles in that time. During this run he also broke the 50 miles record at a speed of 74.14 m.p.h. At the last Motorcycle Racing Club meet at Brooklands, which concluded the season, he ran second to Mr. D. R. O'Donovan in the 600 C. C. Championship Sidecar race, this time capturing the 10 miles standing start record for Class "F" his speed on this occasion being 62.35 m.p.h.

He cannot speak in too high terms of the reliability and speed of the "Norton" and the famous C.A.V. magneto which is invariably fitted to these popular machines.

## UNSECURED BONDS OF FORMER AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

The attention of holders of unsecured bonds of the former Austrian Government is drawn to the provisions of the Annex to Article IX of the Treaty of St. Germain, according to which holders of unsecured bonds of the old Austrian Government Debt held outside the boundaries of Italy, Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, or the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, or Austria as it exists to-day, shall deliver through the agency of their respective Governments to the Reparation Commission the bonds which they hold, and in exchange therefor the Reparation Commission shall deliver to them certificates entitling them to their due proportionate share of each of the new issues of bonds.

British Nationals who have not already lodged their bonds are requested to send them, together with the relative coupons, by registered post to the Administrator of Austrian Property, Cornwall House, Stamford Street, S.E. 1, not later than 3 p.m. on Monday December 5, accompanied by a memorandum stating the name and address of the holder, the distinctive numbers and denominations of the bonds, and the date when the bonds were acquired.

Reuter's Smyrna correspondent in a message dated October 28 states that British merchants there, who have already been suffering greatly owing to the depression in trade and the high exchanges, declare that things are now going from bad to worse, partly owing to obstacles placed in the way of commerce by the Greek administration. The slump is apparently being equally felt by all the foreign colonies, and the various Chambers of Commerce are sending a petition to their respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs demanding the removal of the Greek restrictions on local export trade, especially on grain and wool, so as to relieve "the precarious situation of foreign merchants.

A long list of articles has been published the export of which is forbidden until further notice owing to the partial mobilization of the Czechoslovak army (says Reuter). The list includes various foodstuffs, straw, hay, cattle and other animals, raw hides, olive and sesamum oil, spirits, ores, mineral oil, rubber, dressed furs (not made up), old iron and steel, various bridge and railway material, wire, weapons, ball bearings, non-precious metals, various electrical instruments and material, vehicles, medical and scientific instruments, opera glasses and telescopes, sulphur, phosphorus, mercury, various chemicals and drugs, fertilizers, explosives, etc., etc.

## BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ROUMANIA.

### INAUGURAL MEETING.

The first general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce, Bucharest (Incorporated) was held on October 22, at the Hotel Boulevard. The officers of the Chamber are: *Honorary President*, His Majesty's Minister; *Honorary Vice-President*, H.M. Commercial Secretary; *Vice-President*, H. R. Saltmarsh, Esq.; *Treasurer*, D. Aschkenasy, Esq.; *Honorary Secretary*, Louis Johnston, Esq. (An appointment to the office of President has not yet been made). *Members of Council*, John Back, W. M. Watson, J. Young, M.G.S. de M. Rogers, A. Mendl, H. J. McGaffin, and Harry Mejor. The Honorary Vice-President, Mr. Alexander A. Adams, opened the meeting, and called upon Mr. Saltmarsh, to read the Report of the Council. Mr. Aschkenasy then read a statement showing the financial position of the Chamber. On the proposal of Mr. Mendl, a resolution that the report of the Council, together with the Treasurer's report be approved, was carried unanimously.

Mr. Aschkenasy proposed the following resolution: "With the view of facilitating economic relations between nations, and especially between the British Empire and Roumania, the need for the entire abolition of the present *Visa* formalities which form a vexatious obstacle to free intercourse be urged upon the competent authorities. The Chamber further directs that copies of the Resolution be forwarded to: The Foreign Office, the Department of Overseas Trade, the Board of Trade, the Roumanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Passport and Postal Reform Committee, the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce and the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce together with a letter begging these last two bodies to associate themselves with the Resolution."

This Resolution was carried with one dissentient voice.

Mr. Johnston proposed that:

"For the furtherance of British trade with Roumania it is desirable to re-instate at the earliest possible moment a parcels post service, by rail, if possible, between the United Kingdom and Roumania. The Chamber further directs that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to:—His Majesty's Postmaster General, the Department of Overseas Trade and the British Roumanian Chamber of Commerce together with a request to the latter Chamber to put forward a similar resolution to the competent authorities." This resolution having been carried unanimously, the Honorary Vice-President declared the meeting closed.

**Inaugural Banquet.**

After the meeting the official inauguration of the Chamber was celebrated by a banquet in the Marble Hall of the Hotel Boulevard under the presidency of His Majesty's Minister, Sir Herbert Dering. Among those present were: His Majesty's Commercial Secretary, Mr. A. A. Adams; M. Zane, President of the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce, ; M. Deleanu, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Commerce; Colonel Duncan, Military Attaché; Mr. Keyser, British Consul; the Rev. C. Hinscliff, and Messrs. Saltmarsh, Johnson, Pitts, Back, Mendl, de M. Rogers, Griffith, Aschkenasy, Young, Rogers, Cihoski, Theodoridi, Friedman, Frenkian, Arditti, F. Masterson, McHaffie, Hillard, Baggalay, Middleton, Bolton, Carr, Jacobs, Hayward, M. Pauker ("*Argus*"), Huzzar ("*Bursa*"), Coryn, May, Nielson, Baggalay, Innocent, Smith, Embury, Nadejde, Birkle, Coats, Lane, Buhagiar, Kettlewell, Marson, Rutherford, Murray and Griffiths. Grace was said by the new Chaplain, the Rev. C. Hinscliff.

After the loyal toasts had been honoured, Sir Herbert Dering in proposing the toast of "The British Chamber of Commerce" said:—

For a number of years the representatives of British Commerce in Bucharest have wished to found the Chamber whose inauguration we celebrate to-night. It chief aim will be to cultivate intimate business relations between the British Empire and the hospitable country of which Bucharest is the capital Everyone knows that frank and cordial relations in commerce are a powerful factor in helping the people of two nations to understand and appreciate each other. The new Chamber should be helpful in affording commercial information in Roumania useful to Roumanian merchants, and in Britain for the use of British merchants throughout the Empire. It will be its duty, I apprehend, to safeguard the interests of the stream of trade which should flow between our respective countries, the volume of which will, I trust, increase year by year. There are in fact healthy signs of that increase already, for since 1913, measured in pounds sterling, trade from England to Roumania

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is now three times what it was then. As Roumanians are also welcome members of the new Chamber (and some I am glad to see here this evening) I have confident hopes that its foundation will be a powerful aid to the development not only of commerce, but also of good fellowship (*camaraderie*) between our two countries which have always been friends. I feel equally certain that this British Chamber of Commerce will ever be willing to lend cordial co-operation to its colleague and elder sister, the very active Bucharest Camera de Comert, of which the honoured President is with us to-night. In anticipation of the fact that Anglo-Roumanian relations cannot fail to be fostered by the creation of the new British Chamber of Commerce. I have gladly accepted its Honorary Presidency, and it is in this capacity that I raise my glass and beg you all, Gentlemen, to drink to the prosperity of this newest enterprise in Bucharest.

Mr. Saltmarsh replied on behalf of the Chamber in a particularly happy vein, concluding his speech with a reminder to the members that the success of the Chamber depended largely on their individual efforts.

Mr. Adams, then proposed the "Health of the Organising Committee. He said:

"When the foundation of the Chamber was first mooted a general meeting of all people interested was called and Messrs. Aschkenasy, McGaffin, Humphries, Johnston, and Masterson, were elected, together with myself as Chairman, as an Organising Committee. Later on the Committee decided to co-opt Messrs. Back, Mejor, Saltmarsh, and Watson, as members, in order that their work might reach a wider area. This band of devoted workers has not laboured in vain. To-day we stand in the presence of an accomplished fact—the British Chamber of Commerce of Bucharest. Thus the labours of the Committee have been crowned with a magnificent success, and I think the thanks of every member of the Chamber are due to those who have given both of their time and of their money to this end. As Commercial Secretary of the Legation you will probably expect me to touch upon the one question of interest to all of you—I mean the rate of exchange, but this is not the time nor the place for me to enter into this question with any detail. To those of you who wish to read the facts of the position as regards this country, and also to get some idea of the judgment that may be formed thereon I would suggest that you procure a copy of my recent report on economic conditions in Roumania. I cannot leave the subject, however, without insisting upon one great truth, that is, that the rate of exchange is not an isolated phenomenon. It is merely a mirror in which is reflected the sum of the conditions obtaining in any two countries. For instance, the rate of exchange between Bucharest and Paris is a reflexion—perhaps inadequate and distorted—but it is the best reflexion that our present monetary and financial system can give us of the daily—yes, hourly—comparison between the conditions obtaining in each country. And under the word conditions is included, of course, the situation of the currency.

In thinking about any return to pre-war conditions, or even an approach towards normal conditions one must take into consideration the economic state of Europe to-day. Let us compare it with the state of Europe after the Napoleonic wars. The last little skirmishes and out-fightings of the Napoleonic war period might be said to have ended definitely in 1819. How long did the recovery take? In 1830 sporadic revolutions burst out in many parts of Europe. In England which had been preserved to a great extent from damage by its insular position it was in the forties that there broke out the Chartist riots, and any of you who have heard from your grandfathers what happened during that exceeding troublous time will know what a terrible difficult and anxious time it was in England, and what hardships the people were called upon to endure. This, gentlemen, was a quarter of a century after the final end of the Napoleonic wars.

Again in our own country in 1846 matters had reached such an *impasse* that the Government of the day was obliged to repeal the Corn Laws, and all who read history know that this measure was very necessary. Two years later still, all over Europe, even in Roumania where we are to-day, in 1848, the Dragon's teeth sown by the Napoleonic wars sprang forth into revolutions, and this I would remind you was *thirty* years after the end of the war. The final turning of the ways in our own country did not come till the late fifties, more than *thirty* years after the end of the war. At the present time our civilisation has progressed considerably since those days. Our financial and industrial state is founded upon a more stable basis, infinitely more machinery is in use to-day than then, science we have been taught to apply industrially, thanks to Germany and the United States of America, and the energies of mankind are directed in greater measure towards the ends and aims of material existence than in those days. It is possible. therefore, that the work of reconstruction will be quicker than after the Napoleonic wars, but as counterweight to this fact we must remember that the damage and devastation wrought by the late war was infinitely greater in extent, to say nothing of the millions of human lives sacrificed, than that of the Napoleonic Wars. At an optimistic count we cannot reckon on restoring the property destroyed, actually destroyed, before twenty years, and the restoration of our civilisation, its bringing back to anything like pre-war conditions in which material ease obtained and speculative thought flourished, depends on the impetus, on the momentum gained by the reconstructive forces. It depends upon this impetus whether a return to what we call pre-war conditions will be made, nay can be made, within half-a-score of years from then. Politicians sometimes promise us a quicker return to normal conditions, and their promises are usually veiled in some such phraseology as that rates of exchange will be adjusted in the near future. Gentlemen, we all know what reliance can be placed upon the promises of politicians! There is only one gospel of salvation, there is only one solution for the existing state of affairs, there is only one remedy for our present difficulties, and that is *work*."

After Mr. Louis Johnston had responded, Mr. John Back proposed the health of "The Guests" and read a letter from M. Take Jonescu, who expressed his regret that absence from Bucharest prevented him from being present; but wished the new Chamber of Commerce prosperity. Other speeches were made by M. Zane, President of the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce, and M. Deleanu, Secretary General of the Ministry of Commerce, who represented the Government. M. Zane referred to the critical position of Roumanian merchants with regard to their debts in pounds sterling and solicited the assistance of the British Minister and of the new Chamber of Commerce in co-operating with the Roumanian Government and the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce with a view to finding a solution to alleviate the present crisis. M. Deleanu emphasised the economic relations of Great Britain and Roumania, the political alliance of latter years between the two countries, and expressed the hope that these relations would develop to the benefit of both nations.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 31:—

Season.—October 25—Rain has fallen in the South of Madras, it being heavy on South Coromandel Coast. October 26—Rain in Orissa; and October 27—on North Madras Coast. October 28—Heavy rain on Chittagong Coast. October 29 and 30—Monsoon active in the South of Peninsula.

Condition of Crops.—October 27—Punjab—conditions unchanged. October 28—Bengal—Sugarcane and rice normal. Central Provinces—rice very good, but suffering in unirrigated areas. Cotton and sesamum very good. Bombay—crops good, but rain urgently required. Burma—weekly crops report for October 21, shows destruction of rice by floods over 50,000 acres.

Markets.—Bombay cotton market, steady. Fine M.G. Oomras December—January Rs. 434, March Rs. 429. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to October 21, 1921, 261,000 bales as compared with 92,000 in the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay piece-goods market—demand small.

## CARDS AND GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Like the proverbial early bird, it is the early purchaser of Christmas cards who secures the prizes, and it is not too early to make one's selection now, especially for cards intended for friends overseas. Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., are well to the fore again this season with their greeting cards calendars, and other seasonable productions, and judging from specimens which they have sent us they seem to have surpassed even the high record they had already set themselves. The Royal cards are particularly beautiful. The subject of the King's card this year is "The Kings of England and France setting up their Standard in Acre, Palestine, 1191"—a picture of strong Near Eastern interest, be it noted. "Queen Elizabeth knighting Francis Drake on board the Golden Hind, 1580," is the subject of the Queen's card; while the Prince of Wales has chosen "Captain Cook hoisting the British Flag on the 'Great South Land' of Australia 1770." Queen Alexandra and Princess Mary have both selected garden scenes:—"Summer's Glory," and "An Old World Garden." These cards have been reproduced in different sizes, and any one who is undecided which cards to choose for his or her own use can surely do no wrong in following the Royal taste. For those who prefer post cards for their greetings these is a great variety of choice, including many very remarkable reproductions of oil paintings by the "oilette" process. In calendars again Messrs. Tuck have excelled themselves; while in regard to the picture books, special illustrated editions of old favourites, and other gift books, they can surely hold their own against all comers.

## AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

118. Well known Sports Goods House with factory in India, wish to appoint Agents in Near and Middle East where not at present represented.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Markets Irregular.

Sugar.—British refined has been in fair demand at unchanged prices. West Indian crystallized has shed 2s. 6d. at 38s., while Czecho-Slovakian at 19s. 9d. is unchanged. White Mauritius is unaltered at 44s., as also white Java at 47s.

Coffee.—The market has been dull. Costa Rica has remained at 130s., while Indian at 112s. has dropped 2s. Other transactions include Jamaica at 144s. and Nairobi at 106s. Futures are :—December, 48s. 9d., March 56s., May 50s. 6d., July 51s.6d., September 52s.

Oilseeds.—Steadiness has prevailed, Indian Linseed at 17s. 3d. is 9d. up, while La Plata at 16s. is 2s. up. Rapeseed has been firm with Toria unchanged at 18s. 6d. and brown Cawnpore the same at 18s. Cottonseed has been variable, with Indian 6d. up at 9s. and Sakellarides 4s. up at 14s. 6d., while Egyptian black has gained 3s. 6d. at 14s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—A harder tendency has ruled. Linseed is 1s. 6d. up at 27s., while for November-December 28s. 3d. is quoted, and for January-April 28s. 9d., advances of 1s. in both cases. Rape oil has remained firm, the crude variety being the same at 56s., and refined unaltered at 55s. Cotton oil has been weak. Refined common edible is 5s. down at 59s., and Egyptian crude is 2s. lower at 42s., while deodorized at 55s. has shed 3s. Turpentine has lost 3d. at 68s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—The market has been steady. Linseed cake is 10s. up at 150s., while cottonseed cake is unchanged at 160s. Arachis cake at 229s., and palm kernel at 110s. are both unaltered.

## ROUMANIA'S AGRICULTURAL POSITION.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (October 20) :—According to the latest reports on the agricultural situation of the country, the farmers are very much in arrears with the autumn sowings, owing to lack of rain. In certain mountain districts the sowings have had to be stopped completely.

Grain prices on October 18, f.o.b. Braila were : maize 22,500 lei per waggon (10 tons), barley, 25,000 lei per waggon.

According to the *Cesky Denik* the Czech Industrial Bank is negotiating with the newly-founded Anglo-Czech Bank with a view to close co-operation.

It is reported from Prague that Austrian financial circles are contemplating the possibility of applying to Czecho-Slovakia for a credit grant of four milliard Austrian crowns, on a scheme providing for the development of commercial relations between Austria and Czecho-Slovakia. Should this plan materialise, Austria would open its markets extensively to Czecho-Slovak export goods.

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## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. G. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 15 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 131,735 bags compared with 73,505 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 124,735 bags as against 65,505 bags for the same period last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 7,000 bags as compared with 8,000 bags for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to date total 145,000 loads as against 146,300 loads for last year. The total estimated sales are 143,000 loads as compared with 142,300 loads as compared with 142,300 loads for 1920, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 2,000 loads as against 4,000 loads for last year.

Shipments.—The s.s. Borodino is now loading, and sail for London on the 29th. instant.

**Markets.**

Exchange fluctuations have entirely dominated the market. Sterling rates on the 15th inst. closed at 680/695, and during the current week have, with occasional reactions, advanced to 860/865. Costs of sultanas and figs in foreign equivalents touched at a given moment the lowest point recorded so far this season, but with the strong demand that speedily developed, dealers rushed up their prices in local currency, more than offsetting the temporary setback caused by the exchange rates. Both sultana and fig markets are firm, and many dealers have withdrawn their sample trays, hesitating to sell until the exchange outlook becomes more settled. Fluctuations in both exchange rates and market values have been so rapid and unexpected that shippers are experiencing unusual difficulties in establishing quotations and accepting business, nor is the situation likely to right itself for the time being.

## DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., report as follows under date November 1 :—

October, the month in which we look for the greatest activity of the year is past, and the Xmas trade has yet to be done. Several reasons are given in explanation of the slowness of the demand. Undoubtedly the principal factor is, that we are passing through the worst period of unemployment for nearly a century, and added to this is the exceptional prolongation of the long spell of summer weather. The widely held opinion that prices would be lower made buyers very cautious in operating, heavy purchases in August having undoubtedly provided them with stocks for their immediate requirements, while the continued depreciation of the drachma has certainly influenced the position. The whole situation is abnormal, and cannot continue without a change.

Currants.—The market has been a steadily declining one, and with lower quotations for forward shipments day by day from Greece, principally due to the rise in the Greek exchange, trading has been extremely difficult, buyers displaying absolute indifference, and where business has taken place it has only been made possible by concessions in price on the part of sellers. Pyrgos, which was selling at one time at 45s., has recovered to 48s., Patras growth is very good, and the best parcels sell readily at 60s. to 65s., Gulf and Vostizza are disappointing, the latter grade being small. Shade dried parcels which stand out meet a quick sale at 80s. to 85s. No further arrivals were marketed before the closing days of the month, this fact creating a record, as only two cargoes have landed, against a possible half dozen in normal times. The few samples ex the Gerano and Trentino available met a ready sale, and with further supplies ex Inneroy momentarily expected, a better selection is looked for and more activity in consequence. Quotations are :—Pyrgos, 45s. to 48s. ; Amalias, 50s. to 54s.; Patras, 52s. to 58s.; Zante, 52s. to 58s. ; Gulf, 52s. to 56s. ; Panariti, 65s. to 70s. ; Vostizza, 60s. to 85s.

Valencia Raisins.—Many parcels being devoid of keeping qualities, sellers are meeting buyers, and although progress is slow transactions are taking place daily. Stocks are extremely small, and shipments being very light, it looks as if we should

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soon be out of supplies. Quotations are :—Half boxes, 120s. to 127s.; quarter boxes ordinary, 123s. to 130s.; good to fine, 135s. to 150s.; seedless, 100s. to 120.

Sultanas.—We have felt all along that the scarcity of stock in this country would be felt before Xmas, and if the economic position had been normal this article would have boomed. The majority of the merchants realised the position, and have been content to exercise patience. The lower values for forward shipments coming through from Smyrna caused one or two holders to unload their stock, and the cheaper grades were forced down to 95s., quickly recovering to 103s., and some good sulphured varieties were sold down to 120s., rebounding to 135s.; and 145s. Trentino is discharging additional supplies.

Figs.—Lower prices had to be accepted for the Malatian and the Karnak, and much of the fruit in skeleton cases landed in tender condition. On the whole a satisfactory clearance has been made. Large boxes selling at 120s. to 140s.; small boxes selling at 140s. to 150s.; locoums selling at 140s. to 180s. Quality of bags naturals appears to be lower than last year's standard. Prima selling at 55s. to 57s. 6d. Genuine selling at 63s. 6d.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon (Continental), 117s. cwt.; (Canadian) 107s. 6d. cwt.; (American), 90s. 6d. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 240s. cwt.; (Australian), 160s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 192s. cwt.; cheese (Canadian), 99s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 88s. cwt.; lard, 70s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 39s. 6d. per 120; eggs (Styrian), 24s. 6d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3¾d. cwt.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 89s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 152s. 6d. cwt.; (East India), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha, longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 61s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 57s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 1s. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; (Muntok white), 8d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 145s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 120s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 75s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 53s. cwt.; sugar (Tate's cubes), 55s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 49s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius Crystals), 43s. 3d. cwt.; (West India crystallized), 40s. 9d. cwt.; (centrifugal, in bond), 16s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 17s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 19s. 6d. cwt.; (bran Rangoon), £6 7s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 1½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3d. lb.; tea—Indian (common to good common), 10d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 4½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 11d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 5d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 7½d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 6¾d. lb.; wheat (English white), 46s. 6d. qr.; (La Plata ex-ship), 82s. qr.; (Australian), 53s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 57s. 6d. qr.; barley (feeding), 42s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 28s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 24s. 6d. qr.; maize (mixed American), 33s. qr.; maize (La Plata), 29s. 3d. qr.; flour, 47s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English regulus), £37 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £65 16s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £73 ton; gold bars, 104s. 5d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 120s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 132s. 6d. ton; galvanized sheets (24G), £18 7s. 6d. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 17s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 2d. unit; molybdenite, 40s. unit; nickel, £188 10s. ton; platinum, 382s. 6d. ton; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £9 17s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 40s. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 3s. 3d. ton; tin (standard), £156 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 12s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 22s. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 66s.; oxalic, 8¾d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4¾d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 5d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 ton; arsenic (white powdered), £38 15s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 15s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 129s. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 9d. lb.; chlorate, 6d. lb.; caustic, £31 ton; nitrate, £50 ton; permanganate, 1s. 0½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.) £16 10s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £12 ton; bi-chromate, 6¾d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 10s. ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.) £24 15s. ton; hyposulphite, £18 10s. ton; prussiate, 8¼d. lb.; nitrate, £14 16s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 4½d. lb.; quinine, 4s. 0½d. oz.; red lead, £38 5s. ton; white dry lead, £41 5s. ton; white ground lead, £50 17s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £30 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 117s. 6d. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (firsts), 90 lbs. and up, 10½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 10¼d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 10¼d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 9d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 9d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 9d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 9d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 8d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6¼d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6¼d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 6¼d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6,1-8d. lb.; Bulls (first), 6d. lb.; (second), 4,5-8d. lb.; Kips (first), 7d. lb.; (second), 6d. lb.; (third), 3¾d. lb.; Calcutta Market.—The quotations on the hide and skin market are as follows (in rupees per 20 lb.) :—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 7 to 12; Durbhangas, 4.8 to 6d; Patnas, 4.8 to 6. Salted cows, 3 to 6.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3.8 to 5. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 260 to 290 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton (American), 12.70d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 22.10d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £14 10s. ton; rape (Toria), £18 2s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £14 ton; sesame seed (China), £28 ton; palm kernals, £18 ton; Oils: Linseed, £28 ton; olive (Levant), £78 10s. ton; palm, £34 17s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £50 10s. ton; soya, £35 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gall; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £45 12s. 6d. ton; cotton (crude), £14 10s. ton; ground nut, £48 10s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 10d. lb. smoked sheet, 10d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 4d. lb.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.*

(*Particulars of tenders marked* (*D.O.T.*) *are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.*)

**Egypt.**

General Stores.—The Egyptian Postal Administration at Alexandria invites tenders for the supply of various stores for six months or the whole year of 1922-23. The schedules enumerate the following articles required:—1,500 pairs of boots, 7,000 mail bags (canvas, calico, jute grain sacks), 12,000 kilos calcium carbide, 1,000 candles, 84 chairs, 10 tables (various, to be manufactured locally), 60 files, 40 locks, 20 copper pans, 30 spirit lamps, 750 various metallic filament bulb lamps, lead seals, basketware, 18 trolleys, 15 carrier tricycles and miscellaneous stationery. Local representation is essential. November 15 (D.O.T.).

**Yugoslavia.**

Telephone Cable.—The Ministry of War and Marine of the Serb, Croat, Slovene Kingdom invites tenders for the supply of 1,000 kilometres of Field Telephone Cable. Local representation is desirable. November 15. (D.O.T.)

Khaki Drill.—The Army Clothing Department of the Serb, Croat, Slovene Ministry of War and Marine invites tenders for the supply of 825,000 metres of Khaki Cotton Drill for summer uniforms. A translation of the conditions of tender and a small sample of the cloth required have been received from the Commercial Secretary to His Majesty's Legation at Belgrade, and may be inspected by United Kingdom manufacturers on application at the Department of Overseas Trade (Room 58) 35, Old Queen-street, Westminster, S.W.1. Local representation is essential when competing for Government contracts in the Serb, Croat, Slovene Kingdom. November 20.

Cable Address: "Lobo, Dundee." **LOW & BONAR, Ltd., Dundee, Scotland.** All Cable Codes used.

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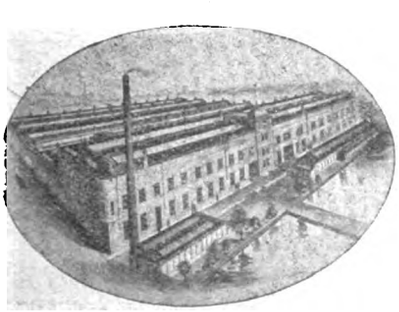
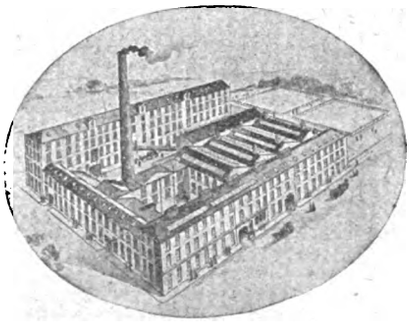
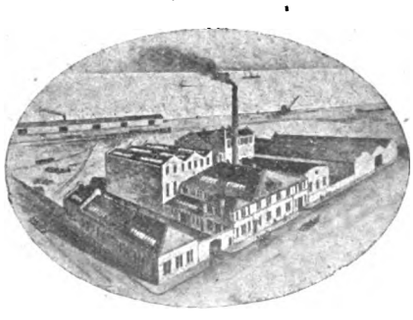

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# Company Meetings.

## IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was held on November 3, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., presiding.

The secretary (Mr. Charles E. L. Corthorn) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, reviewing the conditions under which the bank had been working during 1920, said that non-ratification of the Treaty of Sevres, the political conditions existing in Constantinople and at Angora, the renewal of hostilities in Asia Minor, and local disturbances had contributed to the continuance in the East of a state of instability and unrest, the effects of which, from the economic and financial point of view, had been aggravated by the world-wide crisis. The severance of relations with Anatolia deprived Constantinople of a very important market, not only for its imports but also for its exports. In consequence, Constantinople had to import from abroad to a much larger degree articles of first necessity—food, etc.—which it was impossible to obtain from neighbouring localities owing to the successive closing of the Russian ports on the Black Sea and Thrace, districts on which they had relied in the past.

In spite of the difficulties of the situation and the unfavourable circumstances ruling, the bank had continued to be extremely active; and through its prestige and its powerful connections in the East and elsewhere their establishment had been able to continue to develop its banking operations. In particular, important progress had been recorded in Constantinople and Smyrna; in Anatolia, however, operations had been naturally reduced, and a few of their branches had of necessity been closed, or temporarily transferred to other localities, pending a return to more normal conditions. The activity of the bank's branches in Greece, Syria, Palestine, Cyprus, and Egypt had been satisfactory, and there had been a large movement of business in Mesopotamia. The agencies in London and Paris, together with the two offices established in Manchester and Marseilles, had done all possible with a view to develop trade between their respective countries and the Orient. The Tunis office had given encouraging results from its first year. In the balance-sheet the assets and liabilities were valued at the rates current on December 31, 1920, when, as they would remember, the franc was quoted at 60 to the £ sterling as against frs.41 to the £ at the end of 1919. The consequence was that they had had to carry in an account "Balance of Difference of Conversion" a sum of £702,569 5s., arising principally from the effect of this exchange on their assets in francs. They had devoted to this account the £305,056 6s. 2d., together with the amount carried forward from 1919, i.e., £206,404 14s. 10d., making in all £511,461 1s., leaving an insufficiency of £191,108 4s. against the statutory reserve. It should be remarked that this did not constitute a realised loss. This insufficiency decreased proportionately as the francs improved below 60.

They drew special attention to this, and considered that the results registered under such conditions would permit them to have good hopes for the future.

In conclusion he said he was convinced that he would interpret their sentiments in addressing their warmest thanks to the direction générale in Constantinople, to their managers in London and Paris, and of their various branches, as well as to the staff of all grades, for the efforts which they had made, and which had allowed the results they had put before them to be arrived at. The staff of the bank in Asia Minor had on many occasions been face to face with a difficult and at times dangerous situation, and he would ask them to address to them a special message of sympathy and encouragement. He then moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

M. le Baron de Neuflize, C.V.O., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A resolution was then passed authorising the transfer of the bank's Syrian branches to the Banque de Syrie.

Comte Frédéric Pillet-Will, the Earl of Bessborough, C.M.G., and the Earl of Chichester, O.B.E., were elected members of the General Committee.

Baron Henri Hottinguer, Comte Frédéric Pillet-Will and General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, K.C.B., were re-elected members of the General Committee, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, the committee, the officers and staff of the bank at home and abroad, proposed by Mr. A. Hood and seconded by Mr. J. Rosselli, was unanimously accorded, and after a brief acknowledgment by the chairman the proceedings terminated.

## ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

The ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Ltd., was held on November 2, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., Mr. Sydney S. Hawkins, A.M.I.C.E., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. S. Maclean Jack) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the result disclosed was not good, but for that Lord Ribblesdale had prepared the shareholders at the last general meeting when he told them that, owing to various troubles culminating in the strike, the expenses of the company had been largely increased. The large increase in expenditure was the actual reason for the poor result obtained during the year. The Board had not been able to improve the earnings side of the railways account as much as had been hoped. The revised tariff, asking for the same percentage increase as all Indian railways, had been submitted to the Government of India for approval, but they understood it was not to take effect until April 1, 1922. In the previous year, also, they had been able to make up profits considerably from the exchange. In the year under review exchange had not been so much in their favour. The actual earnings of the year were admittedly not sufficient to pay the full amount of the dividends, but there were certain outside recoveries in hand, among them £15,000 recovered from the Inland Revenue under the Stevens v. Boustead decision, which had been previously paid in the form of income-tax, and, with other sums, this had enabled the Board to bring into account £21,621 and to recommend the usual dividends to all classes of shares. With regard to the new timber concessions and colliery leases, a 30-year concession of the former had been granted and signed covering blocks which contained very valuable timber, while the Government of India had granted them not only the Lekhapani colliery lease, but a lease of additional coal areas known by the name of Tipangpani, forming together an additional reserve of coal nearly, if not quite, as big as the original lease of the company. They should prove an asset of the very greatest value. Thanks to the financial arrangements made towards the end of last year, the company was now in a fairly strong financial position. In conclusion, he wished to say that while the "B" shareholders should not assume that their dividends might not have to be reduced under the present difficult circumstances, so far as the Board could see at present, there was no reason to suppose they would not be able to maintain the Preference dividends.

Mr. G. Turner M.E., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the remaining formal business of the meeting was completed.

## MORUMS ORIENTAL STORES.

The second ordinary general meeting of Morums Oriental Stores, Ltd., was held on November 4 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. F. H. Manley presiding.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—My first duty is to convey to you the deep regrets of our Chairman, Mr. Crowther, at his enforced absence from this meeting. Mr. Crowther has been taken seriously ill, and his doctor has forbidden him to transact any business whatsoever for at least a month, and it is for this reason that I have to take his place in the chair. Mr. Crowther had already prepared his speech, and I propose, therefore, with your permission, to read it in his absence. I am sure you will all join the Board in wishing Mr. Crowther a complete and speedy recovery. I propose, with your permission, to take the notice convening the meeting as read, and will therefore call upon the secretary to read the auditor's report.

The Secretary (Mr. P. Nichols) then read the report of the auditors.

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The Chairman then read the speech prepared by Mr. Crowther of which the following are extracts :—Taking the profit and loss account first you will notice interest and discount charges and London office expenses, together about £15,000. Then we have £3,764, which has been allocated in respect of depreciation on buildings, fittings, etc., at the same rates as we instituted last year. Turning to the debit side of the balance sheet, our share capital account remains the same as in the previous balance-sheet at £500,000.

Debtors and debit balances appear at £53,033. Last year they figured at £117,000, but then there was included an amount of approximately £27,000 in respect of claims for damages against the Egyptian Government, as a result of damages and loss from riots. These claims, I am glad to report, were settled in full prior to the closing of the accounts now under review. Cash in hand is represented next at £9,757.

We then come to the last item, which shows that the year's operations have resulted in a loss, as shown by the profit and loss account of £164,333. If you will again refer to the debit side of the profit and loss account, you will see that the actual loss on trading amounts to £74,215, and to this has been added such amount by way of depreciation as we have thought adequate. We have further deemed it advisable to take back the reserve of £9,593 provided last year, which reduces the amount to the figure shown in the balance-sheet—namely, £154,739.

Naturally, we are bitterly disappointed with the results submitted to you. Practically all industrial undertakings have suffered from the unprecedented fall in prices, the world-wide business stagnation and resulting diminution of purchasing power. In January, 1921, not only were the warehouses and stores throughout Alexandria and Cairo filled to overflowing, but practically every shop or store had bales of cotton goods and similar merchandise stacked in the streets owing to it being impossible to find storage room. When it was realised that there was a definite falling off in trade and a heavy fall in prices many of the shopkeepers and merchants threw these goods on the market at practically any price they would fetch. Until then we had maintained more than our turnover, and, in view of the prevailing conditions, had secured a not unsatisfactory profit.

Mr. Ottley and Mr. Manley, who were then in Egypt, after very full consultations with the local management and Egyptian bankers and other authorities, cabled to us in London informing us of the prevailing conditions and asking for the authority of the Board to press sales at the best prices obtainable. It was clear that this would have the dual advantage of satisfying the demands of our customers at prices which it was within their power to pay, and so consolidating and strengthening the goodwill of the business, maintaining the efficiency of our organisation, and at the same time disposing of high-priced goods and providing the necessary funds to replace them by goods bought at reduced prices. Consequently the necessary authority was cabled out to Egypt.

The same policy was followed by other local stores, and, notwithstanding the very unsatisfactory result from the point of view of trading results, the policy has been amply justified; our turnover for the year reaching a figure slightly in excess of the previous year, during which, of course, considerably higher selling prices prevailed, so that the sales of the year under review represent an appreciable increase in the volume of our trade. We had thus by the end of the year actually realised a great part of the depreciation which had to be faced. The remaining stocks have been written down by approximately 20 per cent.

A discussion ensued, in the course of which questions were asked as to the present value of the stock, standing at £299,122, and the sufficiency of the amount written off.

The Chairman, in reply, said that the Board believed that the goods stood in their books at their replacement value or under, and that a profit should be realised on their sale.

An amendment was moved for the appointment of a committee of shareholders, but it was supported only by the mover and seconder, and the Chairman's motion was carried with only one dissentient.

The retiring directors, Messrs. R. B. H. Ottley, C. M. Higgins and J. D. Steen, were re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., were reappointed.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.


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**SCINDIA, NOVEMBER 30.**
**CASTALIA JANUARY 6**
**MASSILIA, JANUARY 20,**
**CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10**

**Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,**
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## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

### Forthcoming Sailings.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses* :—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 25).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 19); s.s. Mandasor for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 23); s.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London December 3); s.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, December 17).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Merton Hall for Rangoon (Middlesborough, London, November 18); s.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 23).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Harrington for Patras, Pireaus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 15).

*Clan Line.*—S.s. Clan Ogilvy for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, November 16); s.s. Clan Stuart for Colombo, Madras and Colombo (Birkenhead, November 17).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Cypria for Genoa, Leghorn, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Swansea, November 15); s.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Swansea, November 30).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Trentino for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, November 12); s.s. Gerano for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, November 12).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. Kosmo for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, November 21); s.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 24).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of Marseilles for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, November 12); s.s. City of London for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, November 29).

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenade for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, November 24); s.s. Glenamoy for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 8); s.s. Glentara for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 22).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Port Inglis for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 19).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, November 11); s.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, November 18); s.s. Sicilia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 18); s.s. Mirzapore for Bombay (London, November 26); s.s. Khyber for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 2).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 11); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 18); s.s. Nerbudda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 26); s.s. Canara for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 3); s.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 10).

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Aleppo, September 7.

The market remains quiet despite the small business that has resulted from the arrival of some merchants from the interior. Cotton goods and cotton thread have risen by from 10 to 15 per cent. The grain market remains firm ; the arrivals of cereals from Damas are very considerable.

Prices in Syrian piastres per kilogramme are :—Washed wool 37½, market quiet ; cotton from Idlib 19, tendency to rise ; gall-nuts 17 ; pistachio nuts—white 31, red 27—there is a strong demand for this commodity in America ; apricot kernels 8½ ; sweet almonds 68. The export of opium has been absolutely prohibited. Stocks of bees wax are exhausted, and the crop appears to be small.

Panderma, October 11.

Conditions have not been favourable for work in the fields. The rain that has fallen has naturally been very welcome. During September 1,000 kilos of skins were imported from Europe, and 1,000 cases of oil. The commodities despatched from here for Smyrna are as follows in kilos :—Wheat 130,000, oats 50,000, chick peas 55,000, lentils 50,000, beans 50,000, kidney beans 13,000, and for the Piraeus 40,000 kilos of grains of flax.

The disposable stocks are as follows in kilos (the figures in brackets representing the present price per kilo) :—Wheat 100,000 (5½—5,7-8) ; maize, 1,270,000 (4,5-8) ; barley, 130,000 (3½) ; German wheat, 130,000 (6½) ; lentils, 650,000 (3,7-8) ; oats, 130,000 (7,3-8) ; grains of flax, 25,000 (7½—10,7-8) ; kidney beans, 325,000 (5,7-8) ; beans, 130,000 (7,3-8—8,5-8) ; chick peas, 3,500 (5—5½) ; rye, 90,000 (10—12½) ; flour, 25,000 (14,3-8) ; American flour, 1,000 (7½) ; mustard, 23,000 (480) ; cocoons, 2,000 (109½—148½) ; oil, 1,000 cases (430—615).

## THE YIELD OF EGYPTIAN COTTON.

In the current number of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon, C.B.E., lately Consulting Agriculturist to the Government of Egypt, discusses the causes which have led to the decline in the yield of cotton in Egypt. Whereas during the six years ending 1899 each acre under cotton produced on the average an annual crop of over 500 lb. of cotton, during the eight years ending 1913, the average yield had fallen to just over 400 lb., and in 1920 it was as low as 320 lb. per acre, the reduction in twenty years thus amounting to 36 per cent. Such a decline, if not checked, must in time have a serious effect on the prosperity of Egypt which depends so largely on the cotton growing industry. It is pointed out that although the chief causes to which the decline is due have been recognised, the proportionate share of each in the result is often so unduly emphasised as to produce a misleading impression, and this is apt to lead to the adoption of incorrect procedure. In the article in question, Mr. Dudgeon places in their true perspective the different factors involved, such as the degeneration of the productive powers of the soil, the ravages of insect pests, and agrarian disturbance.


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Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

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# Cotton & Cotton Goods.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

*(From Our Own Correspondent).*

*Manchester, Friday.*

The past week has probably been the worst we have experienced in this market this year. The only feature of interest has been the reduction in the bank rate to five per cent., which will help to ease the financial position somewhat. The marked improvement which was anticipated a few weeks back has not taken place, and the general opinion now is that the market will continue in a very dragging state of affairs until after the new year. Too many disconcerting factors are present for any progress to be made towards better times. There is no confidence whatever in current rates, with the result that buyers have displayed an utter lack of initiative. With regard to cloth only a small inquiry has been about for Egypt, the Levant, and Constantinople, and sales have been few and far between and not of any weight. Spinners of Egyptian yarns have been full of complaints, and a patchy offtake has been registered. Prices on the week show a decline, and in certain instances ridiculously low rates have been accepted by needy sellers. Only a small piece goods demand has been about for India, with occasional small sales in light cloths. Hardly anything worth mentioning has been done for China. Buyers for Java, Singapore, and South America have not been altogether idle. Prices for American yarns when tested have favoured buyers, and sales have been unsatisfactory. Taking the position as a whole the market conditions are causing no enthusiasm.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date November 2 :—

The four days covered by this report have witnessed steady markets, but, at the same time dull ones. The enquiry has fallen away again, and sales have been small; only on one day has a 500 figure been reached. And yet, taken all round, the situation would seem to be clearer and technically sounder than it has been for several weeks past. No doubt the wish, to a certain extent, is father to the thought, but a fairly extensive view on the market seems to be that the stage is now set for a revival of business. In support of this view, we are now passing through a session of fairly steady markets, and there are signs about that India is at last beginning to take a little more notice of things. Against it, however, there stands a most formidable stock of yarn, which will have to be moved before the weight of fresh business can really be felt in our market. And yarns, particularly Egyptian yarns, are not moving off as they should.

Patience is a virtue, which nowadays is subjected to the most exhaustive tests. Month after month we have been told that trade is *bound* to improve. Now, if ever, one would think, the time is ripe for this to come about. With both the American and Egyptian crops reduced to the lowest figures known for many years, and the former particularly (if we are to believe the various accounts which have come through) very deficient in staple, surely the Egyptian side of the trade should now come into its own? Our view still inclines this way, and we are of the opinion that present possessors of old crop, good staple cotton, will materially benefit by holding, as higher prices would seem most probable. In this connection, it is as well to remember that considerable quantities of staple "outsiders," for example Tanguis cotton, are offering at what seems a very reasonable basis compared with, say Upper Egyptian. This style of cotton is constantly finding a wider outlet, and may even become a serious rival.

One rather interesting piece of news has recently come to hand. The temporary tariff of 7 cents. imposed by the U.S. Custom, on the importation of inch-3-8ths cotton has been extended for a further three months. This will restrict the buying for America which a short time ago was such an important feature of the Alexandria spot market, at all events until the date when this measure expires. The small enquiry here has been of a fairly general character, with a slight bias in favour of Uppers. One or two fair lines of cotton have been sold for forward delivery. Manchester reports, with the exception of the Indian news referred to above, display no special features and, generally speaking, have been dull and weak, easy sellers of yarn and cloth being much to the fore. Reliable crop news is somewhat guarded in the views expressed, but at least it can be said that there is nothing remarkable about the staple of the new crop, and there are very many adverse reports upon it, which may be taken for what they are worth. Total sale 1,000 (includes 80 bales Sudan). Quotations, with the exception of Extra Fine Sakel, which is reduced 25 points, show an upward tendency, Sakellaridis being raised 50 points, Brown and Upper 75 points.

## COTTON TRADE DEPRESSION.

*(From Our Own Correspondent).*

*Manchester, Friday.*

Owing to the absence of fresh business during the past fortnight Lancashire cotton spinners and manufacturers are losing ground again, and in some cases rather rapidly. It was expected that the state of trade would be discussed yesterday at the ordinary monthly meeting held in Manchester of the general committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, but at the close no official statement was issued. It is understood, however, that the question of organised short time was not considered. Both spinners and manufacturers, however, are not clearing the output of the machinery, and in an irregular way production is being curtailed on a larger scale than a month ago. It was stated on the Manchester Royal Exchange yesterday that if trade does not improve quickly the Master Spinners' Federation will be asked to take a ballot of the members as to taking concerted action with regard to working the mills fewer hours each week. In weaving districts there is a tendency for unemployment to increase.

## COTTON CLOTH PRICES ADVANCED.

Messrs. Horrockses Crewdson and Company, Ltd., the well-known cotton manufacturers, of Preston, Bolton and Manchester sent out a revised list of cloth prices last week. The quotations show a rise of about 10 per cent. compared with the previous list published on August 1. For plain bleached sheets the advance is from 11s. to 02s. 3d. per pair to 12s.-68s. per pair, and for twilled bleached sheets 11s. 6d.-69s. 9d. per pair to 12s. 6d.-69s. 3d. per pair. For sheeting 50 yards there is a rise from 16½d.-51d. per yard to 18d.-56d. per yard. For nainsooks 40 ins. 12 yards, from 13s. 3d.-28s. 9d. to 14s. 6d.-31s. 9d. Longcloths have been advanced from 10d.-28¾d. per yard to 10¾d.-31¾d. per yard. For shirtings the advance is from 9d.-20d. per yard to 12d.-22d. per yard, for flannelettes from 11d.-17d. per yard to 12d.-18¾d. per yard, and for fine white sateens from 17¾d-35¼d. to 19½d.-38¾d. per yard.

A branch of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited has been opened at Suez.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended October 29, amounted to £10,089.

Bullion gold to the amount of 700 kgs. extracted from Roumanian mines left Braila last week for London.

OAKEY'S WELLINGTON SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks 1d., 2d., and 4d. 1s. Boxes.
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# Stock and Share Markets.

## IRREGULAR TENDENCY PREVAILS.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

London, Monday night.

It has been a week of diverse influences and rather irregular markets, but on the whole the tone has shown some improvement. The success of the Local Loans issue and the further reduction in the Bank Rate came as a welcome tonic. It is surprising that the rate was not lowered some time ago, and it may be noted that the change when it came followed the reduction of the New York Federal Reserve Bank's rate to 4½ per cent. On the other hand the critical Irish situation continues to exercise a depressing influence on markets, while there is at any rate the possibility of untoward developments in more than one centre abroad, and any general improvement in prices need not be looked for until the economic and political situation at home and elsewhere is a good deal more stable than it is at present.

The gilt-edged group have been fairly firm. Consols at 48⅝ have shed 1-8, but War Loan Fives are ½ up at 88 xd., while Fundings have gained ¼ at 71⅝. The India 7 per cent. Loan is unchanged at 104. In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are the same as before at 68⅛. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are unchanged at 69, but Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent 1898 are 2 up at 68.

The renewed weakness of the mark has had a depressing effect on foreign securities. French War Loan 5 per cents. are 37, while Italian Rentes are 23. German 3 per cents. are 2,7-16 after being down to 2¼.

**Industrials Firm.**

While there has not been a great deal of business the tone has on the whole been rather more confident. Textiles have been steady, with Courtaulds 2s. 6d. up at 33s. 6d., and Bradford Dyers harder at 1½. The orders for the new battleships have given a firm appearance to the leading lines in Engineering and Iron and Steel Shares. Armstrongs are 6d. up at 16s. 6d., while Vickers have gained 9d. at 11s. 9d. Guest Keens have hardened to 28s. 3d., and Cammell Lairds are firmer at 13s. 6d.

The fluctuations in P. and O. Deferred have been the feature of the Shipping market. On the news that, while the dividend would be maintained at its previous rate, there would be no bonus, the shares dropped 75 to 260, but buying then set in, and the price rose to 280, a fall of 55 on the week. Other shares were dull in sympathy. Furness Withys are 3d. down at 21s. 9d., while Cunards are unchanged at 16s.

**Oils Irregular.**

Oils have shown a distinctly irregular tendency. A firm undercurrent is, however, to be noted, which is the result apparently of the bullish appearance of oil shares in Wall Street. Certainly it is not due to any increase in public interest, which would make for an all-round improvement in values for which there is ample room. Mexican Eagles are 3-32 lower at 3,5-12, and it seems that we must wait for the annual meeting before looking for any substantial recovery. Burmahs have been in steady request, and have risen to 5,11-16. Anglo-Egyptians are unchanged at 1,3-16, but Gemsah Reefs are 6d. down at 5s. Roumanian Consolidated are 9d. down at 7s. 3d., Steaua Romanas are unchanged at 8s. 3d., Dacia Romanos are the same at 13-16, but Phoenix, which have been one of the firmest features of the market, are 1s. 3d. up at 7s. 3d.

Mining descriptions improved temporarily on the reduction of the Bank rate, but there was subsequently a relapse, and prices are generally at the old levels. A feature of the week has been the activity is Chartereds, which rose to 11s. 6d., closing 4⅛d. lower.

**Banks Steady.**

Bank shares have been steady. Agricultural of Egypt 3½ per cent. Bonds are ½ up at 54½, but the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 55½. Imperial Ottoman Banks are the same at 7, but National Bank of Egypt are ¼ up at 19. Bank of Athens are unchanged at 2, but Ionian Banks have gained 1-16 at 3,5-16. Chartered of India have hardened to 14,11-16, an advance of 3-16, but National of India are unchanged at 37½, as are P. and O. Bank at 11½. Imperial of Persia are the same at 5,1-8, while Bank of British West Africa remain at 4⅜.

The Rubber market is unchanged. The tone is generally steady, but business is on the smallest possible scale, and it is perfectly evident that investors intend to hold aloof until they can see their way more clearly. The price of the raw commodity remains round about 10d., and it will obviously have to go far above that before dividends that are worth having can be paid. And that brings one back to the question of existing stocks, as to the amount of which there seems to be some uncertainty, though there is no doubt that consumption is now well above the amount of arrivals.

Greek shares have hardened, presumably on the prospect that a loan will be forthcoming. The 5 per cent. 1884 Loan has gained a point at 34, while the 5 per cent 1881 Loan is a similar amount up at 34. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is unchanged at 32, while the 5 per cent. Funding Loan is the same at 33.

**Land Shares Weak.**

Land shares have again displayed weakness. Béhéras are 1-8 down at 8,7-8, but Béhéra Prefs are unchanged at 3,1-8. Egyptian Delta Lands have shed 3d. at 7s. 9d., but New Egyptians are 6d. up at 23s. 6d. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s. Sidi Salems are unchanged at 1s., while Union Foncières are the same at 2,7-8. Sudan Plantations are 1-16 lower at 2,7-8.

Among miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are unchanged at 6,5-8, Egyptian Markets remain at 20s., Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 6d. up at 34s. 6d., while Morums Prefs are unchanged at 6s.

## A USEFUL YEAR BOOK.

The sixth annual edition of "The International Mercantile Diary and Year Book" (The Syren and Shipping Ltd., 7s. 6d.), has just been issued. This year book is designed to provide in a readily accessible form the information required by exporters, merchants, and shippers. A brief reference to the contents will serve to show the invaluable character of the publication. It includes a variety of conversion tables, freight calculation tables, measures, multiplication tables, and foreign exchange conversion tables, covering all currencies, the value of which at the present time scarcely needs to be explained, while another feature of special interest is the "International Section," in which is given a variety of useful information regarding the various countries. The year book can be cordially recommended to the business man who requires to have by him in convenient form a reference book to which he can turn when in doubt.

Mr. Kawasji Dinshaw Dubash, a prominent merchant and citizen of Bombay, died suddenly in Paris on November 1, after undergoing an operation five days earlier. He was the head of a well-known Parsi family and of the firm of Messrs. Dadabhoy Hormasjee and Co., which carries on extensive shipping and commercial operations in Western India.

According to Reuter's Constantinople correspondent the Sublime Porte has addressed a Note to the Allied financial establishments in order to ensure the adoption of the measures recommended by the meeting of Ottoman and foreign Chambers of Commerce on October 16, which measures are intended to check speculation and include the restriction of the importation of articles of luxury. The Sublime Porte hopes that the adoption of the said measures will put an end to the rise brought about by various illicit means to the detriment both of the interests of Turkey and the commercial interest of the Great Powers.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £ .... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £ ... | 25.22½ | 94-95 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 305-315 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 22.43 | 1,000-1,130 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4⅛-1.4½ |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 55.20-56.00 |
| Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 800-820 |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4⅛-1.4½ |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 720-760 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 4.86 2-3 | 3.94⅛-3.94⅜ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 53 40-53.45 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 400-410 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 96-96½ |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ .... | 25.22½ | 600-650 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 51 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 10,000-11,000 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 10,000-11,000 |

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 549—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Egyptian Negotiations.*

The negotiations between the British and Egyptian Governments are nearing an end, and, as is almost inevitable in such cases, there is little chance of both parties being completely satisfied. What should be avoided at all costs is that the negotiations should be broken off without some agreement being reached. Better a tentative arrangement than none at all. If the Egyptians should feel that they have not secured all that they considered themselves entitled to, they have the certainty that, given a period free from untoward incidents in Egypt, they can soon count on receiving all they want. The moment has not been very opportune for the negotiations; Ireland, India, Turkey, Egypt, all these countries constitute grave preoccupations for the British Government, and it is possible that their cumulative effect has been to emphasize the supposed need of safeguards in regard to such a key-position as that which Egypt occupies in the geographical scheme of the British Empire. Any considerations that may have actuated the British Government in the course of the negotiations will have been appreciated by a statesman of the calibre of Adly Pasha, and all that is required is that he should impress his views on the Egyptian nation as a whole. The task may be hard; but there can be little doubt that, conscious himself that he is in the right, the Egyptian Prime Minister could, by a bold unflinching stand, carry the moderate section of the nation with him, and secure acceptance for the terms that he can take back with him. He will know, and the nation can be given the assurance, that in due course all will come well, if Egypt remains true to her real interests.

### *The Angora Treaty.*

France's Treaty with Mustapha Kemel Pasha may have increased her popularity at Angora, but it has done so nowhere else. If her original idea was to bring an impossible situation to an end, it was in a large measure sound. She imagined, no doubt, that by making terms with the Nationalists she would force Great Britain to recognise them as well, and peace would be ushered in throughout Asia Minor. Ever since the Armistice, however, French foreign policy has been characterized by crudeness and inconsistency. In dealing with the Angora Government she has not realized that there must be a point at which an agreement might overstep the limits of a local arrangement and become in effect an international treaty. This is precisely what has happened. The Allies must come to terms with the Turkish Nationalists; but when they do, the understanding should embrace Turkey as a whole and provide for a future unified State. France has practically accorded to the Angora Government recognition as the Sovereign Power of Turkey, oblivious of the fact that there is a Sultan in Constantinople, against whom the Kemalists are in revolt, on account of the Sultan's so-called submission to the Allies. The Angora Treaty represents a thoroughly crude effort in amateur diplomacy, and it is not difficult to understand that it has seriously embarrassed the British Government.

### *The Need for a Settlement.*

It is to be hoped that no time will be wasted in an exchange of recriminations between Great Britain and France. The one thing necessary is to bring about a settlement of the Turkish question; and if France's *gaucherie* and constitutional inability to play the game have complicated the situation, the greater the need for immediate action before the evil effects of the Angora Treaty have time to develop. France's engagements with the Kemalists have left the British Government free to clear up the present *impasse*. The Angora Government wants to see Turkish territory evacuated by the Greeks; the treaty with France has not effected this, nor can the National army bring it about. On the other hand, Great Britain can. If there be any truth in the rumour that the Greek Government will not be unwilling to leave itself in British hands, the ground has been prepared for a settlement. Until this has been reached, however, the worst effects from France's misguided action may be feared. The panic into which the Christian population of Cilicia has, not unnaturally, fallen is in itself an incentive to the worst elements in Asia Minor to take vengeance on the people who, trusting in France's word, allowed themselves to be recruited for the army that was to operate against the Turks. In any negotiations that may now be set on foot, it seems clear that the Constantinople Government as well as the Kemalists should be a party; for the British Government does not want to repeat France's mistake, by leaving Turkey a country divided against itself. Even if Mustapha Kemal Pasha falls into line with the Allies' requirements as far as the minorities in Asia Minor are concerned, it does not follow that he will prove equally accommodating in Constantinople, unless he is made to realise that ordered Government in Turkey is to be a *sine qua non* of any settlement of the Turkish question.

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### *Serbia and Albania.*

The representations of the Allies in Belgrade appear to have led to the withdrawal of Serbian regular troops from Albania, but large numbers of irregulars are stated to have been left in the country. It would be well if the Yugoslav Government could realize what prejudice has been caused to Serbia's good name by its indefensible action in Albania. Perhaps the eyes both of the Government and of the people will be opened by the resolution passed by a number of Members of Parliament, to which Dr. Seton-Watson has accorded his support, endorsing the policy of the British Government in the Albanian question, and expressing regret that Serbia should be using the strength and riches which she largely owes to the Allied and Associated Powers to attack a neutral State, forgetful of her own appeals for help in 1914 against a greater neighbour. Nothing in regard to Albania can be left to chance. It will be necessary for the Commission appointed by the League of Nations to remain on the spot until the last Serbian irregular has been withdrawn, and some guarantees have been extracted from the Belgrade Government that there will be no further aggression against the Albanians. The modifications to be introduced into the 1913 frontiers have been almost exclusively in favour of Yugoslavia, and the old plea that the Albanians have always been the first to attack will no longer hold good.

### *The Situation in Bulgaria*

A telegram from Sofia states that the Congress of the Agrarian Party which was to take place on November 21 has been postponed *sine die*. This congress of the Agrarians, or Zemledeltzi—the political group actually in power, with M. Stambolisky, their leader, as Prime Minister—takes place every year on November 21 (Archangel Day of the Orthodox Church). The present postponement may be attributed to the political wisdom of the Prime Minister, who has realized that the moment is not propitious for the public discussion in Bulgaria of matters which are primarily party questions, but which in view of the special position of the Party are apt to become invested with national significance, and, therefore, may trench upon the sphere of international politics. Such a step on the part of M. Stambolisky is in keeping with the policy that he has endeavoured to carry out since he assumed office. He has set his face against all adventures that would clash with the strict observance of the Peace Treaty, and according to the lights of the Party with which he is associated has worked for the economic development of Bulgaria at peace with her neighbours. With so many other countries pursuing a different policy, not altogether without success in some instances, credit may be given to the Bulgarian Government for not having added to the preoccupations of the Entente at this time.

### *Riots in Jerusalem.*

The disturbances in Jerusalem on November 2, the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, have led to a demand on the part of the Jews of the city for the removal of Mr. Ronald Storrs, the Governor, on the ground that he was responsible for the failure to prevent or control the outbreak. In view of the fact that no official could have done more for the Holy City during a short tenure of office than the present Governor has done, it would seem as if political views were the main motive of the action of the Jewish representatives. There will, presumably, be an inquiry into the disturbances, and if the experience of the past is repeated, it may be found that the fault does not rest altogether on one side. To the onlooker at a distance, it seems an act of doubtful wisdom on the part of the Jews at this particular moment to engage in any formal celebrations of the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. It was well known that a certain amount of soreness prevailed among the Arabs, because the high hopes formed of the Arab Delegation to London showed no signs of being realized, and the fear had been expressed in some quarters that disturbances might be welcomed as a possible means of distracting attention from the Delegates' failure. Celebrations in honour of the Balfour Declaration at such a time could only be regarded by the Arabs as deliberate provocation. It is stated that a special Moslem service was arranged in order to draw Arabs away from the Jewish quarters during the celebrations, and it is admitted that the police saved the situation when the collision took place. In these circumstances to attempt to place on the Governor responsibility that really belongs to those who arranged the provocative celebrations may have been considered a shrewd move by the latter, but it would be a matter for regret if the demand for Mr. Storrs' removal were acceded to. The British Government has the right to expect assistance from the Jewish organisations in the difficult task of administering the country at this juncture. To organize celebrations on November 2 was not the way to render such assistance.

### *The Transjordania Problem.*

Colonel Lawrence is reported to be in Transjordania, where it is much to be hoped his presence will have a tranquillising effect upon a somewhat disturbed situation. Reports from that region have lately been invested with so much mystery, and have been so often contradictory, that it is only natural to infer that all is not well: that here as elsewhere the clash between Zionist and Arab views has led to friction which may easily become dangerous. Quite recently it was reported that the Emir Abdullah, apparently finding it impossible to reconcile all the conflicting interests in Transjordania, had withdrawn himself to the Hejaz; and according to one version, he had actually resigned his post. The latter version was promptly denied; and if we may trust reports current at the time of writing he is now in Transjordania. In any case, Colonel Lawrence is definitely stated to be there; and there are indications that an attempt is to be made to settle the future status of Transjordania without further delay. In this matter the advice of Colonel Lawrence would be invaluable, and the fact that he has been sent to the spot is a hopeful sign that the problem is to be tackled on practical rather than on 'idealistic' lines. We regret that there is as yet no news of King Hussein of the Hejaz modifying the attitude which he had taken up. It is possible, however, that the "scrapping" of the Treaty to which he objects may yet put an end to an awkward situation.

### *The British Prisoners from Turkey.*

It is very regrettable that the Turkish Nationalists' treatment of their British prisoners should have been such as to give rise to many unpleasant reports and rumours, for some of which, at least, there appear to be good grounds. The case of Colonel Rawlinson especially has been attracting a great deal of attention, largely by reason of some vigorously worded letters on the subject addressed to *The Times* by Admiral Sir Percy Scott. The first of these letters drew from Lord Curzon in the House of Lords a reply in which he set out the Govern-

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ment, or official, point of view at some length. This statement will be found on another page, and probably most readers will think that Lord Curzon made out a very good defence against the charges brought by Sir Percy Scott against the Foreign Office and the War Office. Unfortunately, while nobody will dispute Sir Percy Scott's ability to state his own views with unusual force, he too often seems to be quite incapable of seeing the other side of the case at all ; and after Lord Curzon's statement, he returned to the charge with a second letter to *The Times*.

### *"The Polite Letter Writer."*

In this second letter Sir Percy Scott states positively that "Colonel Rawlinson was put into a common Turkish gaol in June, 1920," and asks : "Why did not the Foreign Office take the trouble to find out where he was and how he was being treated ?" The letter is largely occupied with such statements as "they (the Foreign Office) cannot muzzle me," and "I do not write to *The Times* without well knowing the basis of my convictions," as to the value of which each reader must form his own conclusions, but it gives one piece of evidence, in the form of an "extract from a letter from Colonel Rawlinson, dated Erzerum Prison, August 21, 1921 :—

"Our treatment is disgraceful—disgusting conditions, solitary confinement, starvation, and misery. All literature is deprived us. (sic). For the last two months we have been allowed out in the prison yard once a day, never out before that. No news received since June, 1920, 14 months.—A. RAWLINSON."

Those facts are certainly a disgrace to the Kemalists, and calculated to rouse any Englishman's wrath. But when Sir Percy Scott adds, a little lower in his letter : "Lord Curzon points out that he had an unabated desire to extricate Colonel Rawlinson from his cruel position," and comments : "I am inclined to believe that if the matter had been left entirely in the hands of the Foreign Office, Toby Rawlinson and the others would be in prison still,' he surely weakens his case by his violent method of stating it.

### *Italy and Egypt.*

A committee of prominent Egyptians, we learn from the Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post*, has issued an appeal to French, Italian, American, and Greek subjects in Egypt, asking them to publish statements denying the report that it is necessary to retain British troops in Egypt for the protection of foreigners. What kind of response the appeal will meet with we do not know, but there can be little doubt that the French, Americans and Greeks will receive it none too enthusiastically. As to the views likely to be expressed by the Italians in Egypt, or by those in Italy, we are less able to make a guess. We saw not long ago that on this subject the former are not indifferent to certain pressure by the Egyptians, and Italian policy regarding Egypt and Great Britain's relationship to Egypt has been difficult to follow ever since the war. In this connection we may note the reported intention of the ex-Khedive to take up his residence in Italy, and the mystery which actually surrounds that very Anglophobe schemer's present movements. That is, however, at most only a straw which shows the drift of the current. Far more important is the fact that a section of the Italian Press shows an inclination to forget lessons learned quite recently, and to lend itself to spreading the views of the Egyptian extremists, and to provocative writing regarding this country. It would be interesting to know what Italian instructed opinion thinks would be the effect on Italy's North African possessions of Great Britain's complete withdrawal from Egypt.

### *The Indian Services.*

The India Office has been prompt in fulfilling the promise, given in the recent debate in the Lords, of an early announcement of the terms on which officers employed in India might withdraw from their service owing to inability to work effectively under the new Constitution. As to the terms on which retirement is permitted, we must speak with some reserve, for the Regulations on the subject are very intricate, and it is by no means easy to grasp at first sight the implications of some of the detailed provisions now added to them, but it can safely be said that the orders do not err on the side of generosity. Whether they can be described as "not ungenerous," to use Lord Lytton's expression, is a more doubtful matter, and one on which we are not disposed to commit ourselves until we have heard the views of the other side. Even the full pensions authorised by the Regulations are, as so many of our readers know to their cost, inadequate for anything like reasonable existence in this country, and the offer of a proportion dependent on length of service will not remove this fundamental difficulty ; it looks rather as if the senior men will be compelled to stay on, while the concessions will be welcomed by those who are young or energetic enough to contemplate a new career.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening.*

### Interludes and Episodes.

It has been a distracting kind of week, full of more or less irrelevant episodes "to be continued in our next." The Bigland-Bottomley business at the Old Bailey, which has filled the newspapers for weeks past, ended in Bigland's being committed for trial on a charge of criminal libel, while the magistrate made some scathing remarks on Mr. Bottomley, the prosecutor. The Basil Thomson affair fizzled out after all, and Sir Basil is now writing his reminiscences in *The Times*, and we are all waiting to see how many of our respectable friends were shadowed as suspects by Scotland Yard. On the other hand the anthropologists have been vastly excited by the discovery of a primitive human skull in Rhodesia among a case full of animal bones; the theory that the skull belongs to a meat trust profiteer who was holding frozen mutton for a rise is popular, but a little dubiously received in high scientific circles. Incidentally we have suffered the first really bad fog of the season, but as it happened on Lord Mayor's Day, and saved us from pretending we had seen that absurd procession, we are really grateful.

### The Exodus of Washington.

For the time being London feels a little out of the limelight, and rather like a provincial city, as so many distinguished citizens have gone to Washington for the Conference. It has really been rather like a race meeting. Mr. H. G. Wells got there first ; Mr. Arnold Bennett and Mr. Harold Cox were fairly level seconds at New York ; Mr. A. Spender a moderate third, and Mr. Bernard Shaw is explaining in a weekly paper why he is a non-starter. All these good folks are telling us what the Conference ought to be, and presently the ordinary reporters will tell us why it is not doing it; and then the distinguished people will tell us how much wiser statesmen great authors are than mere politicians, and we shall all shake our heads and feel that things might have been worse. As to the Pacific problem and the future of China, which is what the Conference is to discuss, I cannot find that the literary propagandists have given much space to it. These dull geographical details are so much less interesting than Mr. H. G. Wells himself.

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All the papers, as in duty bound, have designated the American proposals for limiting armaments as a "bombshell." They are in fact a fairly exact replica of Mr. Winston Churchill's suggestion ten years ago of an annual holiday between Britain and Germany; they are propounded in greater detail, but the principle is precisely the same. It is, of course, too early as yet to say whether the idea is practicable, and it will obviously need careful working out between the three great naval Powers; but the preliminary impression in this country appears to be favourable, at any rate as regards the next ten years. It would, perhaps, be rather difficult for Governments to commit their successors for a longer period.

**Parliament Ends.**

The session is over, and Westminster is a desert once more. But the House parted in better humour than it met, for Sir Robert Horne declared that revenue was coming in well, and that there will be no deficit next year. In every club and train one hears that nobody has any money, but it seems that income tax is still being paid, and the yield on Customs and Excise shows that people can still afford luxuries like wine and cigars. The fall in the cost of living has probably helped in this respect. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer was also able to assure us that trade is looking up, and diminished costs of production and harder work by master and man are helping to pull the country together. Meanwhile the experts are disputing the causes and consequences of the fall of the German mark, and students of foreign affairs are still discussing the effect of the possible bankruptcy of Prussia.

**Ireland.**

The eternal Irish negotiations continue. This week Ulster has been called in, and the Cabinet has handed the Ulster Government a series of proposals. These are to to be considered in Belfast; there is no doubt that they will be declared unacceptable, but it is believed that Ulster will then submit counter-proposals, which will have to be examined by the British Government. This does not seem on the face of it to indicate any particular progress towards a settlement, but in fact the omens are rather hopeful.

In the first place it is clear that the Sinn Fein delegation have avoided, at least for the present shipwreck on the matter of allegiance and independence; and that they have not definitely rejected the British Government's position towards Ulster. In the second place it means that the Unionists in the British Government are satisfied that here is a basis for negotiations with Ulster which will not be unjust to that province. This is important, as Lord Birkenhead was a prominent supporter of Ulster in 1913, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain has always been a strong Unionist. If they are satisfied then presumably the Unionist party can follow them without dishonour.

It is well known that in the event of a breakdown of the negotiations over the question of allegiance, Mr. Lloyd George would remain Prime Minister; but if they broke down over Ulster, he would not be a party to coercion on that ground, and would resign. With him, of course, would resign the rest of the Cabinet; but it has been suggested that the Unionist section of the Coalition would then take office. In view of the situation outlined above, however, it seems doubtful whether Lord Birkenhead and Mr. Chamberlain would do so. There remains Mr. Bonar Law, the dark horse of current politics, who is back in London but not in office. He has always been strongly pro-Ulster, but whether he would or could form a Government in such extraordinarily difficult circumstances is extremely problematical. Of course he could count on the support of the Die-Hards, and a certain number of other Unionists; but there would have to be an election almost at once. On the whole, in spite of gloomy prognostications and portentous shaking of heads, I fancy the Government will remain in office. Not many men envy Mr. Lloyd George his job, but I have yet to meet the man who envies his successor.

**London Traffic.**

The Government have turned down Lord Ashfield's suggestion that the Underground Railway and General Omnibus Company should be given a monopoly of London traffic in return for constructing fresh suburban lines as a means of assisting the unemployed. Indeed, the Cabinet could do little else than reject the scheme, despite its support by the trade unions; for its adoption would have permanently antagonised the London County Council, which is a very powerful body. It is still proposed, however, that the Government might guarantee the Company against loss of its capital, which would probably enable the directors to construct the extensions of their system, which are in fact urgently required. It is pointed out in some quarters that the Company has already practically a monopoly of omnibus and railway traffic, but that is by no means the same thing as a legally recognised monopoly. Incidentally, there is said to be some prospect that fares will be reduced. They are not excessive, but there always seems to be an odd halfpenny somewhere, which is a nuisance.

**The Morning "Westminster."**

The successive disappearance of the *Globe* and *Westminster Gazette* has sadly depleted London's choice of evening newspapers; nor can I get used to the new morning *Westminster*. There are obvious difficulties in the change-over, not all of which have yet been successfully surmounted; and I am afraid the new Liberal morning paper will have a hard fight for life. Unlike the old *Westminster* it does actually contain news, but like Bottom in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, it is translated indeed in its new small type and narrow column, with a serial story and a lady's page, and all the modern accessories. Mr. Spender has had many good wishes in his courageous venture, and we can only hope that we shall all get accustomed to the change in time, but I doubt whether the *Daily News* has so much to fear from its new competitor as seemed at one time probable.

**The Week's Books.**

"An Introduction to Psychology" (Methuen) by Susan S. Brierley, is a very useful summary of the elements of the subject, with the minimum of technical terms and—what one does not always find in more pretentious times—a sly piece of wit. The best chapters give a succinct description of psycho-analysis.

"Gambetta" (Methuen) by H. Stannard, is an admirable biography of the great French statesman, with some survey of the difficult years during which he was in the forefront of politics in France. The book, which is obviously the result of long study and research, should become the standard work on its subject in this country.

"Men I have Painted" (T. Fisher Unwen) by J. McLure Hamilton, is a light and amusing series of pen-portraits by an artist who generally works in another medium. It seems that Prince Bismarck once told him "that his doctor had said that a man might drink between the ages of twenty and seventy, fifty thousand bottles of champagne without offending the laws of health or the strict rules of temperance." Three bottles a day for fifty years seems rather heroic, but Bismarck confidentially informed the author that he might have exceeded the number, "to say nothing of a few other liquors, such as beer and brandy." It seems that Mr. Hamilton is not a golfer, for he remarks: "Men who golf much can never make up their minds, usually hold no opinions upon serious things, and assume that life, religion, and politics are like golf, an uncertain and unsteady game. Their mentality is in strong contrast to that of sportsmen who shoot big or small game."

I am glad to see that the popular "Everyman" series of reprints, suspended for some years owing to the high cost of production, have resumed publication, at half-a-crown instead of the original shilling. All but one of the ten new volumes are classics, and I shall look forward to others being added from time to time.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, November 3.*

**"Negotiations" Rumours.**

There is still the same tense expectation as reported in my two previous letters. Word was received this morning that Adly Pasha, head of Egypt's Official Delegation in London, had had the fateful interview with Mr. Lloyd George yesterday, and that, from the Egyptian viewpoint, "it was satisfactory." This message, in conjunction with the rapid swing of the British Press in favour of the ending of the occupation by British troops of the interior of Egypt, is regarded as implying that the days of the military occupation are at last numbered. It is, indeed, inevitable, if the British Government sincerely desires to make Egypt independent. It will be unfortunate for everyone except the British tax-payer. The *Egyptian Gazette* in a leader on the matter this morning, stated: "With the withdrawal of the Army of Occupation from Cairo and Alexandria, the entire edifice that we have built up in Egypt will collapse. That collapse may be rapid or slow, but it is inevitable." That represents British opinion in Egypt. The Egyptians, of course, professing a vast faith in themselves, indignantly repudiate such sentiments. Time alone can reveal whether their faith is justifiable.

**Looking Forward.**

There is still a possibility that agreement may not be reached, however, as to-day's message states that the Treaty, which apparently is being drafted by British draughtsmen alone, and not in collaboration with the Egyptian legal experts, has not yet been presented to the Egyptian Delegation. This is the sort of report that makes everything so tense here. It is no secret that if the negotiations fail, the extremists will be out for reprisals, and official fountain-heads are fully aware that their organisation, which has been perfected since the troubles in the Spring in 1919, is prepared for united action when the moment comes. Precautions, however have been taken, and no disorders will last many hours: the authorities also learnt a lot in the 1919 disturbances and will not be caught napping again. They have their fingers on the pulses of the storm-centres, and any changes will be met by the guardians of the peace. I am not endeavouring to spread any alarmist views. It is far better to see where we are, knowing that, given certain conditions, a small amount of trouble is inevitable. But it is also gratifying to know that preparations have been made to check it.

It is frankly realised in Egypt that the pending political developments in this country may cause a number of people who intended to visit Egypt during the coming season to hesitate. Such hesitation is perfectly right and proper, but intending tourists should, at the same time, remember that conditions to-day are very different from 1919. It is by no means certain that there will be any trouble. All the news goes to show that there will be an agreement between England and Egypt, and if it does materialise then Egypt will be even more interesting than usual, because of the big State functions that will ensue during the winter. And if, perchance, disturbances may be attempted, they will not be allowed to spread. They will be over quickly—and they will certainly be over before Christmas. Consideration of these acts should convince potential visitors that there is no necessity to change their plans. Formerly the agitator found the masses fairly pliable. But now the prominent Egyptians have re-asserted their influence, and these notables realise that they have far too much at stake to have it jeopardised by embarrassing outbreaks on the part of the lower classes.

**Zaghloul Pasha Jettisoned.**

One of the most significant phases of the vigorous re-entry of the notables into public life has been the renunciation, at the psychological moment, of Saad Pasha Zaghloul and his policy. Last night an absolute majority of the members of the Legislative Assembly sent a letter to Zaghloul Pasha, stating that, as, since his return from Europe he had committed a series of political blunders, due to the exclusion from his councils of some of his colleagues—the dissentient members of the original Wafd—who had shared the people's mandate with him, and as the signatories had full confidence in the Official Delegation and desired the best interests of the country, they felt it their "imperious duty regretfully to revoke their mandate to Zaghloul Pasha." Coincidentally the Procureur-General's report on the recent disturbances at Assiut during the visit of Zaghloul to that province was published, and it constituted another blow to the Pasha's prestige. It emphasised that Zaghloul had been requested, by a majority of the members of the province, to refrain from making the visit. It stated that the local authorities at Assiut had done their duty efficiently and well, and had they not done so the result would have been "appalling." Since Zaghloul's return to Cairo last Sunday afternoon he has been confined to his house by a bad cold.

**Bad News from Jerusalem.**

This morning's news from Jerusalem is rather disquieting. An unofficial report states that as yesterday was the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the Arabs rose up against the Jews in the Holy City, beat them with sticks and threw stones at the Jewish shops, breaking windows and causing other damage. An official message received this morning stated that a bomb had been thrown and exploded, killing four Jews and one Arab, and wounding 15. The same message reported that calm had been restored. It had been rumoured in Egypt for some days prior to November 2 that the Arabs were meditating a demonstration on the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Another message this morning to the local Press advises that the Moslem-Christian Arab Delegation is endeavouring to get a delegation of Members of Parliament to inspect the country and consider its fitness for emancipation from Zionist domination. Parliamentary membership apparently is daily becoming more attractive!

**Preparing for Armistice Day.**

The members of the British community in Egypt are making preparations for commemorating Armistice Day. In addition to the special Church services, wreaths are to be laid in the Cairo and Alexandria British military cemeteries, on individual graves where possible, otherwise on the respective Stones of Remembrance. The British community in Egypt is ultra-conservative, and when it does combine for some such movement the action bespeaks a lot more thought than appears on the surface.

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*Port Said, November 7.*

The visit of the Prince of Wales, though unofficial, has been voted a great success. The Renown was in

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sight about noon on Saturday the 5th inst., and when off the entrance to the channel she returned the salute of the battery on shore. As she steamed slowly up the channel she was escorted by eight aeroplanes, and H.M.S. Calypso following, and by 2 p.m. she was safely in her berth, opposite the Canal Office, which had been specially lengthened to take her. There were large crowds at every point of vantage, and most were able to recognise the Prince on his own special platform above the bridge, and later when he was receiving the various visitors on his private deck aft. His Excellency the Governor of Port Said, and El Miralai Archer Bey, Commandant of the Suez Canal Police, went on board and were received by the Prince, who chatted for some time with them. Later Mr. Were, Acting British Consul and Monsieur Chateauminois, Chief of the Suez Canal Company in Port Said, Captain Elliot, Captain of the Port, and others were presented to the Prince.

Shortly after the Prince came ashore, acknowledging repeatedly the cheers which were raised, and drove off in a car to return the call of the Governor. In the evening the Governor, Archer Bey, Mr. Were, and the Sultan's representatives from Cairo, had dinner with the Prince, and afterwards he received, as representatives of the British commercial community, Messrs. Tweedie, Broatch, Bristow, and Lloyd Jones.

On Sunday morning at 6.45, the Renown entered the Canal accompanied by the Canal Company's tugs, Titan and Hercule. Happily, however, their services were not needed, and although the Renown is one hundred feet longer than any ship that has yet gone through, she made the transit without the slightest hitch, in what was practically average time. Four aeroplanes also accompanied her down the Canal and she was followed by H.M.S. Calypso, who is to be her escort as far as Aden. Sunday night was spent at anchor in the Great Bitter Lake, and the Renown proceeded on Monday morning, when the tide permitted, to Suez where she arrived at 1.30 p.m. She then took oil fuel and steamed away down the Red Sea. Those who were fortunate enough to speak to the Prince were, as every one else, charmed with his unaffected and natural bearing.

**Armistice Day Celebrations.**

Last week a meeting of the British residents was called together at the Consulate to discuss measures for the celebration of Armistice Day. After some discussion and various proposals had been made, it was decided by a large majority to carry out practically the same programme as last year, and have a memorial and thanksgiving service at the English Church, and the two minutes' silence observed as part of the order of the service.

**Japanese Consular Reception.**

A week ago the Japanese Consul invited the leading residents of Port Said to a reception at the Casino Palace Hotel in honour of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan. The guests were received by the Japanese Consul and Mme. Mashike, who was dressed in national costume, and looked as pretty as any lady of Sir Edwin Arnold's or Lafcadio Hearn's imagination. Tea was passed round in the very beautifully decorated dining room and later the Japanese Consul made a short speech in English and loyal and complimentary toasts were drunk in champagne. Altogether it was a most enjoyable function.

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## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, November 7.*

**Yugoslavia Relieved.**

In spite of the terrible slump of the dinar, with all its disastrous economic effects, the political situation causes less anxiety than it did a week ago. Karl is in safe custody, and has passed through Yugoslav waters under the British flag, and the Hungarian Parliament has passed the Bill dethroning the whole ill-omened dynasty bodily, and Yugoslavia and her young allies can breathe a sight of relief. The West could never appreciate the menace that Karl personified to these young States, including those with an older kernel, and was perhaps impatient at their insistence, but, all the same, the firm attitude of the Little Entente has undoubtedly increased its prestige in the councils of Europe, and gratification is felt that the Big Entente has accepted the vital points of the little one's demands which, after all, consisted really in the complete and unqualified execution of the Peace Treaty. And the decisive factors, which showed that the Little Entente was in earnest, were the mobilisation and the united front presented by all parties in the face of the common danger.

This is gratifying, as also is the unofficial news from Paris that the Council of Ambassadors has accepted the demarcation of the Albanian frontier at least to a degree in favour of protecting Yugoslav territory against border raids: the road from Dibra to Struga is allotted to Yugoslavia, the frontier near Prizren is modified favourably, and to the north east of Skutari a substantial alteration is made to protect Podgoritsa.

**Administrative Provinces.**

The Government's scheme for the division of the country into new provinces is now published. The changes are great, and the new provinces are as follow:—

1. Bachka, with seat at Novi Sad. 2. Belgrade, including the whole of the present "okrug," or county of Belgrade, together with Zemun, Panchevo and parts of the county of Smederevo. 3. Bitolj, that is, Monastir with several of the surrounding okrugs and parts of others. 4. Branichevska, with seat at Pozharevats. 5. Varazhdin with most of the Zagorje country and Medjumurje. 6. Vrbaska, with seat at Banjaluka. 7. Dubrovachka, with seat at Dubrovnik, that is Ragusa, and the adjacent parts and islands of Dalmatia. 8. Zagrebachka, that is the country round Zagreb. 9. Zetska, with seat at Cettigne, including Montenegro and the district of Kotor, that is, Cattaro. It should be noted that Zeta is the ancient name for the old kernel of Serbia now occupied by Montenegro. 10. Kossovska, with seat at Prishtina. 11. Krajishka, with seat at Karlovats, including the greater part of southern Croatia. 12. Liublianska, with seat at Liubliana, including the town of that name and the greater part of Southern Slovenia. 13. Mariborska, with seat at Maribor, with the towns of that name and of Celje and northern Clovenia. 14. Mostarska, with seat at Mostar and the greater part of Herzegovina. 15. Nishka, with seat at Nish and parts of the adjoining okrugs. 16. Osijechka, with seat at Osijek, covering that part of Slovenia. 17. Podrinska, with seat at Shabats, including the okrugs of Podrinje, Valjevo and Uzhitsa. 18. Botiska, with seat at Bechkerek, including the Banat. 19. Sarajevska, including Sarajevo and southern Bosnia. 20. Rashka, with seat at Novi Pazar, covering the old sandjak of that name, and the old Rashka that was the kingdom of Stepan Nemanya, who founded united Serbia a thousand years ago. 21. Splitska, with seat at Split, covering northern Dalmatia. 22. Skopska, with seat at Skoplje, with the surrounding country. It will be remembered that Skoplje was the capital of Stepan Dushan. 23. Tuzlandska, with seat at Tuzla. 24. Shumadinska, with seat at Kragujevats, the ancient Shumadia, the heart of Serbia. 25. The province of the city of Belgrade, including Zemun. 26. The province of the city of Zagreb.

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The basis of the division is to arrange that each province has a population of not more than 800,000.

*Zagreb, November 9.*

**The King's Return.**

After a prolonged absence abroad under most depressing conditions, the King has returned to his country, to the delight and relief of his subjects. His first act was to hold a Council meeting to discuss the foreign situation created in Hungary, and on Sunday he took the oath. As he drove in semi-state to the Skupshtina, His Majesty looked decidedly pulled down by his long illness, but happy to be once more in Belgrade amid the loud and prolonged cheering of the crowds that lined the streets. He took the following oath before the Skupshtina :—" I, Alexander the First, on mounting the Throne of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and receiving the Royal Power, swear by Almighty God that I will cherish the Unity of the People, the independence of the State and the Entirety of the State Authority, that I will rule by it, and by the Laws, and that I will hold the good of the People before my eyes in all my Aspirations. So help me God ! Amen ! "

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, November 7.*

**M. Stambolisky's Declarations.**

Last Thursday I was received by the Prime Minister, who in the course of conversation informed me that the Government were in possession of proofs showing that the assassins of M. Dimitroff were Macedonians, and that the authorities knew the names of the actual assassins, but for obvious reasons would not disclose them. It was in order to aid the civil and military authorities in their task of tracking the murderers that the present state of siege had been declared at Sofia.

The Prime Minister said that after the Dimitroff matter had been cleared up, the Government would examine the question of the payment of Reparations, about which there was talk of a delay being accorded by the Great Powers. When this was settled the Government would devote itself entirely to internal policy, and would take steps to attract foreign capital to Bulgaria in order that the great mineral wealth of the country might be more fully developed.

Questioned as to the possibility of one of the external loans being accepted, the Prime Minister said that the matter would shortly come before the Cabinet for consideration, and added that the conditions offered by the Franco-Belgian group seemed to be the most favourable. He said that there was no fresh news as to the much talked of Serbo-Bulgarian *rapprochement* ; and in conclusion he announced that the Cabinet would in the near future be completed by the appointment of two new Ministers to fill the places of M M. Dimitroff and Boteff.

**The Postponement of Reparations.**

In an interview that M. Stambolisky gave to a Swiss newspaper at Geneva he referred to the question of the postponement of reparations, and is even reported as having said that the postponement had been agreed on. As far as is known the matter has not yet come up officially between the Government and the Commission of Reparations, but there is every reason to believe that it will do so shortly. If the Allies agree to a delay of some years in the payment of the war indemnity, it is certain that they will want some guarantees from Bulgaria, whereby they can be assured of receiving something when the period of delay is at an end. It is idle as yet to speculate as to what these guarantees will consist of ; but it is very likely that the Commission will be called upon to enforce the annex of Article 131 of the Peace Treaty, which provides for the taking over of certain of Bulgaria's financial departments by the Reparations Commission.

**Vacant Portfolios.**

With the appointment of M. Nedelko Athanassoff, an ex-Minister of Railways, to the post of President of the Sobranye, one of the candidates for the two vacant Ministerial posts has disappeared. A partial reconstruction of the Cabinet seems probable at the same time, in which case M. Daskaloff, Minister of Commerce, may become War Minister, M. Oboff, Minister of Agriculture, may replace M. Daskaloff, whilst a change may be made at the Ministry of the Interior, which is at present presided over by M. Thomoff.

The most likely selections are M. Manoloff, ex-vice President of the Sobranye, and M. Yaneff, who is the Public Prosecutor in the Radoslavoff trial. Both are young, and M. Manoloff in particular represents the best section of the Peasant Party in Bulgaria.

**Personalia.**

King Boris has received from the State of New York a present consisting of four volumes which contain the history of the birds and wild flowers of New York.

Mrs. Bruce, the wife of Mr. Bruce, the Secretary-General of the British Delegation on the Reparations Commissions, has arrived in Sofia.

The Sobranye will shortly be asked to pass a vote of credit for 200,000 levas, which sum will be used in erecting a monument over the tomb of Mr. James Bourchier, the late correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkans.

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Emperor of Japan's birthday, the Japanese officers belonging to the various Military Commissions in Bulgaria gave a dinner party at the Union Palace Hotel, Sofia. It is understood that the proceedings did not terminate till 6 a.m. the following day, and that 150 bottles of champagne were consumed. The guests numbered 60, but is is satisfactory to be able to add that the bill was paid by the Japanese and not by the Bulgarian Government !

## GREECE.

*Athens, November 5.*

**The Crown Prince's Return to Smyrna.**

It is announced that the Crown Prince, accompanied by Princess Elisabeth, the Marshal of the Court, M. Soutsos, his A.D.C's, and all his household, will leave next week for Smyrna, where he will remain on a prolonged visit. From information received it would appear that His Royal Highness, as heir to the Throne,

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and not, as during his last visit, as Colonel of the Headquarters Staff, will review the troops at the front immediately after his arrival at Smyrna. The Crown Prince and his household will take up their residence at Cordelio.

**M. Stergiadis.**

Free mention has lately been made of the name of M. Stergiadis as a possible Prime Minister in the near future. In this connection it is well to note that M. Stergiadis, apart from his high political qualities, is also inclined to take risks whenever he considers them necessary. At the present moment he is well considered both by the Venizelists, to whose party he really belongs, and the 'Antis.' The *Politia* states that the Venizelists would like to see M. Stergiadis as Prime Minister because he would then re-establish the Venizelist policy, and might be considered as a forerunner of M. Venizelos himself. On the other hand, the 'Antis' would not object to M. Stergiadis as Prime Minister in view of the fact that, under him, relations with the Allies would probably become more friendly.

**Unrest in the Dodecanese.**

It would appear from information received here, coming from a good authority, that in Rhodes and the islands of the Dodecanese much unrest has been caused as a result of the expulsion by the Italians of the Greek Metropolitan and the attitude of the Italian authorities. The Demogerontia has resigned *en bloc* after having demanded, in a very violent letter the return of the Metropolitan and the cessation of the measures applied by the Italians, which are causing much ill feeling amongst the population.

**Communications between Athens and Bucharest.**

Negotiations have commenced between the Ministries of Communications of Greece, Serbia, and Roumania, and the railway company concerned, with a view to the establishment of a direct line and the running of special trains between Athens, Belgrade and Bucharest. The only obstacle at the present moment is the lack of rolling stock.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, October 31.*

**The Rift in the Clouds.**

Nothing has occurred during the past week to dispel the feeling of optimism that has arisen as a result of the conclusion of the treaty between the French and Angora Governments. On the contrary, there are many indications of a genuine desire on the part of the Angora Government to abandon definitely the uncompromising attitude hitherto observed, and to come to an understanding with both Italy and Great Britain. The virtual cessation of Anglophobe propaganda in the Anatolian press is merely one of the straws which indicate the direction of the wind; but only a genuine desire for peace can be the motive for the missions which, it is reported, the Great National Assembly has decided are to visit the capitals of the Allied Powers. Nothing is yet known as to the composition of these missions, but there can be little doubt that they will not consist solely of propagandists. In the meanwhile the journey of General Franks to Ineboli in connection with the exchange of prisoners is being made the basis for rumours of impending negotiations between the British Government and the Angora Government. It is even asserted that General Franks has received secret instructions to "feel the ground," but it may be confidently stated that there is not the faintest foundation for any of these rumours. The possibility of negotiations between the British Government and the Angora Government is, however, a subject of almost feverish interest in Turkish political circles, and there is little doubt that this time, the Angora Government would welcome the opportunity to discuss matters. Curiously enough, the prospect of such negotiations and of the agreement which might eventually result is causing considerable perturbation in two widely different circles—the Turkish Opposition politicians on the one hand, and the Bolshevists on the other. The Turkish Opposition dislikes the prospect of a general peace based upon preliminary understanding between the Allies and the Angora Government, because this would spell "Tammam shud" for their hopes of getting into power within the lifetime of the present generation. For the moment, however, the Opposition is practically powerless, but its opportunity will certainly come if the Angora Government maintains its intention of modifying the Constitution by abolishing the administrative prerogatives of the Throne. This point, it should be noted, is for the time being in abeyance, but it will certainly become a most important factor eventually in the definite conclusion of peace between Turkey and the Allies. According to the Constitution no Treaty can be valid or binding without the consent of the Sultan, and this aspect of the question cannot be ignored.

**Moscow and Angora.**

The dissatisfaction of the Bolshevists is an even more important matter, for it contains the germ of dramatic developments in the East. There is reason to believe that through their envoy in Angora, the former schoolmaster Nazaranos, the Soviet Government of Moscow has already asked the Angora Government for explanations, and it may be inferred that the request was not unaccompanied by veiled threats. According to statements emanating from Turkish sources in Constantinople, the explanations given to the Soviet Government by Mustapha Kemal Pasha and Yusuf Kemal Bey have been accepted as satisfactory, but if that was really the case, then the policy of the Angora Government towards the Allies cannot be so sincere as many people are inclined to believe. If, on the other hand, the Angora Government is really determined to make a sincere effort to obtain peace, it is difficult to see how a break with Moscow can be avoided, and "explanations" can only postpone the crisis that will be inevitable when that determination becomes unmistakable.

It is possible that the economic factor has commenced to exert a decisive influence upon the policy of the Angora Government. The burden of providing for the needs of the army is beginning to tell heavily upon the already exhausted population of Anatolia, and the shrinkage of production owing to the almost total mobilisation of the man-power of the country has still further aggravated the situation. Moreover, in spite of subsidies of Bolshevist gold—the amount of which has probably been greatly exaggerated—the financial situation of the administration is becoming increasingly difficult, as is demonstrated by the non-payment of salaries to certain sections since the month of July. After all, money provides the sinews of war, and it is the want of money that has probably brought the Angora Government face to face with the dilemma of either risking defeat by the Greeks next spring, or of accepting the "help" of Red armies in Anatolia. The only way out of the dilemma is obvious, and too much importance need not be attached to statements to the effect that even if Smyrna *and* Thrace are given up by the Greeks, the Angora Government will not make peace unless an indemnity

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is also forthcoming. It should be added, however, that some assistance will have to be given to the Turks to assist them to restore the towns and villages devastated during the fighting. It is known that a good deal of deliberate damage was done by the retreating Greek army, but it must also be remembered that a good deal of deliberate damage has also been done by the Turks themselves to the Greek villages in the coastal area of the Black Sea, where as a reprisal for the action of the Greek army and to smother the Pontus agitation, the Angora authorities let loose a savage of Laz nationality, named Osman Agha. The Angora Government will therefore be best advised to leave the matter of reparations to be merged into the general question of the reconstruction of Anatolia.

**Italo-Turkish Negotiations.**

No further information is yet available with regard to the negotiations between the Angora Government and Signor Tuozzi on behalf of the Italian Government. The following announcement from an Italian source, of the nature denoted *officieuse* may, however, be of interest.

"As is known, the Italian Government is very favourably disposed towards the Turks and the Angora Government, and it has given proofs of this since the Armistice up to the present day. Italy, devoid of territorial ambitions in Turkey, views with a sympathetic eye the efforts made by the Turkish nation for its interior reorganisation. Italy desires to see Turkey enjoying the benefits of peace as soon as possible. Thanks to her sincerely pacific policy, Italy has been able to play the part of mediator between the various opposing interests in the Orient. What my country desires is to establish a cordial co-operation in the domain of economic matters with the Turks. Likewise, we are persuaded that it will be possible in complete agreement with our Allies to arrive at an equitable solution of the problem of the Orient."

He who runs may read.

**A British Weekly.**

The first number of a British weekly, the *Aurora*, was published to-day, and although it opened with a leading article entitled "Our Apology" one may say without flattery that no apology was needed. The founders of the enterprise deserve every encouragement, for the lamentable state of affairs that existed prior to 1914 is a most unhappy memory. The only local organ of British public opinion in those days was the *Levant Herald*, which rarely contained more than a couple of columns in English. To this the Germans opposed the *Lloyd Ottoman* in French, and the *Osmanischer Lloyd* in German, both admirably edited and produced, and replete with advertisements, often illustrated, of important German industrial enterprises. The propaganda value of these two organs cannot be over-estimated, and it is a thousand pities that the British Government cannot, out of the thousand millions or so of its revenue, find £100 a month for a certain period, at all events, to establish the *Orient News* and the *Aurora*. It should be added that there is also a French edition of the new weekly, which is in every way as creditable a production as the English version.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, October 22.*

**The Coming Elections.**

The day of the nomination (and election, should a poll not be required) is fixed for November 3. For the moment interest is centred in the meeting of town and village representatives who are to discuss the situation and adopt a "policy." Should their number not exceed 600, it is to be held in the Greek theatre (called that of Papadopontos after its founder); if it exceeds that number in the church of Phanevoméne. Referring to the split in opinions regarding the attitude of members, the majority of papers and speakers contend that any differences which exist relate to minor matters of quite secondary importance, and that on the dominant and essential question of "union" all Greek Cypriots are agreed. One large group of villages, situate partly in the Limassol and partly in the Nicosia District, has decided to take no part at all in the approaching elections. As their object is probably to avoid disturbing local harmony, the decision seems a very sensible one.

The Nicosia member, M. Theodotou, in his latest appeal to electors, urges that the island must continue the policy of the "empty seats" (*i.e.* of the Greek absentee members). The empty seats, he says, speak with a force that reaches those who direct affairs on the Thames. They utter with a voice of thunder what lips are forbidden to say. They declare clearly to England that the Cypriot people cannot live under a yoke, even if the yoke be that of England. England is but a stepmother and cannot love Cyprus like a mother. They proclaim to all the civilized world that the Cypriot people prefer Greece, poor though she is. They portray the economic condition of the island, and bitterly reproach the British Government for collecting over 3½ millions of pounds from the Cypriots, to pay Turkish bondholders, instead of from British taxpayers (this refers to the "tribute" to Turkey of £92,800 a year since 1878).

M. G. Ioannides, a Nicosia advocate, who is contributing a series of letters to the *Phonetes Kyprou* advocates a much more efficient organisation. Very little, he says, has been really done hitherto. A small beginning of work has, it is true, been made through the deputations to London, which got into touch with the British Government, with members of Parliament, and others. But since then matters have drifted and been left to their fate. The campaign is one not only for members of Council, or Central Committees to wage. Much more is required. He considers that efforts should now be centred in England, and advocates the establishment of a paper in London, which should be fully inspired and controlled by a Central Committee in Cyprus, but directed by a Cypriot who would organise a political office (a kind of Greek Cypriot Legation).

**General News.**

The Loan Commissioners have granted advances of £3,000 to Larnaca, and £1,000 to Papho, towards the electric light of those towns; and will shortly lend £1,000 as an instalment of a loan, for school buildings at Nicosia. They hope similarly to be able to grant loans for building various village schools.

The British Detachment from Troödos has taken up winter quarters at Polemidia (Limassol District) in the camp that was allocated to the Armenian refugees, and close to the part now occupied by the Russians.


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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## "BEDOUIN."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The "Bedouin" question does not seem to me to present any difficulty. At the present day the Arabs of the desert are commonly spoken of collectively in Arabic as *bidw*—when they are not spoken of as '*urban*—and the individual is called *badawi*—or ibn 'arab, but badawiyin is also in use as the plural of badawi and was, perhaps, the only plural of that word heard by the Crusaders and early travellers in the Near East—and note that it is not only the genitive and accusative form but, colloquially, the only form of the nominative (corresponding to the Hebrew plural *im*). A people or sect, as a collective body, will be more frequently spoken of than will an individual of that people or sect, and so, in comparison with *badawiyin*, *badawi* would rarely be heard by the Crusaders, and the plural might come to be used for both numbers at first and then, to make a distinction, the European plural terminations would be added to the Arabic plural. A struggle was apparently made for some time to maintain the word as plural in literature, for an author of the 12th century, quoted by Littré, wrote "E li bedowin li sont venu aidier . . ." but another in the 13th century wrote "Un Bedwyn estait venu . . . et quant les chevaus aus Sarrazins et aux Beduins avoient. . . . ." and an English writer of the year 1400 speaks of the "Bedoynes." The individual became *beduinus* in low Latin and the plural *beduini*, and Italian and other European languages followed suit.

But 'bedouin' is not by any means the only Arabic plural in *in* which has met with this distressful fate. Historians write of the 'Murabitins' (Arab sing. *murabit*, pl. *murabitin*), also called Almoravides, who held empire from 1099 to 1146, and the "Assassins" (Ar. sing. *hashshash*, pl. *hashshashin*), the men who, as the Crusaders reported, intoxicated themselves with hashish before committing their murders. These are anomalies such as abound in all languages, and it is futile to attempt to correct them. They are now part of our speech. Even Johnson in his Persian and Arabic dictionary published in 1852 translates *badawi* 'a Bedouin.' If we are to speak of a *badawi* (a word hardly known except to students of Arabic and a certain percentage of travellers in the East) we must do many other things besides. We must, to be consistent, speak of an 'assass' and two or more 'assassin'! Bedouin is not, strictly speaking, an Arabic word any more than assassin. They are both Frenchified and Anglicized forms of Arabic words. Those who want to keep to the Arabic plural should keep to the whole Arabic words and write and say *Badawiyin*, *Hashshashin*, etc., but there is nothing incongruous in saying 'Badawis' (or 'Badawees').

I am, etc.,
J. S. Willmore.

The Athenaeum, London, Nov. 7.

We regret that we are unable to reproduce the accents used in our correspondent's letter. Ed.

## ACCUSATIONS AGAINST BULGARIA.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—Your Sofia Correspondent in his letter of September 25, asks for a reasonable settlement of the Bulgarian Army question. I can supply a few important details bearing on the subject further to demonstrate the unreasonableness of the Powers in their method of handling this question. The concession that Bulgaria may have one-third of her force conscript, the balance being made up of volunteers, can only lead to disorder. The conscripts receive practically no pay; the volunteers, because of the difficulty of obtaining them, receive pay of 700 levs a month, and the privilege of four months leave yearly on full pay. This privilege is accorded to induce good men to volunteer, the four months securing them sufficient time to see to their personal agricultural interests. Ninety per cent. of the Bulgarian population are agriculturists, small landowners. The pay of these volunteers, taking into account the four months of leave on full pay, is higher than the pay of their officers. Of the 20,000 men allowed to Bulgaria for a military force the Government has succeeded in enrolling not more than 3,500 volunteers, and these of an untrustworthy class. There has never been a military voluntary system in Bulgaria, and the Bulgarian peasant is far too much attached to his land to entertain any idea of voluntary military service. The high pay and long leave offer no inducement to him to join up.

The concession offered to Bulgaria because of her inability to obtain the necessary recruits, can lead only to trouble. There can never be proper co-operation between the volunteers and the conscripts. The former are of a good class, the others untrustworthy. The task of the officers is rendered simply impossible. A few days ago the volunteer recruits received their month's pay and immediately marched into the town to carouse. The competent authorities have to shut their eyes: they dare not be too correct with these men lest they be accused of intentionally attempting to prove the impossibility of the volunteer recruit system in Bulgaria. Such accusations have already been rife against her, but suspicion and distrust of Bulgaria have no *raison d'etre*.

A few days ago a fresh accusation was launched against Bulgaria. The Greeks asserted that Bulgaria had enrolled soldiers of Wrangel's army in the Thracian frontier service guard. A commission composed of English, Bulgarian and Greek officers is actually visiting this frontier to verify this Greek accusation.

No Bulgarian is allowed to travel through Thrace; even boys and girls on their way to the American colleges in Constantinople have to take the steamer at Bourgas for their destination. The Greeks see evil intentions, military operations where they are impossible. That such tactics on their part must turn out in favour of Bulgaria they are too blind to see. What provoked this last groundless accusation is this:—It was decided that Wrangel's army be removed from Gallipoli. A few thousands were received in Serbia and there enrolled, under Serbian officers, in the Albanian frontier guard. Several thousand have been received in Bulgaria, in Bourgas and elsewhere, and lodged in unoccupied military barracks. Their arms have been stored away, the officers alone keep their swords and revolvers. The men continue under the command of their officers. The staff of the Army has guaranteed the keep of these men. The Government may employ them in companies under their own officers, in public works. In such cases the Government is to provide for their keep, and something more.

Now this arrangement has been made with the approval of the foreign military missions in Sofia, and the carrying out of it is under their control. What it means is no concern of Bulgaria. Notwithstanding the past there is great willingness of the Bulgarians to help the Russians in their misery.—I am, etc.,

P. M. Mattheeff.

Sofia, October 19, 1921.

## THE BALKAN COMMITTEE ON YUGOSLAVIA

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—I beg to enclose a Memorandum setting forth the policy adopted by the Balkan Committee which aims at allaying the unrest in the Balkans, more especially in Yugoslavia and Albania. I shall be very much obliged if you will kindly publish the statement on behalf of the Committee.

I am, etc.,
N. Buxton.
Acting Secretary, the Balkan Committee.

12, Rutland Gate, S.W.7., November 4.

At the last Assembly of the League of Nations attention was drawn to the dangers affecting the integrity of Albania from Serbian and Greek encroachment, and to the oppressive conditions prevailing in Macedonia consequent upon its partition.

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The position at the present time both in regard to Albania and to Macedonia, far from having improved, has taken a turn for the worse. In these circumstances the Balkan Committee desires to call attention to one of the main causes of the unrest, namely the unconstitutional development of the Yugoslav State.

The main factor upon which the Chauvinistic policy of Serbia thrives lies in the excessive Centralism of the present administration of Yugoslavia. This administration, centralised at Belgrade, tends to provoke discontent and create a sense of injustice among the non-Serb peoples of Yugoslavia. These have for centuries led varied national lives and been subject to different methods and systems of government. While they welcome the principle of union in one State, they cannot consent to their being merged in a stereotype mould, be it Serbian or otherwise. By refusing to sit in the Belgrade Parliament, the Croats have declared their wishes in no uncertain voice. The Slovenes for their part have cast their votes against the existing Constitution, which therefore derives its authority from the combined votes of the Serbs and Musulmans alone, the latter's support being secured by open bribery.

To persist in enforcing the present Constitution plainly endangers the future of Yugoslavia. On the other hand a federal solution while preserving intact the Yugoslav State with a Central Parliament at Belgrade or Zagreb, would given to the Croats and Slovenes the peculiar position to which their history and present demands entitle them. The Balkan Committee is conscious that in supporting this policy it is not unduly stressing the principle of self-determination. The claims of the Croats are not a modern theoretical growth, but derive from independent history of eight centuries. Under the present régime their national rights are not secured, but are being sacrificed to a policy which aims at the creation of a Greater Serbia. The triumph of Eastern over Western culture would prove detrimental to progress and development in the Balkans.

Devolution would obviate this possibility and would alone be capable of bringing about a real union of Yugoslav people. Moreover, by placing the Serbs on an equal footing with the non-Serbs, its adoption would provide an effective check on Serb aggression in Albania and Macedonia, and thus prove an important factor in maintaining peace and stability in the Balkans.

## THE CASE OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF RHODES.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—I have just received very interesting news from Athens, too long to give *in extenso*, regarding the arrest and the deportation of the Archbishop of Rhodes, whom Dr. Skevos Zervos, the President of our Delegation, disguised as a sponge diver, visited secretly at Patmos. The Metropolitan had been on a pastoral visit to the interior of the island of Rhodes when the Italian Crown Prince arrived. He was at the remotest parts of the island, namely the villages of Apolakia, Mesanagros, and Kattavia. He immediately apologised by letter to the Prince and instructed his Protosyncelus to call and greet the Royal visitor on his behalf. In his letter to the Prince the Archbishop respectfully tendered his welcome on behalf of his spiritual flock of the islands of Rhodes, Telos Halki, Nissyros and Symi, "who are provisonally under the sceptre of the Prince's August father and who, along with the other Dodecanesians long to be united with their Motherland, Greece."

The Metropolitan also complained to Dr. Zervos that the Italians left him at Patmos without any money, and assured him that the Italian authorities promised 3,000 lire to any Italian soldier who would marry a Greek girl and settle at Rhodes. It is not true that the Archbishop incited the Rhodians to abstain from the reception of the Prince. The Rhodian Greeks were angry at seeing the arrogant motto of the Savoy House exhibited on every triumphal arch erected to the honour of the Prince. This motto is the well known F.E.R.T. *Fortitudo Eius Rhodum Tenuit*, that is, Its(the Italian Crown's) strength took possession of Rhodes.

I am, etc.,
Theodore D. Moscona.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester.

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According to the Athens newspapers, the Greek Cabinet has asked the French Government to postpone until November 20, the date of the departure of the French troops from Cilicia, in order that the Greek population in this district may have time to emigrate.

One thousand six hundred and seventy-four out of a total of 1,780 persons convicted in connexion with the Punjab disturbances of 1919 have already been released, and 20 more are to be released.

## SWARAJ IN INDIA.

### AN INDIAN VIEW,

(By S. B. Banerjea.)

Mr. Gandhi declared some little time ago that if his advice were followed, India would have *swaraj*, or complete self-government, within a year. Briefly put, he wants his countrymen not to co-operate with the rulers in any way, and his goal will be reached. He believes that national education and the "chanka" (spinning-wheel) will lead to *swaraj*, very soon.

Mr. Gandhi's scheme has been taken up by a large number of Indians, with more or less enthusiasm; but they have evidently forgotten the fact that complete self-government, free from British control, means anarchy in and conquest of India by some foreign Government.

The scheme means a break-up of homes, which no sane Indian will be able to put up with. It means the rising of the masses, and a clean sweep of swarajists and non-swarajists. "Pooh" the swarajist will sneer; but let him, for a moment, consider the signs of the times. Let me illustrate my meaning.

Mrs. Annie Besant was about two years ago, an idol of the people. She was elected President of the Congress and given a right royal welcome by the Calcuttaites on her visit to their city. But now she has lost "caste;" as is proved by the fact that she was howled down at a Bombay meeting, because her views on certain matters did not appeal to a section of her audience. This event plainly signifies that a disorderly force has been created, which is bound to do mischief—nay, harm to the country.

Mr. Gandhi preaches non-violent non-co-operation; but the result has been that a large number of people have got out of hand and are creating mischief, saying they have his sanction for violent methods. I do not wish to recall unpleasant matters, but a moment's cool thinking will enable one to realise that the masses do not—will never—realise the ideal of Mr. Gandhi. I should not be surprised if after what has happened to Mrs. Besant, the Hon'ble Mr. Parajpe, and other leaders, Mr. Gandhi himself is mobbed, one day, by the very people of whom he is now an idol.

Passive (non-violent) non-cooperation is impossible in any country. After hundreds of years of mis-rule, we have been enjoying peace and rest under the rule of England. No more are our women dragged away; no more are our temples destroyed or polluted. To an Indian, his women and gods are the dearest of all possessions, and he will go to any length to protect them. Now that their most sacred possessions are assured, three-fourths of their desires are met.

In the Government of India there is but a handful of whites. Indians occupy all the subordinate and many of the leading positions. The magistrates and the subjudges and munsiffs are all Indians. Turn to any department, and we find Indians there. So, one fact is clearly established, that the Indians are practically ruling their own country—with the help of a handful of whites.

If the English had taken away money from the country for their own benefit, they could have been charged with motives of a selfish nature. The little money that does go out is directly connected with the government of the country and cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be called "tribute." Indians raise the necessary funds for carrying on the government of the country. These are realised from the taxes, cesses, etc.; and spent in the country by the natives themselves. So the charge that India is being exploited for England's benefit is false.

The potential wealth of the country is immense. The Indians prefer ease, and will not venture their capital. No wonder, then, that the British, who are enterprising, exploit the mineral wealth of the land; but they leave a portion of their justly earned money to the children of the soil, in the shape of salary, bonus, wages, etc. For allowing others to tap our mineral wealth, we alone are to blame, not the rulers.

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The country is moving with the times. We must adapt ourselves to the times. The Vedic days were all right from a certain point of view ; but we are now living in the Iron Age. I do not ask my countrymen to denationalise themselves—to adopt European manners and customs. Let us move with the times, not forgetting the fact that we are Indians.

India has already got *swaraj*. Her Government is practically carried on by Indians. Indians are here, there, and everywhere. The education of the country is mainly in Indian hands. The examinations are held by Indians, who confer degrees and diplomas upon their countrymen. The police service is practically manned by Indians. To be brief, in whatever direction we turn, we see Indians occupying 99 per cent. of posts, subordinate and high.

It is clear that India has *swaraj*. She is independent. She has been recognised as a nation by the League of Nations. After this, no man in his senses will say that India is a dependency. The reform scheme has advanced matters very far. In fact, *swaraj*, as preached by the Gandhi school, is in sight. We all shall now have to put our shoulders to the wheel and see that we can march towards our goal with steady swiftness. Let us not dream the impossible. Let us fit ourselves for retaining our position in the scale of nations, with the help of the British. Non-co-operation means our death. Why should we commit suicide, just to satisfy somebody's whim or fancy ?

## THE FRANCO-TURKISH PACT.

The *Manchester Guardian* publishes the text of the Agreement between France and the Nationalist Turks which was signed at Angora on October 21. The Agreement is signed by M. Franklin-Bouillon, ex-Minister, on behalf of France ; and by Youssuf Kemal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Great National Assembly at Angora. The text is as follows :—

Art. I.—The High Contracting Parties declare that with the signing of the present agreement the state of war that has existed between them will come to an end ; the armies, the civil authorities, and the population will be at once informed of this.

II.—Prisoners of war, as well as all Turkish or French persons detained or imprisoned, shall be liberated at once after the signature of this agreement, and conducted, at the expense of the party by whom they are detained, to the nearest place that will be designated to that end. The benefit of this article will be extended to all the prisoners or detained persons belonging to the two parties, whatever the date and place of detention, imprisonment, or capture.

III.—Within a period not exceeding two months from the signature of this agreement the Turkish troops shall withdraw to the north and the French troops to the south of the line fixed by article 8.

IV.—The evacuation and transference of possession that are to take place within the period prescribed in article 3 shall be effected in a manner to be arranged by a mixed Commission appointed by the military commanders of the two parties.

V.—The two parties will proclaim a complete amnesty in the evacuated regions as soon as they take possession of them.

VI.—The Government of the Great National Assembly at Angora declares that it will confirm the rights of minorities that were solemnly recognised in the National Pact, on the same basis that was established by the Conventions concluded between the Powers of the Entente, their enemies, and certain of their Allies.

VII.—A special administrative régime will be established for the district of Alexandretta. Inhabitants belonging to the Turkish race in this district will enjoy every facility for their cultural development. The official language will be Turkish.

VIII.—The line mentioned in article III. is fixed as follows :—

The frontier line will extend from a point to be chosen on the Gulf of Alexandretta immediately to the south of the locality of Payas, towards Meidan-Ekbes (the railway station and the locality remaining in Syria), thence south-east, so as to leave to Syria the district of Marsova and to Turkey that of Karnaba, as well as the town of Killis, and rejoin the railway at Choban-bey. Thence the line will follow the Baghdad Railway, which will remain on Turkish territory up to Nisibin ; thence it will follow the old route between Nisibin and Jezireh-Ibn Omar, where it will rejoin the Tigris. The localities of Nisibin and Jezireh-Ibn Omar, as well as the route, will remain in Turkey ; but the two countries will have equal rights to the use of this route.

The stations between Choban-bey and Nisibin will belong to Turkey, as forming part of the foundation of the railway.

Within one month from the signing of this agreement a Commission representing the two parties will be set up to fix the line mentioned above. The Commission will begin its work within a similar period of time.

IX.—The tomb of Suleiman Shah, the grandfather of Sultan Osman, the founder of the Ottoman dynasty (a tomb known under the name of Turk Mekari), situated at Jaber-Kalessi, will remain, with its dependencies, Turkish property. Turkey may keep there a guard and fly the Turkish flag.

X.—The Government of the Turkish National Assembly agrees to the transfer of the concession of the section of the Baghdad Railway between Bozanti and Nisibin as well as various branches constructed in the vilayet of Adana to a French group designated by the French Government with all the rights, privileges, and advantages attaching to the concessions, in particular those connected with the exploitation of the traffic.

Turkey will have the right of transporting troops by the railway from Meidan-Ekbes to Choban-bey in the Syrian region, and Syria will have the right to transport troops by the railway from Choban-bey to Nisibin in Turkish territory.

On that section and its branches no differential tariff shall be permitted in principle. But the two Governments reserve to themselves the right to consider eventually, of common accord, any departure from this rule that may become necessary.

If agreement should prove impossible, each party shall regain complete freedom of action.

XI.—After the ratification of this agreement a mixed Commission will be set up for the purpose of concluding a Customs Convention between Turkey and Syria. The conditions and duration of such a convention shall be determined by the Commission. Until the conclusion of such a convention the two countries will retain freedom of action.

XII.—The waters of Kuveik will be distributed between the town of Aleppo and the region that has remained Turkish to the north, so as to give fair satisfaction to both parties.

The town of Aleppo, to satisfy the needs of the region, may also tap, at its own expense, the waters of the Euphrates in Turkish territory.

XIII.—The settled or half-nomad inhabitants enjoying rights of pasture or having property on one or the other side of the line fixed by article 8 shall continue in their rights as in the past. They shall be allowed to transport freely, according to the needs of their business, and without having to pay any Customs duties or pasture fees or any other taxes, their cattle from one to the other side of that line, as well as their instruments and implements, their seeds and produce, it being understood that they will have to pay the respective duties and taxes in the country in which they are domiciled.

The following is the text of the letter addressed by Youssouf Kemal Bey to M. Franklin-Bouillon :—

Angora, October 20, 1921.

Excellency,

I entertain the hope that the agreement concluded by the Government of the Great National Assembly at Angora, and the Government of the French Republic with a view to realising a definite and lasting peace will result in the consolidation of the close relations that have existed between the two nations in the past, the Government, of the French Republic endeavouring to settle in a spirit of cordial entente all the questions concerning the independence and the sovereignty of Turkey.

The Government of the Great Assembly, on the other hand desiring to encourage the development of economic interests between the two countries, has instructed me to inform you that it is willing to grant the concession of the iron, chrome, and silver mines in the Harchit Valley to a French group for a period of 99 years. Within a period of five years from the signing of this agreement that group shall begin the exploitation of that concession through a company established in accordance with Turkish laws in which Turkish capital shall participate up to 50 per cent.

The Turkish Government, moreover, is ready to consider with the greatest goodwill other demands that may be made by French groups for concessions relating to mines, railways, harbours and rivers, provided that such demands shall be consistent with the reciprocal interests of Turkey and France.

On the other hand, Turkey is desirous of having the co-operation of French specialists in her technical schools. She will communicate at a later date to the French Government her needs in that respect.

Finally, Turkey hopes that the French Government will at once after the conclusion of the agreement authorise French capitalists to enter into economic and financial relations with the Government of the Great National Assembly of Turkey.

## NEWS FROM KABUL.

A Correspondent writes :—

Sirdar Aziz Khan is bringing three Afghan boys to Europe one of them a boy of eight is Amir Amanullah Khan's son, the two others are the son of the late Amir Habibullah Khan's. It may be noted that their guardian is Sirdar Aziz Khan, and not Sirdar Asif Khan as indicated in your columns some days ago.

Sir Sher Khan has also left Kabul, with his staff and Afghan envoy for Italy.

M. Suritz, who represented the Soviet Government at Kabul, has left Afghanistan, and M. Raskolnikov, has taken the place. It seems that M. Suritz, who is a Jewish journalist, was appointed chiefly to put the Russo-Afghan treaty through, and as soon as that was done, he was to go and join his proper work at the Eastern Institute at Tashkent. During his absence Mollana Barkatullah of Liverpool fame was the head of the above mentioned Institute.

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

**The Russian Ballet.**

The Russian Ballet of M. Serge Diaghileff, has, as is well known all over Europe, brought to an unparalleled perfection the fusion of the four component parts of ballet—music, dancing, miming, and *décor*—it has made beloved by us a new form of ballet, a form at once intimate, unconventional, and artistic; and we take now almost for granted such things as the virtuosity of its dancers and the unceasing originality of its scenic artists. It was, therefore, rather a shock to find in "The Sleeping Princess" (which I visited at the Alhambra Theatre on November 7), an undue and unusual reliance on these last two factors for the success of the production. Tchaikovski's ballet, which is founded on Perrault's "La Belle au bois dormant," is now produced by Leon Bakst; in a few places it has been orchestrated by Stravinsky, and Petipa's choreography has been retained. But in spite of some most fascinating costumes and scenery the tale has not enough sustained impetus in it to make the entertainment consistently interesting. The first scene is very good, and the last excellent, but in the others there is little significant movement; in the second and third indeed the story almost comes to a standstill. Scene four was only relieved by the exquisite painting of the Polunins. But the artistry of some of the individuals was amazingly finished. First of all was Lopokova, as the Lilac Fairy—a part that suited her absolutely; then there were Nijinska, a perfect Pierette, Tchernicheva, as Ariana, Vladimiroff, as Prince Charming, Woizikovsky, as Innocent Ivan, and many others. The weakest points in the production were the uneven playing of the orchestra under M. Fittelberg, and the representation of Princess Aurora by Mlle. Egorova. Tchaikovski's music is of the serviceable kind; it is hardly ever distinguished. But to those who revel in exquisite colours and do not too highly appreciate artistic consistency "The Sleeping Princess" should make a very strong appeal.

**Goossens and New Music.**

Although not all the music that Eugene Goossens conducted at his orchestral concert at the Queen's Hall on November 9 was new, most of it was unfamiliar. Rossini's "Siege of Corinth" overture is very seldom performed nowadays—why, goodness knows, for it proved under this magnificent orchestra to be a gloriously spirited thing, bubbling over with irresistible jollity. Arthur Bliss' "Mêlée Fantasque" was extremely interesting from the technical point of view, but it owed too much to Stravinsky to stir the musical sense greatly. Successful experiments do not often of themselves cause great experiences. In J. R. Heath's "Builders of Joy" there was much fine stuff, and it was a pity that so many wealthy inventions and poetic conceptions should not have been given better shape, for the work as a whole was too long, and some of the orchestration less happy than it might have been. Of all the evening's pieces the most purely beautiful was "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring" of Delius; but here again the work was overlong, despite those ever-changing harmonies, so that one almost felt as one does to the real bird—like throttling it. Ravel's "Alborada del Gracioso" is an orchestrated piano-piece, glittering brilliantly: it was in this, perhaps, that Goossens and his orchestra reached their highest mark. Of Schönberg's "Five Orchestral Pieces" there is only one which is more than a technical experiment, viz. "Vergangenes," in which the composer's undoubted genius comes serenely and unperplexedly through. After all these things came Strauss' tone-poem "Thus Spoke Zarathustra," a work in which there are at once noble passages and ignoble condescensions to the spurious.

**Old English Song.**

John Coates' song recital at the Chelsea Town Hall on November 8 was made up of old English songs of the Tudor, Elizabethan, and Stuart periods (before Purcell). Such a choice as this made consistent excellence quite possible, and in truth there was not a bad song in the whole programme. There is no one who can sing these songs as Mr. Coates, for apart from his virtuosity (which was in Morley's "It was a lover and his lass" quite incomparable) he has such pliancy and subtlety in his command of line as to make each one of these songs interesting. He began with two most admirably suitable songs composed by Henry VIII (written, as the genial singer hinted, before the habit of marriage had grown upon him)—"Grene groweth ye holy" and "Pastime with good companye," titles which alone are enough to make all good Englishmen stir and chortle; and he ended (if we accurately remember a long list of encores) with "Maulte's come down" and "Here's a Health unto His Majesty," the connection between which we of the present day are unluckily unable to establish. Mr. Coates is supreme in these songs, but I think his finest singing was in two songs of more serious intent, "Caleno custureme," and John Gamble's "A Kiss I begged," which were interpreted with the most perfect qualities of tone and of phrasing imaginable. There was in fact only one flaw in this recital, and that was in a few of the pianoforte accompaniments; in "When from my Love I lookte for Love," for example, and in "Since first I saw your face," where the harmonies were of the barest poverty.

**Singers.**

It is an extremely interesting series of recitals that Mr. Philip Wilson, the Australian tenor, is giving at the Wigmore Hall. He is tracing the development of the English song historically, and his first recital, on October 31, reached to the end of the seventeenth century. He had then the assistance of Mr. Gerald Cooper, who played the harpsichord (with an attention to the singer that was by no means close) and of Dr. E. H. Fellowes, who gave a short address on the "Lutenist Song Writers." Dr. Fellowes is of course our first authority on the subject, though on this occasion he said nothing new, merely reminding the audience of their ignorance of the period when their country was musically supreme in Europe. Mr. Wilson is an accomplished singer, who, if he were to rid himself of a nasal tone and to develop a sharper attack on his consonants, would vastly improve his art. He sang with a fine freedom of rhythm and ease of delivery, so that the delicate purity of his old songs came practically unsullied to us.

On the same evening, and in contrast to Mr. Wilson's serious intent, Miss Winifred Holloway was rampageously conducting herself in the singing of folk songs, in the playing of old harpsichord tunes, and in the caricature of well-known singers of folk-song. It was a most pleasant evening's entertainment. Miss Holloway is an artist of much and versatile talent; at times, indeed she shows genius. Her various gifts were the most excellent foil to the "straighter" singing of Mr. Plunket Greene, who for the most part sang the old French carols and Stanford's Irish songs in which he is still unrivalled. And finally, to support them both, there was Mr. Samuel Liddle at the pianoforte—as competent a trio as you will find for the provision of an hour's artful jollity.

**Miss Dorothy Moulton.**

When Miss Moulton is singing a song that suits her she has a most beautiful voice; but those songs are few. At her recital at the Wigmore Hall on November 11 she did not prove the international reputation which she has apparently won. For the most part she made an excellent choice of programme, but of all the songs which I heard there were only two in which really consummate artistry was shown: Ravel's "La-bas vers l'Eglise," and Bax's "The Piper," in both of which a beautiful quality of mezzo-voice was consistently sustained. For the rest, a tendency to untrue intonation, a lack of impetus in interpretation, and poor tone in the pianoforte accompaniments were not over-balanced by good rhythm and diction.

**Mr. Herbert Fryer.**

The third of this pianist's recitals, at the Æolian Hall on November 9, was devoted to Bach and Beethoven. Unfortunately I missed his "Preludes and Fugues," for these are the things in which the purity of his style best comes out. The "Italian concerto" was not well done. And in two Beethoven sonatas, Op. 78 and Op. 81a, there was not much depth and a good deal of careless phrasing.

**General News.**

M. Leon Eustratiou, the Greek pianist, is giving a recital to-day, November 17, at the Æolian Hall.

The Royal Victoria Hall, (everywhere known as "The Old Vic.") is in need of funds. It wants £30,000, has secured £10,000, and is making an appeal, signed by all sorts of public and right-minded men, for the remainder. There is no need for me to emphasize the necessity for keeping "The Old Vic" going, for this place, where Shakespeare and opera are produced continuously, is the most important artistic institution in London. The appeal accurately states that the cessation of these performances "would be regarded as a disaster generally, and not least by the Vic's many friends in the Dominions over-seas." Among which last I hope, are included many readers of "The Near East." Contributions should be sent to the Secretary of the Old Vic Appeal Fund, Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Road, S.E.1. Cheques should be made payable to Sir W. P. Herringham (Chairman of the Governors).

ANDANTE.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## SIR VALENTINE CHIROL ON INDIA.

**"INDIA OLD AND NEW." By Sir Valentine Chirol. (London: Macmillan. 10s. net.)**

The standpoint taken in this book will be familiar to those who studied the letters contributed last winter by the author to *The Times*, but it would be a great mistake for anyone to pass it by as a mere reprint. Portions of those letters indeed re-appear, but in a setting which vastly enhances their value, and the book can justly be described as substantially new. The opening chapters are devoted to a sketch of the history of India from the earliest times to the end of the nineteenth century, a sketch which strikes us as a really remarkable achievement. We have noticed a very few slips on matters of too little importance to be detailed here, and a somewhat larger number of statements which specialists might possibly question, but taken as a whole the sketch is accurate, well-balanced, and interesting. The author has concentrated attention on the essential facts; he gives a just idea of the origin and nature of the forces now in conflict; and in this way he puts his readers in a position to understand the situation with which he proceeds to deal. The story of the last twenty years is then told in much greater detail. The narrative is vivified by the author's personal observations, and in this connection we may refer in particular to the account of his interview with Mr. Gandhi, which throws a flood of light on the most interesting, if most inconvenient, individual now prominent in India. The book closes with a cautious appreciation of the various factors in the present complicated position, and a chapter insisting on the importance of the outcome not merely for the British Empire, but for the future of the world.

The essence of the position so presented is the persistence of the distinctively Hindu system of privilege and ascendancy. The rigidity of caste, and the absolute supremacy of the Brahmin, institutions which had grown up during the centuries of Hindu rule, proved sufficiently stable to resist the disintegrating influences of Moslem domination, and were still intact when the country came under the milder British régime. But as in the old fable the sun succeeded where the wind had failed, so Bentinck and Macaulay proved more effective than Aurangzeb. Western education brought a flood of new ideas, which in due course resulted in a definite, though partial, change in the mentality of the intellectual classes; and the new ideas were reinforced by Western example, a factor for which Sir Valentine Chirol perhaps makes inadequate allowance. These classes then began to move, but almost simultaneously there was a powerful reaction in favour of the old régime, and thus India came to experience a cleavage of opinion of a kind with which the West had long been familiar. It would be a mistake to regard the conflict simply as one between East and West. For a short time indeed there were signs of a Western party, but they quickly passed away, and the battle is now fairly joined between the men who want to go back to the old system in its integrity, and those who wish to effect a synthesis between old and new. As Sir Valentine shows, the bulk of the educated classes are on the latter side, and their strength can be estimated with some approach to accuracy; but the forces of reaction are less easily reckoned, and of late the tendency has been for this cause to be strengthened by the adhesion of everyone with a grievance or an unsatisfied want, a formula which covers a large proportion of the population. The reactionaries, having failed with the intellectuals, have been driven to seek the support of the unenlightened masses, and in the long run it is the masses who will decide.

In these circumstances the question of leadership is of the utmost importance. Sir Valentine pays well-deserved tributes to the great Moderates, Gokhale and Mehta, but they are dead, and at the moment there is no one on this side to set against Mr. Gandhi, the very essence of reaction, who, aided by an extraordinary combination of circumstances, undoubtedly succeeded in capturing the imagination of the country as a whole. Can he retain and develop this advantage? Our author does not give a formal answer to this question. The reactionaries have had several reverses, but the movement is by no means dead, and it will not die of itself. It has of late been on an inclined plane, leading inevitably to disorder, and a point may be reached where the Government will be forced to interfere, but no forecast of the result of such interference is attempted. We should have been glad if Sir Valentine had told us more in this connection of the working of the Peace Leagues which in some parts of the country have been engaged in counteracting the reactionary organisations. If there has not been brilliant leadership on this side, there has been a good deal of solid staff-work, which may count for much in the long run, and already it can be said that in some of the most important areas the masses are hearing both parties, whereas a few months ago they knew of only one; since it is the masses who will eventually decide, the fact that the issue is being placed before them must be given its due weight.

Such is the outline of a remarkable book. We must not follow the writer into the various topics with which he deals. Apart from the exception just mentioned, he has taken every factor duly into account, from the influence of the weather to the attitude of some of the Dominions and while in some cases there may be differences of opinion regarding his estimates, their nature is explained so clearly that the book may well serve as a first introduction to readers in this country who, without previous knowledge of the subject, desire to understand the struggle now in progress between Old India and New.

## THE EXPANSION OF ISLAM I.

**"THE NEW WORLD OF ISLAM." By Lothrop Stoddard, A.M., Ph.D. (Harvard), (London, Chapman and Hall. 15s. net.)**

The American student of world-politics has an immense advantage over his colleagues on this side of the Atlantic. His country has emerged almost scatheless from a war which brings Europe to the verge of bankruptcy, and inspires dire forebodings as to the future. If "distance lends enchantment to the view," it gives him a broader outlook than is open to men whose eyes are blinded by the smoke of political and industrial strife. Professor Lothrop Stoddard is well known to European readers as the author of "The Rising Tide of Colour," a work which adumbrated an approaching struggle for the mastery of the world. He has now produced one of even greater importance, dealing as it does with the rise, decline and regeneration of Islam.

In the 7th Century of our era, Arabia was seething with unrest. The Semitic tribes inhabiting that huge peninsula had outgrown their gross idolatry; and the times were ripe for the advent of a Teacher able to voice aspirations which had germinated in the ardent Arab's breast. So that seed sown by Mohammed fell upon fruitful soil, and his appeal to the combative instinct—which no League of Nations will ever eradicate—found an eager response from his followers. No battle-cry is so inspiring as "God with us!" After their Prophet's death the tribesmen of Arabia set out in organized might to propagate his creed by fire and sword. Their onslaught encountered a vacuum throughout the civilised world. The strength of Persia and Byzantium had been sapped by superstition and theological hatred; Imperial Rome had succumbed owing to misgovernment and the attack of barbarian hordes. These facts explain the meteoric rise of Islam, which in less than a century brought Western Asia and Northern Africa to heel. But for the issue of a single pitched battle, Islam would have reigned supreme in Europe. The ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries were its golden age. It studded

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the vast region which lies between Samarkand and Cordova with splendid cities and learned universities. While a pall of ignorance hung over Christendom, the countries which owned the beneficent sway of Islam stood prominent in all the arts that adorn and sweeten life.

Mohammed's ideal of civil government was a theocratic democracy; and the earlier Khalifs encouraged the free expression of thought which is an indispensable factor in advancing civilisation. As centuries rolled by the dynasty founded by the Prophet became increasingly intolerant; and an Asiatic despotism took root which robbed its empire of every element making for progress. Powerless to cope with a chronic state of rebellion, the decadent Khalifat called Turkish mercenaries to its aid. Now the Ottoman Turks were a dull-witted race; soldiers indeed, of the highest quality, but destitute of organizing power. They were not content to remain the Praetorian Guard of a dying régime; and by dint of military might they succeeded in dominating the Islamic world. Expressing the religion of their former masters with a convert's zeal, they persecuted the Christian pilgrims who flocked to the Holy Places of Palestine; and forced the barbarous princes of Europe to embark on the Crusades. In that struggle between the East and West the intellectual force of Islam disappeared; and its ruin was consummated by the Mongol invasion, which drowned its fairest provinces in blood. But the perennial warfare which desolated Europe enabled the Turks to establish themselves on its eastern confines; and their capture of Constantinople led to the migration of many Byzantine scholars, who revealed the glories of classical literature to the western world. Thus began the 16th century Renaissance, which banished the obscurantism of the Dark Ages. And the results flowing from a vast intellectual revival were reinforced by maritime adventure. Europe received a flood of wealth from the discovery of America, and that of a sea route to India enabled its seafaring nations to outflank their eastern foes. While Islam sank into stagnation, Europe was energized by commerce and an industrial revolution. By dint of organization, enterprise and greed the West was able to bring all Asia under its influence.

During the 18th century Islam was at its lowest ebb; but Arabia, which had witnessed its birth, became the nucleus of a reformation which freed the Prophet's gospel from a noxious overgrowth of tradition. Its founder, Abdul Wahab by name (1700-1787), built his faith on the Quran alone, and preached war to the knife with unbelievers. Although the Wahabis were crushed by a soldier of genius who founded the Egyptian dynasty, the teaching of Abdul Wahab breathed new life into the dry bones of Islam. They have given 222,000,000 Moslems a new sense of unity, and a common ideal which is diametrically opposed to European interests. At the same time Pan-Islamism is unconsciously absorbing conceptions current in the West; scientific education, party-government, Industrialism, Socialism, and Bolshevism to boot—have been taken to heart by the Moslem intelligents everywhere. They see the nations of Europe weakened by suicidal war, and long to free themselves from a detested yoke. If our politicians were not deaf to history's teachings, they would group the unquestionable fact that the nations of the West are confronted by a recrudescence of the forces which only 240 years ago brought Islam to the very gates of Vienna. Such a crisis demands united counsels in the Western camp, but such, alas, are far to seek. Professor Stoddard concludes a brilliant survey of the situation in the Near East with the following pregnant words :—

"The darkest portent in the Near East is the continued intransigence of France. Steeped in old traditions, her policy apparently refuses to face realities. If an explosion comes as come it must unless France modifies her attitude; if some dark day thirty or forty French battalions are caught in a Simoom of Arab fury blowing from the desert, and are annihilated in a new Adowa, the regretful verdict of many versed in Eastern affairs can only be—'French policy has deserved it.'"

F.H.S.


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## "ESPERANTO."

**"ENGLISH-ESPERANTO DICTIONARY." By Fleming Fulcher and Bernard Long, B.A. (London: E. Marlborough and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)**

Esperanto, long regarded as a freak and a subject for merriment only, has long since proved its usefulness in its own particular field, and now has its adherents all over the civilized world. To English Esperantists, and their name is legion—the appearance of this neat and well-printed "English-Esperanto Dictionary" is sure to be welcome; and its sterling qualities should make it the more valued the more it is used. The editors appear to have done their work carefully and well, and the publishers have followed suit. The list of proper names is not the least useful part of the book, although the editors inform us that "the translation of proper names into Esperanto is not compulsory, and that it is sometimes preferable to retain them in the original form." Here are a few Near Eastern names in alphabetical order: Alban'ujo; Aleksandrio; Arabujo, or Arabio; Armenujo; Balkano; Bengalo; Bombajo; Bulgarujo, or Bulgario; Kajro (Cairo); Karpatoj (Carpathians); Efeso; Hindujo (Hindustan); Mezopotamio; Rumanujo; and Teherano. All these will be easily understood by readers in this country, of course, and if any reader of *The Near East* abroad finds difficulty in recognising them, we shall be greatly surprised.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Days and Nights of Shikar." By Mrs. W. W. Baillie. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Soldiers of the Prophet." By Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. R. Murphy. (London: John Hogg. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Barbary: The Romance of the Nearest East." By A. MacCallum Scott, M.P. Illustrated. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Studies in North Africa." By Cyril Fletcher Grant. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co., Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

"An Encyclopaedia of Religions." By Maurice A. Canney, M.A. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 25s. net.)

The International Mercantile Diary and Year Book." (London: The Syren and Shipping Ltd. 7s. 6d.).

"South with Scott." By Captain E. R. G. R. Evans, C.B. D.S.O., R.N. (London, W. Collins, Sons & Co., 10s. 6d. net.

"The Law Inevitable." By Louis Couperus. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 8s. net.)

"Yeraz: A Tale within a Tale." By M. Arabian. With a Frontispiece by Rita Nahabedian. (London: C. W. Daniel, Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"The People of Palestine." By Elihu Grant. With 45 Illustrations. (London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Malta: A Sketch Book." By Gordon Home." (London: A. and C. Black. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Hope of Europe." By Sir Philip Gibbs. (London: William Heinemann. 15s. net.)

"Margaret's Mead." By Jane Harding. (London: William Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.)

## TEACHING MODERN HEBREW.

The subject of Modern Hebrew has now been added to the curriculum of the School of Oriental Studies, and Mr. A. S. Doniach, D.Litt., of Wadham College, Oxford, has been appointed to lecture on the language. Students who are about to proceed to Palestine, Syria, and Iraq may now avail themselves at this School of the opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the recognised vernaculars of Palestine, Arabic and Modern Hebrew. All particulars may be obtained on application to the Director, School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**

November 17 ( New Style ).
November 4 ( Old Style ).
Rabia 1, 17, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshwan 16, 5682, of the Jewish Calendar.

Queen Olga of Greece has left Paris for Switzerland.

The daughter born to the Sultan of Egypt on November 5 has been named Fewzie.

The Earl of Bessborough has returned to London from South America.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania, who came to London on "long leave" has returned to Eton to resume his studies.

Lady Massey Blomfield, who left London last week for Rome, will remain abroad for a year.

Viscount Chelmsford is suffering from overstrain of work, and has been ordered a complete rest.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have returned to 22, Grosvenor Place from Northern Europe.

The Diadoch and the Duchess of Sparta have arrived at Smyrna.

M. Georges Picot, the French Minister, and Count Aldrovandi, the Italian Minister, have returned to Sofia from Paris and Rome respectively.

The marriage arranged between Captain G. L. Stratton M.C., R.F.A., and Miss Ruthie Mardon will take place in Bombay at the beginning of December.

The marriage arranged between Mr. R. M. Crofton I.C.S., and Miss Olive Stewart Cox will take place on December 15, at Holy Trinity, Brompton.

The offices of the Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation will be transferred from 3, Marble Arch to 4, Cromwell-place on December 1.

The Aga Khan embarked on November 11 in the P. and O. mail steamer at Marseilles for Bombay, his departure having been delayed for a fortnight by a serious accident.

M. Gennadius, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Greece, left Liverpool for New York on November 12 by the White Star liner Cedric, and is proceeding to the Greek Legation at Washington.

A despatch from Delhi says that the Maharaja of Bikanir has been re-elected Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, and the Jam Sahib of Nawangar, K. S. Ranjitsinhji, elected Pro-Chancellor.

Mr. L. S. Amery, M.P., and Mrs. Amery have returned to London from Malta, where Mr. Amery has been representing his Majesty's Government at the inauguration of the new Maltese Legislature.

The engagement is announced between Mervyn A. Hughes, of Calcutta, youngest son of the late Philip Hughes, of the War Office, and Betty, youngest daughter of the Rev. Dr. A. J. Graham, C.I.E., of Kalimpong.

Earl and Countess Fortescue, Lady Brooke, Sir Cyril and Lady Butler, and Lady Cleveland were among the passengers who embarked for Eastern destinations on November 11 in the P. and O. s.s. Morea, bound for Bombay.

M. Stambolisky, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, has stated that in view of the Washington Conference, his visit to America, which had been arranged for this autumn, has been postponed to a more favourable moment, and will probably be made early next spring.

The marriage between Brevet-Major Frederick Corbett Hickie, Indian Army, youngest son of the late John Hickie, and Margaret Annie, eldest daughter of the late Cuthbert MacDonell ( Keppoch ), will take place at the Oratory on November 28.

The marriage took place on November 5 at St. Elizabeth's, Richmond, between Martin L. Axworthy and Marie Dorothy ( Dolly ), third daughter of Captain Cottrell, C.M.G., O.B.E., Divisional Manager, Eastern Telegraph Coy., Athens, and Mrs. Cottrell.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place this month, between Major P. G. Benson-Cooke, Indian Army, only son of Dr. J. Benson-Cooke and Mrs. Benson Cooke, of Worthing, and Margaret D. Mather, youngest daughter of the late Robert Mather and Mrs. Mather, of Worthing.

The Bishop of Peterborough announced at the Diocesan Conference on November 10 that next October he was going to India as a member of the Mission of Help, and that Mrs. Woods was officially accompanying him also as a missioner. They would be away four months from the diocese.

The Greek Chargé d'Affaires and Mme. Rangabe entertained at luncheon at the Legation on November 11 M. Gounaris, the Greek Premier, M. Baltazzi, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Sir Arthur Crosfield, Sir Harry Brittain, M.P., Sir Edward Boyle, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P.

The marriage took place on November 5, at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, between Flying Officer Henry Lawrence Christie, R.A.F., only son of the late Lawrence Christie, of Rawai, Pindi, India, and Mrs, Christie, and Helen, only child of C. E. Theodosius, late H.M Inspector of Schools, and of Mrs. Theodosius.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place shortly, between Major Hay Stewart Mitchell, D.S.O., 32nd Sikh Pioneers, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, of St. Aubyn's, Bournemouth, and Winifred Alice, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin Norman, of Norwood, New Barnet.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place at the Brompton Oratory early in January, between Frederick L. Griggs, R.E., F.G.A., of Dover's House, Campden, Glos., and Nina, youngest daughter of the late Julius Muir, Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Muir, 47, Grand Parade, Eastbourne.


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The engagement is announced of Frank Herbert Sprott, Nairobi, Kenya Colony, only surviving son of Sir Frederick Sprott, late chairman Bombay Port Trust, and Lady Sprott, to Helen, eldest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel W. Wingate Gray, of Nunraw, East Lothian, and the late Mrs Wingate Gray, J.P.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Neville, eldest son of the late Colonel William Garrow Waterfield, C.S.I., and Mrs. Waterfield, and Margaret Grace, only daughter of the late William Secundus Collins, and Mrs. Collins, formerly of Waye, Ashburton, South Devon, and now residing at Allerton, Loddiswell, South Devon.

The marriage was celebrated on November 5, at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, by the Lord Bishop of Sheffield, assisted by the Reverend Prebendary F. Leith Boyd, between Captain Humphrey Payne, Royal Field Artillery, only son of Colonel E. H. Payne, C.I.E., Indian Army, and Mrs Payne, and Anthea Penne, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Firth, of Clifton Maubank, Dorset, and Norton Hall, Sheffield.

Among the passengers enbarking at Marseilles in the P. and O. steamer Caledonia, which left that port for Bombay on November 11, were Lady Alexander, Lady Congreve, Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Clinton Baker, Major-General Sir John Davidson, Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, Brigadier-General W. S. and Mrs. Leslie, Sir Northrup and Lady McMillan, Sir Thomas Owen, and Sir George Sutherland.

Marquess and Marchioness Curzon of Kedleston were present at a luncheon party given on November 9 by Sir Adly Yeghen Pasha at the Carlton Hotel, at which the other guests included the Hon. Mrs. Greville, Sir Ronald and Lady Sybil Graham, Sir Rennell and Lady Rodd, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry and Lady McMahon, the Hon. Ronald Lindsay, Lady Dawkins, Major Sir John Baird, M.P., and Lady Ethel Baird, Sir Vincent Caillard, Lady Cunard, Sir William Garstin, Ismail Talaat Pasha, Ismail Sidky Pasha, Yousuf Soliman Pasha, and Colonel J. K. Watson Pasha.

According to a Constantinople report the Commissar Chicherin, at the head of a special Bolshevist Mission with plenary powers, will visit Angora in February.

## THE PRINCE'S TOUR.

The Prince of Wales arrived at Aden on November 12, and is now on his way to Bombay.

## APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS.

Lord Methuen has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Wilts.

Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair, C.I.E., is, for private reasons, resigning his seat on the Council of India with effect from November 18. The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. Dadiba Merwanjee Dalal, of Bombay, to the vacancy thus created.

## THE PALESTINE DELEGATION AND THE CENOTAPH.

One of the most striking of all floral tributes laid at the foot of the Cenotaph on Armistice Day was that brought by the Members of the Palestine Delegation. Very appropriately it was in the form of a large Jerusalem Cross, the big cross being in white chrysanthemums and the four crosslets in crimson, supported in the curve of a large Crescent of laurel leaves; the two symbols of Christian and Moslem Palestine being thus happily blended. In laying this tribute before the Cenotaph the Palestine Delegation, representing the people of Palestine, had no doubt in mind the great company of British Dead who fell in the struggle for the liberation of Palestine, and whose bodies lie in many parts of the Holy Land as well as in the big cemetery on the Mount of Olives. Of them, and of their ungrudging sacrifice, the people of Palestine bear a grateful and a lasting remembrance.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

In Calicut, the centre of the disturbance in the Moplah area, refugees have fled from the surrounding country to the Y.M.C.A. which has been converted into a refugee camp. Boy scouts trained by Y.M.C.A. leaders are assisting in the feeding of the refugees.

Leaders of the Egyptian Independence Party have appealed to foreign communities in Egypt to express their confidence in a purely Egyptian administration by way of counterblast to British "militarist" statements.

The Armenian Patriarch was enthroned in Jerusalem on November 8 in the presence of the High Commissioner, Bishop MacInnes, and many local notables.

A large number of Turkish postage stamps of the earlier issues have been discovered in the Ministry of Finance at Constantinople.

Marko Giorni, the former Mirdite leader, has transferred the seat of the Government of Mirdita to Oroshi, the capital of Mirdita. Marko Giorni has been staying at Prizrend.

Serbia and Albania have been invited to appoint representatives to take part in the extraordinary session of the Council of the League, which is to be held in Paris on November 18.

Yakub Hasan, the Caliphate leader, who was recently sent to gaol at Malabar for refusing to stop his campaign, has now been sentenced at Tanjore to two years' imprisonment for sedition.

According to the *Pioneer*, Kurds have massacred 500 Persian *gendarmes* at Sujbulak, in revenge for the action of Colonel Malik Zadeh in arresting some of their chiefs whom he had invited to dinner.

The Ambassador's Conference has now informed the Albanian, Yugoslav and Greek Governments of the new Albanian frontiers, and has called on the Yugoslav Government to withdraw its troops to the frontier.

A proclamation has been issued by the General Commanding the Allied Forces of Occupation in Turkey stating that justice will be administered by French, British, and Italian military tribunals in their various sectors in cases of crime by Turkish subjects against Allied subjects and other Europeans, and *vice versa*.

As a result of recent accelerations it is now possible to reach Alexandria from London *via* Trieste or Brindisi, in less than five days.

It is stated from Cairo that the Egyptian Zaghloulist newspaper, *Al Ahalay*, has been suspended for six months for insinuating that the Minister of Finance was dishonest.

Negotiations between the Italians and the Emir Idriss in Cyrenaia have resulted, says the Rome Correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in the realisation of the El Regina agreement whereby the Senussite troops are disbanded, except in four zones for police purposes, and an Italian civil administration is substituted for the Senussite.

A Zionist delegation, headed by Mr. N. Sokolow, has left England for the United States. The other members are Professor O. Warburgh, Mr. V. Jabotinsky, and Mr. A. Goldstein. The main purpose of the mission is to secure financial support for the Palestine Foundation Fund.

A tram strike began in Cairo on November 11, says Reuter, largely as a result of intimidation of the employees by persons who had been carrying on an agitation for some weeks.

In accordance with a decision by the High Commissioner at Constantinople, the Greek flag, which floated together with the flags of the Allied Powers from the building which is the Headquarters of the Allied Naval Commission, has been lowered.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

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*Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON."*
*Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1921.


## THE DOWNWARD SLOPE.

Our readers will not have been greatly surprised at the news that the forces of revolutionary reaction which afflict India have decided on a further step along the road they have been following since the time when their anxiety was seriously aroused by the introduction of the new constitution. Some such action was indeed inevitable, for, as Sir Valentine Chirol has pointed out in his admirable survey of the present position, the road which they have chosen is an inclined plane, and it is inclined at such an angle that a movement once started can be arrested only by interference from outside. The step which has now been authorised by the junta which styles itself the Committee of the National Congress has been labelled "civil disobedience," and it differs from the earlier prescription of non-cooperation in that it involves active, rather than passive hostility to the Administration. The non-cooperator was called on merely to abstain. If he was a student, he had to absent himself from the lessons for which his parents had paid; if he was a lawyer, he had to abandon the practice for which he had toiled; and the idea was free from objection on strictly legal grounds, though it was futile from the standpoint of the practical politician, and though the attempt to propagate it has demonstrated the impossibility of restraining its advocates within the limits laid down by its inventor. The new move differs from the old in that it involves definite acts of disobedience to definite rules of law. The precise laws which are to be broken will doubtless vary with local circumstances, but it is significant that the non-payment of taxes is formally included in the programme, which thus strikes at the foundations of civilised government. The menace to India is thus grave, but, according to the scheme formally announced by the promoters, it is not at present general. The executive of the Congress in each province is to decide what shall be done within the area which it supposes itself to represent, while the central body has laid down sundry conditions, which, if there were any prospects of their realization, would certainly confine the effects within very narrow limits. According to these conditions, civil disobedience is not propounded as a luxury in which anyone may indulge, but as an act of renunciation to be justified by proof of previous self-discipline. The man who undertakes to disobey must have shown by his acts that he has abandoned the use of foreign goods, and must wear nothing but homespun; with his soul thus delivered from the canker of the West, he may be allowed to undergo the higher discipline of suffering for his breaches of the law, provided always that they are accomplished without the use of violence, and that his views are sound on a variety of doctrines, including religious unity, the Caliphate, and the denial of untouchability.

The absurdity of these conditions will be obvious to our readers. They were doubtless laid down with the best intentions by the visionary by whom they were announced, but we cannot suppose that they are intended seriously by the astute agitators who shelter behind him, and their practical value is indicated by the fact that a small committee is empowered to dispense with any of them. The result of the movement can only be that large numbers of people, many of them poor and ignorant, will be led, if not driven, to withhold the dues of the Government, or in practice the land-revenue on the punctual payment of which depends their retention of their holdings, or in other words their means of livelihood. The law will then take its wonted course: the defaulting peasants will find themselves threatened with ruin, the ground will thus be prepared for the agitators; and we can see no possible outcome but widespread rioting and disorder. The limitations imposed by the central body may possibly be mentioned by its local agents, but it is inconceivable that they should be observed by people in the mass. Refusals to pay revenue is an attractive idea at first sight, and once started it is almost bound to spread; the agitators are sufficiently clever to start it, but, even if we could assume their goodwill, the task of limiting and directing it would be utterly beyond their power.

As yet we have no information regarding the attitude to be adopted by the Government in view of this new threat to the peace of India. The policy of restraint which has been pursued towards the apostles of non-cooperation has been widely criticised, and the critics can at least claim that it has failed to secure tranquillity, since there have been numerous outbreaks of violence, and one grave rebellion, which unhappily is still unsubdued. Recognition of these facts does not, however, involve condemnation of the policy, for its supporters can argue, and, in our opinion, with substantial justification, that vigorous action at the outset would have failed to win the approval of the bulk of that moderate opinion which predominates in the Legislature, and might well have resulted in alienating it to such an extent that the practical working of the new Constitution would have been rendered impossible. During the last few months there have been distinct signs of a change in this respect. Moderate opinion has made some progress towards recognition of the danger to itself and to the country; the action taken against some prominent Moslem agitators has been generally approved; and there have even been demands for increased vigour in quarters where, a short time ago, the ordinary precautions of the Administration were looked on with suspicion. We think it is probable that this change will be accentuated by the threat of civil disobedience. Moderate statesmen, and even moderate politicians, must recognise that a movement aiming at the refusal to pay revenue strikes at the very base of their own position, and the men who are most anxious for increased political power must be the first to demand that the demoralisation of the taxpayer should at all costs be prevented, because they realise that demoralisation, once it is established, will be very difficult to cure. The strength of the British administration as compared with its predecessors has lain very largely in the fact that under it the payment of revenue has become a habit, and default has been a rare exception. The new aspirants for political power have assumed, perhaps too lightly, that they would be able to take over this great asset, along with others, from the bureaucracy at which it is their pleasure sometimes to gibe; and even the boldest of them might hesitate to assume responsibility for Government if it still involved, as it involved in the eighteenth century, the collection of revenue at the cannon's month. We believe, then, that in the face of this new threat the Administration can count on a measure of political support which it would have sought in vain against the early non-cooperators, and in view of this fact it is bound to take definite action to prevent the demoralisation of the revenue-payers, and not merely to enforce the usual penalties on those who actually default. It would serve no useful purpose to examine in detail the nature of the action which is required. The conditions will vary from place to place, and the agitation can be handled effectively only by the local authorities who understand the circumstances. What is wanted now is a clear lead from the central Government, a formal announcement that the demoralisation of the revenue-payer must not be allowed to occur, and an assurance that the measures taken for its prevention will be supported by the full weight of the Administration. Given such a lead, the executive machinery, weakened as it is, is strong enough to avert the danger which now threatens.

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## TANGLED POLITICS.

### The Self-Determination of Hungary,

*By "Watakshi."*

I was crossing the Channel some days ago when I met an old friend of mine. He had just returned from Central Europe, and he spoke frankly and without reserve.

"I am a tourist," he said, "only different from other tourists in that I have made the same journey many times and know a multitude of people, great and small. You are interested in the Emperor Charles? I will tell you as far as I can, how the present situation came about.

The Emperor Charles himself is an amiable, well-meaning young man, who has plenty of courage. He gives one the same sort of sense of antiquity of race that you sometimes feel in a Highland Scotsman. His enemies accuse him of not telling the truth. It may be so, but it comes more from a careless habit of mind, than vice. He married Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma, a lady of a great deal of character and much attraction, a good wife, an excellent mother, and, given the chance, an admirable queen.

The death of Franz Ferdinand made Charles heir-apparent to the Throne and subsequently Emperor. The mind of the Emperor Charles was very different from those both of Franz Josef and of Franz Ferdinand. Franz Josef had had a long and dolorous education, where loss followed loss, but still the Imperial splendour remained. He grew accustomed to disasters that did not affect him. He was a conservative old man, patriarchal in appearance, but in the main selfish. Franz Ferdinand was obstinate, positive, proud, but he could accommodate himself to circumstances. He grasped the fact that home rule must be given to the Southern Slavs; as you probably know, there are many who ascribe his death to this tolerance. A concession under the old order was hated by the Slav extremists, because it preserved the the old order. They preferred unyielding conservatives, whom they hoped one day to smash. Those gentry wanted no elasticity about their chains.

Well, Franz Ferdinand was murdered by the Slavs at Serajevo and there came the war, during which Franz Josef died. Then the Emperor Charles succeeded, and on succeeding did all in his power to bring about peace. He worked for peace for sufficient and obvious reasons. He saw that his Empire must tumble to pieces without it. He wanted to go down to history as a success and not a failure, and perhaps more than all, his wife was half French and half Italian, and though she was completely loyal to her adopted country, Austria, which she understood very well, she wanted reconciliation. So twice the Emperor initiated negotiations. His brother-in-law, Prince Sixte of Bourbon, fighting with the Belgian Army, went to Paris and there talked with the Prime Minister, Monsieur Clemenceau, but he did not succeed. In England, we had our Mr. Wickham Steed, and our Mr. Lloyd George, who from different motives, preached Sinn Fein in Austria, resurrected old hatreds and, in the end, successfully pulled down the "Ramshackle Empire" that it had required eleven centuries to weld into an economic unity. So the attempts of Charles to make peace failed. He was not alone. Count Czernin, who differed from him, was also for peace, but they were beaten by Conrad in Austria, as Kuhlmann and the other German civilians were beaten by Ludendorff in Germany.

The war ended. An English officer was sent to protect the Royal Family of Austria. He did it and, in the end, took them to Switzerland. That is a curious story, which will one day be historical. The Emperor Charles left without abdicating. He remains Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. There are many who believe that, if he had been crowned in Prague, he would be King of Czecho-Slovakia to-day. At any rate, he went to Switzerland with what belongings he could collect, and stayed there with his family.

His first attempt to regain his Crown was in March, 1921. That attempt was made on the initiative of the French Government. In two Cabinet meetings in Paris, during Charles's actual presence at Szombarthely nine out of thirteen were in favour of the Emperor Charles' returning to the throne of Hungary. On the French initiative he went; his journey ended in failure. Hungary as a whole, I think, wanted him, but the price that they had to pay was too high. Hungary had to meet the hatred of the Czecho-Slovaks, the Roumanians and the Yugoslavs. The Hungarians were a beaten and a disarmed people, who had to put up with the insults of their *nouveau riche* neighbours, the real profiteers of the war, and so the Emperor Charles returned to Switzerland.

But meanwhile other complications had ensued. French policy had dug pitfalls for France. It is important for us to remain allies with the French, but they make it very difficult for us, because their policy is both arrogant and inconsequent. France needs peace, but wants trouble. A peaceful Europe would make French life cheaper, but a broken Europe makes France stronger. It was French policy that insisted upon giving the Burgenland to Austria. The Burgenland had been Hungarian for more than a thousand years. It was associated with most of the great Hungarian names. It is a beautiful land in itself and it made a rare and romantic appeal to the country to which it belonged. The French hoped to make a permanent quarrel between Hungary and Austria by giving the territory of one broken country, Hungary, to another broken country, Austria, that had been its ally. Later, they saw that their policy of crushing Austria had gone too far; that the provinces of famishing Austria would have no alternative but to join Germany, and they regretted the gift of the Burgenland, which they saw might ultimately go to Germany and attempted, too late, to reverse their policy. The Burgenland had to be evacuated by the Hungarians, but as a set-off to this confiscation of territory, the Yugoslavs had also to evacuate the area of Pecs.

There are few people in this world who are more reluctant than the Serbs to give up anything, however trifling, that they have once possessed, but the Serbs saw that they could not avoid the surrender of Pecs. They therefore determined to make its occupation as difficult to its legal owners, the Hungarians, as possible, and with this object they encouraged the migration of all their Bolshevists and Communists into that area, in the simple hope that these people would later protest against the aristocratic government of Hungary. All might have worked well, but the Bolshevists and Communists, being men of active mind, did not allow their energies to sleep until the appointed hour at Pecs. They killed one Yugoslav Minister; they were reported to have tried to assassinate King Alexander, and they generally behaved in a turbulent way, that got upon the nerves of the Serbian Government. Over fifty deputies were arrested, labelled as Communists, and the evacuation of Pecs was successfully accomplished.

It was during those troubles that the Emperor Charles made his second attempt, which failed again. How far the French Government was behind that attempt, it is difficult to say, and Paris, of course, will never admit responsibility. No French Republic in clamorous pursuit of democratic ideals will ever admit that it has tried to restore an Emperor to his throne because his wife happened to be half French.

It is a simpler plan to curse the Emperor for breaking his parole. When Charles went to Switzerland in 1919, he gave his word to the Swiss Government that he would not indulge in political propaganda in Switzerland. That was all; nothing else. I know nothing about his word given after the failure of his first attempt in 1921; it was not given in Hungary; he may have given it in Switzerland, but I have never seen any evidence to the effect that he did.

"Of course," concluded my friend, reflectively, "if one's country wants one, it is a great temptation. There are few people, in those circumstances, who, rightly or wrongly, do not say: 'My country first.'"

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

## Egypt.

In the *Daily Herald* of November 1, Mr. H. N. Brailsford writes on "Our Promises to Egypt." He begins by stating that the granting of independence to Egypt would be a cheap concession, for "none of the real interests of British Imperialism incur the slightest risk." He continues with a list of imaginary dangers :—

What fleet is going to bear down past Gibraltar and Malta from the one side, or past Singapore from the other? Who threatens the Canal? Which ally of yesterday can it be, since the enemies are beaten to the ground? We have, in short, everything requisite for a heroic defence of the Canal, save only an enemy to attack it. Nor will it be otherwise with the financial interest. In one form or another it is agreed that the special status of the Outlanders in Egypt is to be retained. That is the only kind of "protectorate" which seriously concerns the immense foreign capital invested in Egypt. The stream of tribute will go on flowing as steadily as the Nile, and the traveller who turns aside from antiquities to glance at a fellah village, will still hear, if he listens intently, the real riddle of the Sphinx. How comes it that this peasant, who labours seven days a week from dawn to dusk with incessant industry, in fields of rich alluvial soil, which bear in that generous climate three crops in the 12 months accumulates nothing, and possesses nothing, not even his wretched hovel of mud, unless it be the mat which serves him for bed, the gown of blue cotton on his back, and the earthen jar which holds his maize? Independence will alter nothing in that picture, and with some help from the native landlords, the foreign banks, the brokers and usurers who handle the cotton crops will continue to reap their profits.

And he discusses the obstacles in coming to terms :—

What in the name of sanity is the difficulty in coming to terms with the Egyptians? The difficulty is mainly that our military authorities are not content that British troops shall guard the Suez Canal, while British warships enjoy the use of a naval base at Alexandria. They must needs keep a standing garrison of British troops at Cairo and Alexandria as well. Mr. Churchill has said so in public, and it seems that this demand is vexing even the tame official deputation under Adly Pasha which is now negotiating with Lord Curzon. Adly Pasha, I take it, represents only part of the small upper class in Egypt, which is largely of Turkish or Circassian origin. He owes his position to the support of the British Government, and he maintains himself against Zaghlul Pasha and the popular party only by means of martial law. He could not face an election, unless, indeed, it were "made" by methods of intimidation and chicane. None the less, there are limits to the concessions which even Adly Pasha may make. He dare not return from London with a settlement which the simplest and least literate working man or peasant will recognise at a glance as make-believe.

Now there is one test which the simplest and least "extreme" of Egyptians can and will apply. Does the new status of Egypt make an end of the occupation? If the British garrison remains in Cairo, then, plainly, independence is an idle word, and even the most modest autonomy an illusion. While we keep our bayonets there, our officials will still address the Egyptian Government in tones of command, and ultimately they will have to be obeyed. The Army was always in the past the "sanction" behind our advisers.

He concludes with the knotty problem of the Sudan :—

The other contentious issues, though they have their importance, are secondary to this. I do not myself think that we can satisfy Egyptian claims to the Soudan. Neither we nor the Egyptians have any right there, save that of conquest. Our conquest was effective, theirs was not. One may doubt their military ability to hold the Soudan unaided, and certainly the direct rule of our officials is likely to be much more enlightened and efficient than theirs. We do better in handling a black race, which is plainly and consciously our inferior, than in handling peoples who have begun to aspire to equality, and to approach it. Our motive may be the exploitation of the natural riches and labour of the Soudan, but there are some by-products of the process, in the shape of orderly government and material progress. On the other hand, in all the financial aspects of the Soudan question, Egypt has a very strong case. We have used her resources to pay for our conquest.

A settlement with Egypt is remarkably easy. But there is one concession which no Egyptian party dare make, and that is the continuance of the military occupation.

## Palestine.

The *New Statesman* of November 5, contained an article called "The Situation in Palestine," which, though written from the Zionist standpoint endeavoured to aim at impartiality. After having traced the events which led up to the recently published "Interim Report on the Civil Administration of Palestine," the writer concluded :—

The situation is to-day somewhat easier than it was when the report was written, but it is still not free from anxiety. The events of the past few months have not only impaired, for the time being, the authority of the Government; they have seriously militated against the Arab-Jewish entente which is indispensable to peaceful progress. The Jews, uneasy and embittered, are in no mood to parley with the authors of destructive attacks on Jewish life and property, for which no reparation has yet been made. The Arab extremists, secure in the illusion that if the Government is not with them it is not or dare not be against them, have little motive for modifying what has proved to be a not unprofitable intransigence. If the Arab Delegation now in Europe accurately reflects the Arab frame of mind, the prospects of an accommodation are, for the moment, unfavourable. The Delegation has been sufficiently ill-advised to demand nothing less than the withdrawal of the Balfour Declaration and the open repudiation of a pledge as binding as any to which Great Britain, in common with the other Allied Powers, has set her hand. That such a demand will not be entertained needs no assertion. It was indeed only last month that the Declaration was formally reaffirmed by the British Minister in Prague at the opening of the Zionist Congress, which responded with an impressive assertion of its implicit faith in British good-will and its firm resolve to play its allotted part in the task of reconstruction.

Even to-day there are Arabs in Palestine who are conscious that the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jews will not only involve no displacement of the Arabs but will result in a general quickening of economic and social life. For the moment moderate opinion is discouraged and silent, but it will make itself heard once the Government gives unmistakeable indications of knowing its own mind. When it does, it will find a ready response from the overwhelming majority of intelligent Zionists, who are fully aware that there can be no question of riding rough-shod over Arab susceptibilities, still less of invading Arab rights, and that, assured of their unquestioned right to enter their historic home within the limits of its capacity to absorb them, they need ask no more than a fair opportunity of succeeding on their merits.

So much, from the Zionist point of view, for the present position of Palestine. In an article called "Jews and Arabs," *Palestine* of November 5, enables us to estimate from the same point of view, the future of Palestine. The concluding paragraphs of this latter article are as follow :—

It is sometimes asked what we mean by speaking of Palestine as a future Jewish nation, and there is no reason why the answer should not be perfectly candid. We expect that with Jewish immigration restricted only by the openings to work and brains offered by the country, the Jewish civilisation will become predominant. It will no doubt be modified to some extent by intercourse with the Arabs and by residence in the country. The new Palestinian nationality will be a blend, and the Palestinian Jew, in the second generation, will be a very different sort of person from the raw immigrant. For all that he will be a Jew. Perhaps one ought to say that he will be a better Jew because of that, for it is is in the open-air life of Palestine rather than in ghettos of Russia and the Ukraine that the true racial type will develop. With expect, therefore, that the Jew will in time give its characteristic colour to Palestinian nationality. But that does not mean that there will be any infringement of Arab rights or that there will politically be anything but equality between the rights of the two peoples. Zionists are perfectly prepared to be on an absolutely equal footing with the Arabs, and if their civilisation predominates in time it will not be by reason of any artificial preference, but solely because it has the stronger individuality and has more with which to endow the country. Should the Arab individuality be the stronger and have more to give the country, it would in these equal conditions of opportunity become the dominant type. But we expect the first result, not the second. That is what is meant when people speak of Palestine as the home of a future Jewish nation, not the oppression of Arabs nor the grant to Jews of privileges denied to Arabs. The sole condition on which Zionists must insist is that they should not be subjected to disabilities because they are inferior in numbers, but that the present minority must be regarded as the representatives of the great Jewish race and that a place must be kept in Palestine for as many Jews as the country has openings for, there to found a national home and to be free to develop their Palestinian nationality. That in effect is what the Balfour Declaration amounts to.

It is, as we have said, very desirable that those Arabs who have a sufficient regard for the future of Palestine to welcome this prospect should organise against the extremists who are threatening to ruin the country by fomenting disorder. Zionists would welcome the prospect of working with a representative Arab committee which is prepared to accept the Declaration and to join in forming a new Palestinian nationality on the basis of equal rights and equal opportunities for both races.

# PALESTINE IMMIGRANTS WELFARE COMMITTEE

## Objects.

It has appeared to various persons in Palestine—official and unofficial—that there is useful work to be done among the immigrants who have been, and are now, arriving in the country. Much is being done for them by their own organisations, but visits made to their places of reception at the Ports, to their road camps, and elsewhere, have revealed that there are certain directions in which still further assistance might be given. Such assistance, it is known, would be welcomed both by the immigrants and by their organisations. It has also been observed that there is need for co-ordination and co-operation between the various bodies interested in the question. This need, it was felt, should be supplied by a local body which, in the interest of all subscribers, would attempt to obviate overlapping on the one hand, and the occurrence of *lacunae* on the other, in the field of

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work, while avoiding anything in the nature of intervention in the activities of other bodies working for immigrants in Palestine or abroad.

This Committee has then established for itself three primary objects :—(1) Further assistance to immigrants, and collection of funds to this end. (2) Co-ordination of efforts amongst all bodies similarly engaged in Palestine or abroad. (3) Assistance to immigrants in acquainting themselves with the conditions and customs of Palestine.

**Organisation.**

In forming the membership of the Committee an attempt has been made to obtain the nomination of persons who are specially qualified for the various activities in which it is proposed to engage. The names of members and the task allotted to them will give the best example of what is here intended.

| *Name.* | *Task.* |
|---|---|
| Sir Wyndham Deedes | Chairman. |
| Mr. Robert D. Kesselman | Treasurer. |
| Mrs. Norman Bentwich | Secretary. |
| Mr. H. M. V. C. Morris | Sports. |
| Mrs. Harold Solomon | Finance. |
| Mrs. M. D. Eder | Kitchens. |
| Dr. Hugo Bergman | Culture. |
| Miss Sophia Berger | Child and Women Welfare. |
| Mr. S. Tookovsky | Reception. |

As to the organisation within the Central Committee itself, it has been decided that each member should, for the performance of the particular task allotted to him or her, form a sub-Committee of members expert in it. Through these sub-Committees it is hoped to ensure the well-being of the immigrants in body and mind. Popular lectures and musical concerts will be given in the camps, libraries stocked, the means and the stimulus for games and sports provided. Trained kitchen supervisors wil be introduced. Female welfare will be the care of a special women's sub-Committee, who plan to establish Girls' Social Centres, Hostels, and Convalescent Homes, etc.

In respect to securing co-ordination and co-operation in Palestine between Bodies interested, the Committee feel that they can properly go no further than to invite such bodies to acquaint the Committee with their respective activities and intentions, in order that the latter may in turn advise them to what extent other bodies are similarly engaged or intentioned. It is hoped that the description of the mode of procedure above given will absolve the Immigrants Welfare Committee from the accusation of undertaking something which is already being done, and that sufficient confidence will be inspired in its membership and intentions to enable funds to be obtained for the laudable objects which it has in view.

## ROUMANIAN SUPERSTITIONS.

Lecturing on November 9, at King's College, London, Mr. Marcu Beza said that midsummer had been celebrated in pagan times with festivals, and that these lingered on in certain countries still. Somini de Magnoncourt, writing of his travels more than a century ago, said that in Greece, at this season, the girls formed themselves into parties and sent a boy to fetch water from a spring. This boy was forbidden to speak on the way, for which reason the water was known as "speechless" water. It was put into a jug, and each girl dropped an apple into it ; then the jug was covered and left for the night in the open air. The following day each girl took out her apple, bathed her head with the water, and went into the road, where she took the first name that she happened to hear as that of her future husband.

The lecturer said such methods of divination were common in antiquity, and that, in a modified form, the custom described obtained in Greece to-day. But it was regarded as merely an amusing game. Quite different was the case with the Roumanians of Macedonia, where he had himself seen the festival at a village within sight of the abode of ancient gods. The maidens and young women assembled in groups, and went out in search of a creeping plant called casita, singing as they went. When each young woman found the plant she tied it with red ribbon and concealed it under green leaves. Besides this, garlands of mignonette and other sweet-scented flowers were gathered. On the return home a jug called the galeata was scalded out and decorated with flowers, and into this each girl threw a silver coin or trinket. Then a procession was formed, and three springs were visited in turn. At the starting of the procession a song was sung identical with that used when a bride left the house of her parents. As the procession went along another song was sung, "Where are you off to, my little one, with your bridal veil, and your gold threads on, and your fingers full of rings ? I go to my nine brothers—nine unmarried brothers." At each fountain the galeata was filled and emptied three times while the girls sang. " Fill sister, empty brother, to give water to the thirsty one." Then the galeata was fastened with a padlock. Next morning each girl fetched the casita she had hidden the night before and tied her hair with it. Afterwards the procession walked through the village from house to house, the galeata being now guarded by young men with drawn wooden swords. In the evening the trinkets were taken out of the galeata.

The lecturer explaining the ceremony said it was connected with the Eleusian and Orphic mysteries of the ancient world, and that it symbolised a wedding—the mystic nuptials in which all Nature took a share, that of Death's goddess Persephone with Adonis.

## NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

**Colonel Rawlinson.** *November* 9.

Lord Newton asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to a letter in *The Times* from Admiral Sir Percy Scott with regard to the recent imprisonment of Colonel Rawlinson by Mustapha Kemal in Asia Minor, and whether there was any foundation for the charges against his Majesty's Government of having allowed this gallant officer to be treated in such a cruel and barbarous manner.

Marquess Curzon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—I have read the letter of Admiral Sir Percy Scott with the most profound astonishment and regret. It contains charges against his Majesty's Government for which there is not the least foundation, and it is written in evident ignorance of the facts. I will give these as briefly as possible to the House. The distinguished officer referred to, Colonel Rawlinson, who was on a mission from the War Office to Erzeroum, is believed to have been first placed under restraint—we had no knowledge of confinement—by Mustapha Kemal in the early part of 1920, but neither the War Office nor the Foreign Office had any certain information on the subject. As soon as the Turkish delegation came to London in March 1921, one of the first subjects that came under discussion with the delegates from Angora was the release of the British prisoners who were in Turkish hands. Of these there were believed to be 22, including Colonel Rawlinson. So anxious were we to secure their speedy release that the Foreign Office concluded a special agreement with Bekir Sami Bey, the principal Angora delegate, by which we engaged in return for these 22 to surrender all the Turkish prisoners in our hands at Malta, numbering 64, excepting only certain Turks who were held for trial there for grave offences against the laws of war, or for participation in massacres. As soon as the Turks had left England they began, in violation of the agreement, to raise difficulties about the surrender of the Turkish remainder—about 60 in number—and to refuse the fulfilment of the bargain unless these, too, were sent back. In our anxiety, however, to complete the transaction, we commenced by the release of 40 out of the 64, who were handed over to the Turks at an Italian port in the expectation that when Bekir Sami Bey returned to Angora the release of the British prisoners would begin and that the agreement would be carried out in entirety. No British prisoners were, however, released, and the agreement concluded in London by Bekir Sami Bey was repudiated by the Angora Assembly. In the month of June the Angora Government showed signs of relenting and released 10 British prisoners against the 40 Turkish prisoners whom they had already recovered, and offered to exchange the remainder against the whole of the Turks remaining at Malta. In our unabated desire to effect the release of our remaining prisoners, even on these extravagant terms, before the winter came on, we resumed negotiations at Constantinople, and decided to yield to the Turkish demand and to release the entire number of Turks for the sake of our men. The total exchange forced upon us by the *mala fides* of the Turks eventually turned out to be 118 Turkish prisoners returned in exchange for about 30 British prisoners. I wish the transaction could have been completed earlier, but the utmost energy on our part was for a time powerless against the bad faith of the Turks. As regards the treatment of Colonel Rawlinson in the interval since March last—for we knew nothing at an earlier date—we have had little information. The British prisoners who were released in June brought a message from him stating that he was not being well treated, and that letters were not reaching him. From other sources we heard indirectly that he was well, and was being treated with the consideration due to his rank. Colonel Rawlinson will himself give us more exact information on the subject when he returns. I hope I have said enough, however, to show that the charges of negligence and inhumanity brought against the War Office and Foreign Office are wholly without justification. I may add that knowing Colonel Rawlinson myself I have interested myself greatly in extricating him from his cruel position, and have been in constant communication with his brother, the Commander-in-Chief in India, who was aware of my solicitude in the matter.

(*This subject is referred to in our Notes of the Week.*)

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

**Christians in Turkey.** *November* 7.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor asked the Leader of the House whether, in view of the change in the situation in the Near East created by the Treaty concluded between the Kemalists and the French Government, and especially in view of the possible effects of this Treaty on the lives of the Christian Greek, Armenian, and other inhabitants of these regions, the Government would find a day for a discussion of the subject.

Mr. A. Chamberlain.—It is not possible for me to find a day within the limits within which we hope to keep the present session. Discussions are still proceeding with the French Government, and we could not answer fully the purpose for which the debate is desired before those discussions are finished.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor.—With a full desire to respect the susceptibilities of France and to maintain the Entente, would it not be desirable to let the French people as well as the Government know the feelings of apprehension which this Treaty has created among the people of this country ?

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Mr. A. Chamberlain.—The hon. gentleman will realise the reserve imposed on the Government when conversations have just begun between his Majesty's and the French Governments on matters of this kind. The anxieties of this country on the subject are plain and manifest. The Government are fully alive to the considerations which the hon. member wishes to bring before the House, but I hope that the anxiety of the House will be shown sufficiently by the questions put to-day.

Earl Winterton asked if on the Consolidated Fund Bill the right hon. gentleman would not make a statement on the position of this country in the Near East, especially with regard to the serious military danger to our position in Mesopotamia if the Treaty was as alleged.

Mr. A. Chamberlain promised to consult the Foreign Secretary and the authorities of the House as to whether at the present state of negotiations the information could be given..

**The Arab Delegation.**

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks asked the Colonial Secretary whether he proposed to submit any conclusions at which he might arrive with the Arab delegation from Palestine for the approval of Parliament; and when and how it was proposed that the draft mandate for Palestine was to be dealt with by Parliament.

Mr. Wood.—No conclusions of the kind indicated in the first part of the question have yet been reached, and I think it would be premature for me to make any statement on the subject. With regard to the second part of the question, the text of the draft mandate for Palestine has already been laid before the House. If the hon. member wishes to ask for time for its discussion I must refer him to the Leader of the House.

**Italy and Angora.** *November* 10.

Sir M. Conway asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his Majesty's Government had any information respecting the presence of an Italian representative at Angora, and whether there was reason to believe that the Italian Government had any intention of following a recent example and concluding a separate agreement with the Angora Government.

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs has categorically denied that there is any truth in the suggestion, and has assured his Majesty's Ambassador in Rome that his Majesty's Government will be kept informed of everything that passes at Angora.

**Christians in Turkey.**

Mr. Cecil Harmwsorth, in reply to Mr. T. P. O'Connor, who asked, *inter alia*, whether it was a fact that the Armenians, Greeks, and other Christians in Cilicia had been given 20 days' notice in which to leave the country, which was to be occupied by the Kemalists on the departure of the French, said:—His Majesty's Government have no other information beyond a statement, originating in Athens, which is reproduced in this morning's Press. They have on many occasions reminded the French Government of their obligations towards the minorities in Cilicia, and have the safeguards afforded by the Franklin-Bouillon Agreement do not appear adequately to satisfy these obligations. The reply of the French Government to these representations has not yet been received. It may be noted that the French High Commissioner recently concluded an interview published in the Constantinople Press with a serious admonition to Turkey regarding her future treatment of the minorities and her fulfilment of the Treaty; it was by this, he added, that the world would judge her, and any further outrages would raise an outcry against her in Europe.

**Topics in Parliament.**

The subjoined headings are those of the Official Report:—

Egypt.—Turkey (British Prisoners).—Albania.—Yugoslavia (British Debt.).—Albania.—Peace Treaties: Turkey (British Claims).—India: Government Officials (Passage Rates).—Malta (Elections).—(November 3).

India: Law and Order. Basante Kumar Roy. Auxiliary Force. Prosecution (Bhagalpur).—Albania.—Palestine: Electric Power Concession. Arab Delegation.—Near East. France and Turkey.—India: Civil Service Pensions (Premature Retirement).—Egypt (Prince Aziz Hassan).—Arabs (British Undertakings).—Roumanian Loans.—(November 7).

India: Married Officers. Press Legislation. Amritsar Shooting.—Trade Unions. Seditious Leaflets(Indian Army). Colonel Aitken. Railways and Transport Service. Government Printing. Agitators (Birthplaces). Moplah Rebellion.—Ex-Service Men. India Office (Legal Advices Department).—France and Turkey.—India: Karachi Aerodrome (Detention Allowance). Finance.—(November 8).

## THE BRITISH ARMENIA COMMITTEE.

The British Armenia Committee has learned with consternation of the Agreement come to between France and the Kemalists, under which the Christian inhabitants of Cilicia are to be handed back to Turkish rule. It demands that the British Government shall fulfil the pledges which during the War it repeatedly made to its Armenian allies, and shall call upon France to abide by the pledges for the protection of the non-Turkish people of Cilicia which she gave to the British authorities when she took over the province from them. The Committee recalls that thousands of these unhappy people returned to Cilicia after the war from places of safety at the instigation of the British and French authorities.

## WINTER TRAVEL PROSPECTS IN THE NEAR EAST.

We expressed in our issue of October 6, the good hope that Egyptian political extremists will do nothing to reduce our estimate of "hundreds of millions of piastres" which should fall into the lap of Father Nile this coming winter, under the tourist arrangements of Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son, and other agencies on both sides of the Atlantic. Subsequent news from Egypt shows that these extremists have had the good sense to muddy the waters of the Nile a good six weeks before the Egyptian Season begins. We can well imagine that the people of Assiout, Luxor, Assouan, and Wadi Halfa are more anxious just now about the prospects of the Nile tourist traffic than about the cashless blandishments of the so-called Egyptian Nationalists. We have yet to discover the Oriental Bazaar, such as that of Cairo for instance, which yearns for the rules and prescriptions of Bolshevism in preference to the open purses of tourists from the Occident, and we are confident that all responsible Egyptians will unite to assist the Government in ensuring for this winter a bumper tourist season. Our Cairo Correspondent informed us lately that over five thousand visitors are booked to invade Egypt, between February and April—that is to say, in the latter two-fifths of the regular season. As any one of these will doubtless spend more money in Egypt than did all the recent parliamentary guests of Zaghloul Pasha together, it may be calculated, by simple rule of three, that one ordinary tourist, male or female is worth more to the people of Egypt than half-a-dozen wandering political minstrels.

## PALESTINIAN NATIONALITY.

Persons who (a) were born in Palestine; or (b) whose fathers were born in Palestine and who in either case are now demobilised in Palestine and make a declaration that they intend to acquire Palestinian nationality when the opportunity offers, will in future be described as "Palestinians" on their laissez passers. This description is, however, only a temporary measure and is without prejudice to the provisions of any future law dealing with Nationality in Palestine.

An attempt is being made, under the auspices of Khalifate agitators, to boycott the Howrah police, and many people are being terriorized into refusing to sell to them.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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**The Proposed Bulgarian Loan.**

It is to be presumed that we shall not have to wait long to learn the decision of the Bulgarian Government with regard to the various loan offers that have been made to it. M. Stambolisky has informed our Correspondent that the Franco-Belgian Syndicate's offer appears to be the most advantageous. It will be interesting to know what the actual terms were in view of the fact that Messrs. Balfour Beatty and Co., named so low a rate of interest as 7 per cent. It is obvious what the result would be if an attempt was made to float a loan here at that rate. I imagine that it would cost at least twelve per cent. if there were to be any chance of the money being subscribed.

**A Yugoslav Loan.**

Yugoslavia is also engaged in negotiations for a loan, and in this case also proposals have been forthcoming from a British group, the offer being one, it is understood, of £15,000,000 bearing 9 per cent. interest conditional on the greater part of the amount being expended on the construction of a railway to the Adriatic. As the money would be expended in this country in the purchase of material the importance that would attach to a satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations needs no emphasis. Unfortunately our Correspondent states that the Opposition is displaying considerable hostility to the scheme, on the ground apparently that British prices are higher than German. But those who take this attitude surely do not imagine that Germany is in a position to grant loans, and for the matter of that is Yugoslavia likely to obtain a loan elsewhere without the same stipulation. ? Not from France at any rate.

**The Falling Leu.**

The fluctuations of the leu in recent months have been little short of remarkable. At the beginning of September the rate for sterling was 319, while it is now in the neighbourhood of 600 ! The explanation of this phenomenon is not to be found in the slow progress made in reconstruction; on this point the fact that the shipments of grain to the end of September were three times as large as in the corresponding period of 1920 speaks for itself as to the gradual improvement of internal transport. The reason why the export of grain has had no effect on the leu, it is pointed out in a report which we give elsewhere in this issue, is because practically the whole of the exportable wheat surplus was sold in advance to France, " and the proceeds used up at a time when the French franc was worth a much smaller number of lei than to-day."

**The Outlook.**

But that fact while it explains the lack of support for the leu does not account for its present weakness, which I suppose must be attributed *inter alia* to purchases of machinery etc. for the oil and other industries, and the general replenishment of stocks. But a counterbalancing factor should have come into operation as a result of the great stimulus to Roumania's export trade, resulting from the depreciation of the leu, reference to which is made in the report to which I have referred. This has been particularly the case with regard to timber. " If the exchange remains anywhere near its present level," says the report, " the exports of wood next year will only be limited by the capacity of the railways to bring it down to the ports." But so far this movement has evidently had no effect on the leu. Still it is bound to influence the position materially in the end, and this factor and the increased export of grain and oil that may reasonably be anticipated next year make it as certain as anything is in these times that before long the leu must stand at a very different figure.

**Conditions in Cyprus.**

The White Paper on Cyprus in 1920-21, which is reviewed elsewhere in these columns, shows that, broadly speaking, the position in the Island during that period was far from being unsatisfactory. The welfare of Cypriots hinges on the harvest, and as that of 1920 was particularly good in most respects, it naturally follows that they had little at which to complain for the abundant crops brought prices down. Trade again expanded as regards imports, and the revenue returns were the best on record, but despite this fact the year ended with a substantial debit balance owing to the growth of expenditure due to increased salaries and other factors. This result after three substantial surpluses is disappointing

**Bengal-Nagpur Railway.**

The effect of the adverse conditions that have prevailed in India is to be seen in the results obtained by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for the year ended March 31. While the gross earnings were slightly below the previous figure there was a considerable rise in working expenses, and the net earnings amounted to Rs2,18,57,718 as compared with Rs2,72,60,622. The surplus profits amounted to Rs56,56,969, the company's share of which is Rs6,56,701, or approximately at the present rate of exchange £45,148. In addition to the second half of the guaranteed interest at £1 15s. less tax the directors recommend a further dividend of ¾ per cent. less tax at 4s. 9d., and a bonus of 10s. per cent. less tax making the dividend 6 per cent. less tax for the year compared with 8 per cent. for the previous period.

**Commentator.**


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, November 3.*

### The Cotton Crop.

The semi-final official estimate of the cotton crop appeared early in the week: 3,300,000 kantars. The average yield is by far the worst on record: 2.56 kantars per feddan, against 3.6, the previous lowest, in 1917. The weather conditions were far from favourable, but the agricultural experts declare that the main cause of the bad yield is two-fold: late sowing and careless cultivation, owing to the low prices obtaining for the staple at the time of sowing and early cultivation. These authorities also declare that it is more necessary now than ever to increase official fostering of the crop, as the fellahin have drifted into a period of slackness which, if left unchecked, means economic disaster. The Ministry of Agriculture needs more money—but given generous treatment in the next budget, the Ministry will see that the ensuing crop will give much more satisfactory returns.

## THE SUDAN.

*Khartoum, October 23.*

### Provincial News.

The latest news from the Blue Nile Province is to the effect that rains during the month have been very slight, with the result that cultivation has suffered considerably. The total rainfall for the month was only 30 millimetres as compared with 94 millimetres last year. Prospects in general are the reverse of encouraging, although the area sown and the condition of the crops south of Hag Abdulla are much better than in the north. Local opinion is that the crop results will be less than 25 per cent. of those of last year. The price of labour in Wad Medani has fallen considerably, and is now returned as PT. 5 to PT. 7 per diem. There is a lack of demand owing to the small area under cultivation.

Kordofan reports that crops throughout the Province are good, with the exception of Bara District where the lack of rain has had bad results.

In Kassala cultivation is progressing normally, though in certain districts the crops are much below the average, owing to lack of rain, pests such as birds and mice, and the early *kharif*.

Reports from the Red Sea Province regarding the Baraka floods are discouraging. Owing to the lack of dams and earthworks most of the water went down the Khor Sharieit to the extreme south east of the Baraka Delta. No land is flooded within eight miles of Tokar town, and the area watered this year is inferior soil and inconveniently far from Tokar.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, November 9.*

### The Opposition and the Proposed British Loan.

M. Pashitch has tendered his resignation to the King, who has asked him to continue provisionally for another ten days until the more urgent foreign matters have been settled. It is suggested that the Radicals will press M. Pashitch to form a new Cabinet of entirely new material, to the exclusion of all the present ministers. Certainly, the Radicals are most anxious to hold in their own hands the portfolios of Foreign Affairs, Finance, and the Interior; but these are the three critical posts. It is not likely that the Democrats would consent to play second fiddle to such an extent. But is it certain that M. Pribichevich has got himself very much disliked outside his own party, and his policy is extremely unpopular in Croatia. Nobody attacks the Minister of Finance, M. Kumanudi, on personal grounds, rather an unusual phenomenon in this country, but the Opposition blame him for the present appalling slump of the dinar, which is very natural, though many of the multiple causes of the fall are quite outside his control. No official news is yet through as to the results of his visit to London, but the Opposition is full of violent attacks on a scheme which is reported from London to be part of the conditions of a loan which he is stated to have negotiated, to the effect that Boltons Bank and Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., will arrange a loan of fifteen millions sterling at 9 per cent. on the condition that the greater part be expended on a contract to construct and supply a new railway line to the Adriatic. Public opinion objects to this, as British prices owing to the exchange must necessarily be much higher than German prices in marks.

### The Exchange Crisis.

Meanwhile, with the dinar depreciating to about 400 to the pound, and falling heavily every day, there is a panic in financial circles, and the merchants are in despair. The Government is discussing a series of protective measures, but these can have at the best a tonic effect, and all will cause great inconvenience to traders. But the fear of war has passed off with the quiet removal of Karl and his promised internment in the sunny climate of Madeira and the dethroning of the Hapsburg dynasty; demobilisation has indeed begun, and this should restore confidence to a certain extent, and it is probably more lack of confidence than any actual economic cause that has caused the slump, which can never be properly counteracted until exports more evenly balance imports and the Government has no further need to be a heavy buyer of foreign credits to meet its obligations abroad.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, November 7.*

### An International Bank.

The scheme of Mr. F. Vanderlip, the American banker, for restoring the finances of Central and South-Eastern Europe by the foundation of an international bank, has aroused considerable interest in local financial circles. Mr. Vanderlip was at Sofia during October, and had conversations with various public men. All financiers agree that it is essential for either America or one of the other Great Powers to take steps to restore the shattered currencies of Europe, and Mr. Vanderlip's scheme, suggesting as it does the organisation of an international gold bank which would issue dollar currency in order to form a uniform basis for a new money circulation, may be the beginning of an idea that can be worked out in detail by a committee of international financiers A great deal will of course depend on the ready co-operation of the foreign Governments concerned, but in the case of Bulgaria it is to be imagined that the Government will lend all its support to any scheme that will give them a chance of putting the country in a better financial position.

## GREECE.

*Athens, November 5.*

### M. Papafrango's Mission to America.

M. Spyro Papafrango, one of the directors of the National Bank of Greece, left for New York last Thursday. Prior to his departure he conferred with M. Cartalis, who is acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs during M. Baltazzi's absence, on the details of his mission to America It would appear that this mission is not one of purely economic interest, but will possibly comprise other questions of a political character on which it is understood that Washington differs from the other Allies.

### The Consortium of Banks.

Since the promulgation last June of the Law sanction-

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ing the creation in Greece of the Consortium of Banks, certain modifications have been effected to the regulations of the syndicate. These are as follows :—

1. The payment of documentary drafts and accepted drafts can only be effected for drafts or bills of lading not exceeding L100, or the equivalent in any other currency ; the payment of drafts and bills of lading for amounts exceeding L100—or the equivalent must be authorised by the committee of the Consortium of Banks, to whom an application should be submitted together with the necessary proofs supporting the application.

2. The committee has decided that in future it will only grant the necessary exchange for the payment of goods (settlement of bills of lading, drafts, invoices, etc.) when the goods have been imported with the previous permission of the committee.

3. The sale of foreign exchange, or the withdrawal of deposits in foreign currencies, can only be effected by orders of payment and not by cheques, unless a special permission of the Committee is obtained for exceptional cases.

4. Remittances of Greek bank-notes abroad may be made freely without limitation of amount ; the import of same without the permission of the Consortium is forbidden. Travellers arriving in Greece may not import more than 500 drachmae per person.

5. The remittance abroad of foreign bank-notes without the previous consent of the Consortium is forbidden. A person leaving Greece however, is permitted to carry foreign bank-notes to the value of 1,500 francs—or its equivalent.

6. Foreign bank-notes may be freely imported. (Under existing laws, however, the import of lei, crowns, Turkish pounds and marks is forbidden).

7. The remittance abroad of securities coupons, and other deeds in foreign currencies is only allowed for the purpose of their sale, and on condition that the proceeds be converted into drachmae at the rate of exchange quoted by the Consortium within one month of the receipt of the advice of sale by the party concerned : such remittances abroad must always be made through a bank being a member of the Consortium.

8. All banks in Greece authorised to undertake exchange operations are bound to apply to such operations the rates fixed daily by the Consortium, which rates are uniform for the whole of the Kingdom of Greece.

9. The export of goods is only allowed through one of the banks affiliated to the syndicate. The exporter may be exempted from this obligation of the committee on guaranteeing that the proceeds of the goods in foreign exchange will be converted into drachmae within the period to be fixed in every case by the said committee. This does not apply in cases where raisins are concerned.

10. If the sale of the goods is effected against a simple or confirmed credit, opened in Greece from abroad, the bank through which the credit is opened is required to convert into drachmae immediately the value of the goods in foreign exchange upon delivery of the relative documents.

11. If the sale is effected against drawings on foreign countries negotiated, partially or as a whole, by the bank, the latter is required to convert into drachmae immediately, for account of the Consortium, that part of the foreign currency drawing negotiated by it, the conversion of the balance being adjourned, where necessary, until the completion of the transaction. Should the draft not be negotiated on delivery to the bank, the latter is required to convert into drachmae, for account of the Consortium, upon receipt of the advice of payment, 70 per cent. of the proceeds of the foreign draft, and to effect the conversion of the balance of 30 per cent. on final liquidation of the operation.

12. The export abroad of goods on consignment is only allowed through a bank affiliated to the Consortium, and the latter is obliged to convert into drachmae, to the credit of the party concerned, the proceeds of partial or total sales upon receipts of the advice of sale.

13. It is understood that conversions are effected at the rates fixed by the Consortium for the date of the operation.

14. Re-shipment of goods is only authorised when—(a) Same have been imported "in transit." (b) it is proved that same have not already given rise to the export abroad of foreign currency in settlement of their value. In this latter case, the previous permission of the Consortium is required.

15. It is imperative that any amount of foreign currency which may have been remitted abroad for expenses be re-imported into Greece.

15. The regulations of the Consortium are not applicable to Smyrna and the other regions in Asia Minor occupied by the Greek troops.

**Commercial Agreements.**

The Swedish Minister here, accompanied by M. Ilander, a well known Swedish merchant, and deputy, paid a visit to the Ministry of National Economy with a view to obtaining information on the commercial movements in Greece. It is understood that during the visit the project of a commercial treaty between the two countries was discussed, and it is further added that a provisional agreement will shortly be concluded for the exchange of Greek and Swedish products.

The Chamber of Commerce at Helsingfors, has written a letter to the Ministry of National Economy asking for information on the commercial movements in Greece, and giving details with regard to Finnish commerce.

**Greek Tobaccos.**

From reports received at the Ministry of National Economy it appears that 600,000 okes of Agrinion tobacco remained unsold during the last year, and that the quantity remaining unsold during the present year amounts to 650,000 okes.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, October 24.*

**High-handed Greek Action.**

The owners of carpet factories at Ushak have been advised that their premises will be commandeered to be used as cloth factories for the Greek army. Most of these factories are partly owned by European carpet firms, who advance the necessary capital for the works and take over the finished product. Vehement protests have been made by the firms to their respective Consuls in Smyrna to prevent the Greeks from carrying out the proposed measure.

**Horses Commandeered.**

To-day the Greeks have commandeered all the horses for the needs of their army. This measure it is feared will entail serious losses for the owners because for some time the Greek Military Base has not been able to pay accounts due so that there is consequently, small hope that the owners will ever get compensation.

**"Slump" in Exchange.**

The news that the Constantinople "Bourse" was quoting Ps. 940 to the £ sterling caused a panic on the Smyrna market, and the sterling exchange rose from Ps.738 on Thursday to Ps.890 on Saturday last.

*Smyrna, October 28.*

**The Import Duties.**

The following notice has been issued by Sir Harry Lamb, K.C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, Smyrna :—"The Allied High Commissioners in Constantinople have now consented to the reintroduction of the 11 per cent. *ad valorem* import duties as from the 18th October, from which date the delays provided for in the Decree Law of 13th September, and described in the Notice posted in this Consulate on 18th September, will be regarded as commencing." This means that on all goods in the custom-house and those shipped before October 18, the 11 per cent. *ad valorem* duty will not apply. After that delay the old Turkish tariff of 11 per cent. *ad valorem* will apply to all goods passing through the Smyrna Custom-House.

*Smyrna, November 5.*

**Transport of Grain to Smyrna.**

The Greek Authorities, having announced that permission would be given to bring grain to Smyrna from Ouchak, a British firm applied for and obtained a permit to bring down 21 waggons. They made all the necessary arrangements at Ouchak to bring down this quantity, but the first four waggons despatched have been stopped by the Greek authorities at Alascheir for the last four days, owing, it is stated by the authorities, to a misunderstanding!

## PALESTINE.

*(From a Correspondent.)*

*Jerusalem, October 17.*

**Miscellaneous.**

A sign of growing commercial development is the Trade Marks Ordinance which is now in draft and has been approved by the Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce with the recommendation that this body should keep the register rather than the Law Courts.

The Germans have not yet appointed a Consul here, but, pending the ratification of the Mandate, a representative has arrived in Jerusalem and assumed his duties at the Spanish Consulate. A large amount of German goods are now entering the country, mainly from those firms who before the war held the market.

The Egyptian and Palestine Governments have renewed their discussion regarding rail transport of goods. Each Government will now accept responsibility and pay compensation for loss.

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## CYPRUS IN 1920-21.

### Great Increase in Imports

The White Paper on Cyprus in 1920-21, which has just been issued, shows that on the whole the community enjoyed a greater measure of prosperity than in the previous year. In Cyprus everything depends, of course, on the harvest, and that of 1920 was fairly satisfactory, the wheat crop being the fourth best in the past decade, while the barley crop was above the average, the olive crop was the best on record, and the carob crop was up to the average. The result was that produce prices began to fall with a consequent benefit to the poorest classes. As showing the general economic position it is worth noting that during the past two years 200 motor cars were imported into the Island.

If the general position was rather more satisfactory than in the previous twelve months the same cannot be said of the Island's finances. The revenue amounted to £668,518, a notable advance on the record established in 1918-19 of £610,499, and with the usual grant in aid the total was £718,518. On the other hand the expenditure rose from £485,400 to £691,780, and with the Cyprus share of the Turkish debt charge amounted to £784,580. There was thus a deficit of £66,062, as compared with a surplus of £74,727 for 1919-20, and one of £73,024 for 1918-19. The large increase in expenditure was mainly due to higher salaries, the abnormal prices of goods, and enhanced freight charges. The result is disappointing in view of the substantial surplus that accrued during the three previous years, but as its causes are of an ephemeral nature, and as the revenue has continued to expand in such a remarkable manner there is obviously little reason for disquiet at the position. It is simply an example of the vicissitudes that must be expected as the consequence of post-war conditions.

**Imports and Exports.**

Exports slightly decreased in the year under review, but there was a great increase in imports. The value of the exports was £1,200,449, a decrease of £170,000 while the value of the imports was £2,068,756, an increase of £543,339. There was thus a very large adverse trade balance against Cyprus. The reasons for the increased excess of imports over exports were the trade revival, the replenishment of stocks, and the effect of various restrictions on exports. As usual the trade was mainly with the British Empire. Of the exports the share of British possessions, colonies, and protectorates was £434,550, while that of the United Kingdom was £257,449, or about two-thirds of the total. Greece was the next most important customer, taking goods to the value of £132,550, while France was fourth with £55,349. As regards imports the share of the British Empire was 68.9 per cent. as compared with 81.2 per cent. in the previous year. Italy was the leading competitor with 6.4 per cent., France being next with 5.5 per cent.

The demand for agricultural machinery, noted in the previous report, continued during the year, and motor tractors and ploughs, harrows and planters, and a corn dressing machine were imported by the Agricultural Department, and were hired out to farmers. It is stated that several farmers have the intention of purchasing implements, but have been deterred for the present by the high prices. During the year officials of the Department gave a course of instruction at the principal centres of the wine producing districts of Limassol and Paphos. The exports of wine amounted to 1,250,000 gallons. Egypt being the principal purchaser, while 80,000 gallons of spirits were exported. There was a great increase in the exports of terra umbra from 2785 tons to 8,000 tons, the respective values being £6,255 and £28,000.

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According to Reuter's Cairo correspondent the movement of Manchester goods in Egyptian bonded warehouses during October was as follows:—Entries 701 bales or cases; deliveries 1,804 bales or cases. Stocks on October 31, amounted to 4,057 packages. These figures show that stocks have decreased over 5,000 since May 31.

## THE WINE INDUSTRY OF PALESTINE.

### Growing Market Abroad.

Although wine making is an ancient industry in Palestine, the present commercial industry (says an American Consular report) has been built up during the last 35 years by Jewish colonists to Palestine, who have propagated foreign wines. The Palestine vineyards are healthy and withstand diseases well. The Jewish colony at Rishon-le-Zion is the centre of the industry, but considerable quantities of wine grapes are grown at the colonies of Zichron Jacob, Rehovoth, Petach Tickvah, and Katra, and the German colony at Sarona.

The vineyards utilized in the wine industry (300 to 400 acres) are practically all on the Plain of Sharon and mostly in the Province of Judea. Grapes for eating purposes grow in all parts of the country, and in Transjordania is a considerable area devoted to the growing of raisin grapes, or sultanas. The wine-grape vineyards receive no rainfall during the growing and bearing season and are not irrigated, there being always a sufficient supply of sub-surface water.

Most of the wine grapes of the Jewish colonies are pressed at Rishon-le-Zion. The German colony of Sarona, near Jaffa, formerly produced considerable wine, but the industry was closed by the war. The wine-grape harvest begins about July 18 and lasts for about six weeks, the earlier grapes being used for dry wines and the last and ripe ones for sweet wines.

About 80 per cent. of the production is of the dry, red claret wines; 8 to 10 per cent. of white dry wines; 8 per cent. of red sweet wines; and about 2 per cent. of white sweet wines. An average of about 6,600 gallons of cognac is distilled in normal years from the wine at Rishon-le-Zion. From 13,000 to 15,000 pounds of tartar are obtained per season. The stems and residue from the press are used for fertilizing purposes.

The principal markets are Egypt, other parts of the former Turkish Empire, and neighbouring eastern Mediterranean countries. Small quantities go to England and the Continent, but Palestinian wines can in no sense compete in these markets with European wines.

The cost of wine production has increased, but it is stated that twice the present quantity exported could be sent abroad. Palestine vineyards pay a *warko* or land tax, which amounts at the present exchange rate to about one dollar per acre (5½ piasters per dunum of land). On grapes a tithe tax of 12½ per cent. of their value is paid to the Government. On wine there is paid an excise tax of 15 per cent *ad valorem*, of which one-half is refunded to the wine manufacturer upon production of a landing certificate or other documentary evidence that he has actually exported the wine upon which a drawback is claimed. The alcohol or spirits made from excess wine pays an excise tax of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*, upon which there is no drawback if exported. No actual export duty is paid on wine exported.

The equipment of wineries and cellars is practically all European, and, as the industry at present is not a prosperous one, it is unlikely that there will be a market for new equipment during the next few years. Barrels for exporting wine are usually obtained from Europe, but wineries have a sufficient supply for their export trade, as facilities now exist for the return of barrels used in previous years. Barrels of various sizes are used, but the largest size is best liked, having a capacity of 6 hectoliters (132 gallons). A comparatively small quantity of the wine is bottled for local use and for export to Syria. A large share of the bottles used are refills collected from various local sources, and there is no apparent demand for any appreciable supply of new bottles.

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The traffic receipts of the Smyrna Aidin Railway for the week ended October 22, amounted to £10,855.

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A recent report from Athens states that the 1921-22 tobacco crop of Greece will amount to about 63,775,900 lbs. This will result in a total shortage, it is estimated, of about 28,225,000 lbs. as compared with last year's crop.

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The sugar production in Czecho-Slovakia during the season 1920-21 amounted to 7,155,000 quintals of raw sugar from which 3,420,000 quintals of granulated and 2,800,000 quintals of various kinds of refined sugar were produced. Up to July 31, 3,320,000 quintals of sugar were exported against 3,283,000 quintals for the previous year. On August 1, stocks showed an increase of 630,000 quintals over 1920.

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## ROUMANIA'S EXPORT TRADE.

### Stimulating Effect of Exchange.

We are indebted to Messrs. Watson and Youell for the following information on economic conditions in Roumania dated November 5 :—

The sudden and enormous depreciation of the Roumanian leu recently has had a powerfully stimulating effect on exports.

From the end of the war until this last summer the shipments of wood from this country were very few and very small. Probably not more than 30,000 tons were exported altogether in the 2½ years ending June, 1921. During the five months since then however, about 40,000 tons have been shipped, and the recent fresh currency depreciation has made the export so attractive that it is expected that another 20,000 tons may be got away during the next five or six weeks, if the Danube navigation remains open so long. Although the sterling price of wood on foreign markets is very low, yet when this is multiplied by an exchange of 600 or 700 to the £ it produces about four times the price the wood fetches in the country, and therefore even after paying freight etc. in sterling there is still a very large profit. If the exchange remains anywhere near its present level, the exports of wood next year will only be limited by the capacity of the railways to bring it down to the ports. The railway service has very much improved ; had it not done so the increased exports of the last five months would not have been possible. If circumstances are favourable it may be possible to ship 200,000 tons of wood next year.

One or two steamers have lately been loaded with benzine at Constantza, and, in view of the large profit yielded by the present rate of exchange, no doubt every effort will be made to increase it. Hitherto, difficulties both of transport and in other matters have kept the production down to little more than home consumption. The price in the country is very much below the price obtained abroad.

The quantity of grain shipped from January 1, to end of September, 1921, is officially given as 1,194,666 tons, compared with 337,665 tons in the same period in 1920. Of this year's export, 700 000 tons were maize, 300,000 tons barley, 90,000 tons oats, and 53,000 tons rye.

Since the free export of cereals was stopped on August 17, practically nothing was shipped except in a few cases where exporters were able to get special consideration from the Government for certain engagements in course of execution when the decree was issued. As is known, export was reserved to the Government except where the private exporter could make up his mind to deliver to the Government a ton of grain at a price much below the market for every ton he wished to export. This paralysed private export until a few days ago, while the Government monopoly organisation took a similar time to get into working order. The latter has now shipped its first two cargoes, while the recent depreciation in the currency has made it not only possible but also highly profitable for the private exporter to let the Government have half his holding of grain at a heavy loss for the sake of exporting the other half at a very much greater profit. Merchants are therefore at the present time, the first week in November, shipping all they possibly can ; but it is a question whether, when once they have shipped their old holdings, they will be able to buy fresh stuff at prices which will enable them to give the Government half of it at a loss which would be much heavier than hitherto ; this in face of the Government monopoly which has to make no such sacrifice. Merchants are doubtless now regretting that they did not buy larger quantities before, but of course they were afraid to do so in view of the constantly changing Government decrees. Another impediment to grain export is the fact that the Danube is unprecedentedly low, with patches of the river bed showing that were never seen before, and the river which is the principal artery of transport for grain is now not available for this purpose. On the other hand, the railways, although showing considerable improvement, are totally unable to handle any great quantity of grain yet. A large part of the grain in the country is therefore unavoidably held up until the spring.

The fairly large export of grain this year ought, one would think, to have had some effect on the Roumanian exchange. Unfortunately practically the whole of the exportable wheat surplus had been sold in advance by the Roumanian State to the French Government, and the proceeds used up at a time when the French franc was worth a much smaller number of lei than to-day.

There is a very large demand from abroad for sleepers, and Roumania might export very large quantities of beech sleepers but unfortunately the forest owners are afraid to produce them for fear of their being requisitioned.

It is announced that the bridge over the marshes leading up to the great bridge over the Danube at Cernavoda will be ready for traffic in another fortnight. This will place the port of Constantza again in direct railway communication with Bucharest and Europe generally.

## NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Indian Electric Supply and Traction Company has declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on Ordinary shares, payable November 28.

His Majesty's High Commissioner at Constantinople reports that the sanitary measures in force against arrivals from Adalia and Rhodes have now been removed.

It is proposed that iron and timber materials intended for the reconstruction of Salonika shall be exempt from the payment of import duties.

The India General Navigation and Railway Company has declared an interim dividend of 2 per cent. on ordinary shares and 21s. per cent. on Preference, both free of tax, payable November 30.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank, 25, Austin Friars, E.C., is prepared to receive from British holders of the Bulgarian Six per cent. Loan of 1892 coupons and drawn bonds due July, 1917, and January, 1918.

It is reported that representatives of a British shipping group have arrived at Prague for the purpose of terminating the negotiations started some time ago for the foundation of an Anglo-Czecho-Slovak shipping concern.

It is understood that the Czecho-Slovak Government has purchased from the Town Council of Komarno, on the Danube a site for 1½ million kronen, and the preliminary work for the establishment of a port is to be started at once.

The Motor Exhibition at Calcutta will open on December 19, and will continue up to the 24th. The exhibits will include practically every make of motor-car and motor-cycle on the Indian market, and also a full collection of accessories.

The Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway has received the sanction of the Railway Board to the carrying out of a further survey to determine the possibility of aligning the proposed Agra-Karachi broad-gauge connexion railway through Ajmar.

The Postmaster-General announces that uninsured parcels may now be sent by post to Roumania *via* Germany and Czecho-Slovakia. The rates of postage are 2s. 9d., 3s. 6d., and 4s. for parcels not exceeding 2 lb., 7 lb., and 11 lb. in weight respectively.

The Cunard Steam Ship Company announces that Major Fredk. Alan Bates, M.C., partner in Messrs. Edward Bates and Sons, and a director of the Royal Insurance Company, and Thos. and Jno. Brocklebank, Ltd , has been appointed a director of the company.

Mr. J. C. Montgomerie, the engineer sent out to Russia by the Anglo-Maikop group of companies to investigate the present condition of the group's properties in the Caucasus, reports that the oilfields and works are practically intact, and that the production of oil is proceeding.

The new Commonwealth Line service, London to Australia, via the Suez Canal, will be opened next month by the s.s Moreton Bay, built by Vickers, which arrived in the Mersey recently after undergoing her speed trials. Two similar steamers are being constructed at Barrow and two on the Clyde.

H.M. Minister at Belgrade reports that the export from the Serb-Croat-Slovene State of 30,000 rams and 20,000 sheep will be permitted through certain Customs Houses, subject to the payment of the prescribed export duties and to a guarantee being given for the disposal of the foreign currency received.

The India Office issues the following statement showing the form in which the balance of the gold standard reserve was held on October 31, 1921 ; In India, £1. In England ; Cash at the Bank of England, £1,074 ; British Government securities (value as on September 30, 1921), £30,528,905 ; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £9,662,357. Total, £40,192,335.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

## EXHIBITS AT THE MOTOR SHOW.

There is no doubt that this year not only British engineers but British coach-builders have surpassed themselves, and although as a general thing the cars shown this year are rather simple, as regards their engineering details, they are, taken altogether, much finer products than have ever been seen before at Olympia.

One of the most noticeable developments is in connection with accessibility, and the day has gone when owner drivers or chauffeurs had to perform all sorts of gymnastic feats to get at any part that requires attention. There is a story told of a make of car where it was necessary to unship the body and dissemble half the engine before a sparking plug could be changed. That was most certainly an exaggeration but the story had some germ of truth. To-day, we have changed all that and the accessibility of engine parts in particular is a thing to marvel at.

As I think my readers are aware I have always regarded the Rolls Royce and the Napier as being two of the finest examples of British motor engineering, and a lengthy examination of the exhibits staged by these two firms this year has comfirmed that opinion.

Taking the Rolls Royce for example the post war chassis has definitely established its superiority over any Rolls Royce model built before the war. This seems a bold thing to say, but I am certain that the makers will agree with me when I maintain that the models shown at Olympia, although nominally of the same horse-power, were far superior to those shown in 1913. I mention this because it has become rather the fashion to contrast post-war productions, to their demerit, with those turned out before the end of 1914.

Improvements are continually being made in the engineering side of the car, although comparatively few of them are manifest except under examination by an expert eye. For instance, the greatest improvement that has been introduced into the chassis since the war is the use of material of a better quality. The employment of lighter pistons and connecting rods and the greater average horse power now obtained from the engine are all improvements which do not reveal themselves except in the performance of the car, and it is in the direction of all-round performances that one can best appreciate the many improvements of the latest Rolls Royce chassis over its predecessors.

As regards the coach work of the three cars shown at Olympia this year, it can be said that this has revealed the highest possible standard of the body builders' work. The company have, I know, long recognised the fact that to improve a car from year to year means not only to improve the chassis, but the comfort and beauty of the bodywork, and in this instance a great deal of time seems to have been devoted to ensure that the coach work, both in its quality and its comfort, shall be fully in keeping with the chassis to which it is fitted, with every regard to the ultimate cost.

The carriage work shown consisted, firstly, of a superb Pullman limousine by Barker, secondly of an extremely handsome landaulet by Hooper, and thirdly, an open 4-seater by Mulliner, of Chiswick, all household names in the body building section of the motor industry.

The first of these, an interior drive Pullman limousine to seat six or seven passengers, was painted maroon and black, with plain cloth upholstery of a light shade. The body was fitted with frameless windows operated by mechanical lifters. A dictograph, roof ventilator, ladies and gentlemen's companion trays of beautiful silver design, all added to the comfort of this interior. In the driving compartment all the instruments were mounted on a walnut instrument board, and the body was fitted with four doors whereby access was provided to both the front and back seats from either side. A special ventilator at the top of the scuttle enabled the occupants of the front seat to regulate the temperature of the car at will.

The limousine landaulette has a most useful detachable extension over the driver's seat, and the body, which is painted a rich shade of dark blue with black wheels and mudguards, has accommodation for four or five passengers. Special attention has been given to the provision of adequate head room within the body, whilst maintaining, at the same time, a design having low and graceful lines.

The 4-seater open body, which has four doors by which the body or the driving seat can be entered from either side, is painted cream with a polished aluminium bonnet, and the whole car has a smart and attractive appearance. Special protection is afforded to the passengers, particularly at the back by giving more height to the sides of the body in relation to the back seat. The instrument board is of aluminium, and everything necessary in the way of equipment is provided.

The Rolls Royce engine, which is of the 6-cylinder type giving 40 to 50 nominal horse-power, has cylinders of 114 by 121 m.m. bore and stroke respectively, giving a Treasury, and therefore a taxation-basis, horsepower of 48.6. Water circulation is by centrifugal pump, forced lubrication is provided to all parts, there are two complete and independent ignitions, by high tension core and high tension magneto, and the firm fit their own well-tried and highly efficient speeds and reverse, side change, internal fabric to metal clutch of the cone type, bevel final drive, Dunlop detachable wire wheels, with Dunlop cord tyres which are, as all the world knows, of the highest possible quality, and whilst a Lucas lighting dynamo and wiring is fitted, the Rolls Royce provide their own make of electric starter. Altogether one of the soundest engineering propositions in the Show.

The Napier exhibit is just as striking, just as typical of all that is best in British motor engineering practice. Indeed so satisfactory has the new 40-50 h.p. six cylinder Napier proved in the hands of users that it will remain unaltered for 1922, beyond improvement in matters of detail to give greater convenience to owners of this super-excellent car. This is the chassis which has just recently satisfactorily completed a very arduous trial over the Alps under the official observation of the Royal Automobile Club.

The exhibit consisted of three complete carriages, ready in all respects for the road, and in each of these the coach work was by that famous London firm of coachbuilders, The Cunard Motor and Carriage Co., Ltd. In each case the body design struck a very high note, and the colour scheme was in every way excellent. The chief attraction was the Napier landaulette in which the body is divided into two, the driver's, or front seat, being separate from the main body of the carriage, the latter being arranged on "C" springs. These, in addition to the usual comfortable and flexible cantilever springing of the 6 cyclinder Napier, give to the occupants a singular ease of riding.

The main body is built to seat two, and the back half of the car is made to open. A canopy over the driver is operated on the roller blind principle, and the car was certainly one of the chief centres of attraction in the show. Other Napier exhibits were a sporting torpedo body on standard chassis, and a handsome royal saloon by Cunard.

The Napier engine of 40-50 h.p., 6-cylinders, with bore and stroke of 102 by 127 m.m., giving a Treasury rating of 38.4 h.p. is an extraordinary fine piece of work, down to the very smallest detail. I have not and never had anything but the highest measure of praise for the Napier, and in saying this I am speaking not only as a motorist, but as an engineer of over 35 years' experience. There is, as a matter of fact, no need to deal with either the engine or the chassis in detail. In every respect the detail work not only conforms with, but actually surpasses all ordinary standards of excellence.

Next week I hope to be able to deal with other striking exhibits examined personally at Olympia.

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# Cotton & Cotton Goods.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester, Friday.*

We have again experienced a dull and featureless week. Throughout the market there has been nothing to stimulate buyers to further activity. The continued weakness in raw cotton circles has proved disconcerting, and, as is only natural in a falling market, buyers have held aloof. Varied opinions have been expressed with regard to a curtailment of production in the spinning section of the industry, and next Tuesday the Masters' Spinners' Federation are to meet to discuss the state of trade, and the advisability of taking a ballot of their members as to whether or not short time working should again be introduced. The cloth demand for Egypt, the Levant, and Constantinople has only been on an extremely small scale, and sales have been few and far between. Leading shippers believe that no increased business will be done until after Christmas. Sellers of Egyptian yarns have had a very poor week, and prices have been dropped. Only a few isolated transactions have taken place. With regard to India only a few offers have been about with occasional sales in light cloths. There is no expectation of a revival of demand for our Dependency until the Gandhi boycott is lifted. Buyers for China have not been altogether idle, but the rather encouraging advices being received from that outlet have not been reflected in the sales on this side. Not much business has been done for the republics of South America. A few transactions have taken place for our Colonies, and the home trade, but buying on the whole has been patchy. Quotations for American counts have been very irregular, and weak sellers have predominated. More spinning mills are gradually being stopped.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date November 9 :—

There is no improvement to record during the past week ; in fact, the market has displayed a sagging tendency throughout. Business at the Manchester end has gone steadily from bad to worse, yarns dragging, and sellers losing ground. A number of mills are gradually curtailing production, and to-day the Oldham master spinners are holding a meeting to decide on a definite policy on similar lines.

The United States Ginners' fourth report has just come through with a figure of 6,646,000 bales, and this, temporarily, at any rate, is regarded as a further " bear " factor in the situation, although, taking a long view, it is difficult to reconcile this attitude with the probable needs of the world. Coming just when the maximum weight of cotton is felt by the markets, and also at a time when the offtake by the trade has dwindled to very small proportions, the above figure will naturally be made the most of by those who incline to the " bear " side at the moment. Estimates of the total Egyptian crop have crystallised in the neighbourhood of a little over 3½ million kantars, as against 5,030,000 last season, and an average figure for the years immediately preceding the war of over seven million ! The news from India, to which we referred last week, continues to contain a crumb or two of comfort, although, so far, nothing very material seems to have come of it. The two greatest clouds at present in sight, namely, the erratic state of the Continental exchanges, and the widespread unemployment, are problems which, unfortunately, still remain to be solved. However, we see no reason to depart from our previous opinion that, in the long run, a shortage of cotton is likely to be experienced, and that holders, particularly of staple cotton, will see better prices than those ruling to-day.

The actual enquiry here has been small and featureless, with the exception of that for Sudan cotton, the sales of which make up a third of the week's total. The enquiry for this cotton during the last day or two, however, seems to have completely died away. C.i.f. business, for the greater part of the week, was of very small dimensions, but yesterday rather more was reported. Deliveries to spinners last week showed a big falling off from the previous high figures reported, and the stock of Egyptian cotton in Liverpool on November 4, was estimated at 71,970 bales. Total sales, 1,800 bales (includes 580 bales Sudan). Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 175 points, with Fair exceptionally 125 points lower, and Extra Fine 100 points lower. Brown and Uppers are reduced 150 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 21.75*d*.

## HOW TO BEAT THE BOLL WEEVIL.

The paramount problem in the Southern Cotton Growing States of America is how to destrov the boll weevil. Advices from Columbia S.C. state that the American Cotton Association has suggested the following plans for meeting the situation :— 1. Three-fourths of all open lands to be devoted to food and feed crops and to pasturage for live stock ; 2. One-fourth of the cultivated land to be planted in cotton, well fertilized and worked so as to produce the best yield under the most economic conditions of labour and other expenses ; 3. The encouragement of the rapid organisation of State-wide co-operative marketing associations for handling cotton and other farm products ; 4. The adoption of economic reforms and efficiency in the future baling, warehousing, financing, and marketing of the cotton crop upon the most approved and advantageous modern methods of orderly marketing.

## INCREASING TEXTILE MACHINERY SHIPMENTS.

The fact that textile machinery makers in Lancashire have now been able to shake off the effects of the coal stoppage during the summer months is proved by the official statistics for the month of October which show that 13,656 tons were shipped abroad, which is the highest monthly total since May last. In October, 1920, only 3,758 tons were exported, whilst in October 1913, the figure was 16,600 tons. For the period of ten months ended October last 125,293 tons were sent abroad compared with 39,574 tons in October 1920, and 147,125 tons in October 1913.

The difference between the amount for the current year and that for 1913 is not large, and shows that Lancashire firms to a great extent have recovered their pre-war trade, If the coal trouble had not been experienced it is more than likely that the 1913 figures would have been exceeded. So far this year buyers in India have taken 36,479 tons more, and larger quantities have also been purchased by the following countries, Japan 13,675 tons, China 11,406 tons, France 7,767 tons, United States of America 3,971 tons and South America, 3,399 tons.

## ACCIDENTS IN AMERICAN COTTON MILLS.

According to the estimate of the American Mutual Liability Insurance Company, Boston, Mass, 69 per cent. of the accidents in the cotton manufacturing industry resulting in lost time are due to non-mechanical causes, and only 32 per cent. to so called mechanical causes. The results are based upon data representing the exposure of 43,782 employees. Looms were responsible for 8.8 per cent. of the accidents, cards, 4.5 per cent., transmission 2.6 per cent., mules 1.9 per cent. and speeders 1.5 per cent. The principal non-mechanical causes of accidents were falls 22.4 per cent., handling material 13.2 per cent. infection 13.5 per cent., and contact with objects 7.9 per cent.

## AIR MAIL TO BAGHDAD.

The Postmaster-General announces that the air mails for Irak (Mesopotamia) which were dispatched from London on October 13, and 20 reached Baghdad by air from Cairo on October 31. In future, dispatches for onward transmission by the fortnightly Cairo-Baghdad air service will be made from London fortnightly on Thursday evenings, instead of weekly as heretofore. Correspondence included in them for Bushire and for all place in Persia north and west of it as well as for Irak, should gain from at least three days (Bushire) up to 14 or more days (Baghdad, Ispahan, &c.) in time of transmission. A special air fee of 1s. an ounce is charged, in addition to ordinary Imperial postage. Each packet should bear in the top left-hand corner the " Air Mail " label obtainable at any head or branch post office, and be clearly marked immediately below it, " Cairo-Baghdad." Parcels and insured packets are not admitted. The next Cairo-Baghdad air mail will be dispatched from London this evening.

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According to Reuter's Athens correspondent a group of Greek financiers has founded, with the backing of the National Bank of Greece, a new financial institution called the " Securities Bank."

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Market Rather Unsteady.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair demand at unchanged rates. West Indian crystallised has been done at 40s., a rise of 2s., while Czecho-Slovakian is unchanged at 19s. 9d. White Java is the same at 47s.

Coffee.—The market has been quiet. Costa Rica is unchanged at 130s., while Indian is the same at 112s. Jamaica remains at 144s., while Nairobi is unchanged at 106s. Futures are:—December 47s. 9d., March. 48s. 9d., May 49s., July 49s. 1½d., September 49s. 3d.

Oilseeds.—A weak tone has prevailed. Indian linseed is 9d. down at 16s. 6d., while La Plata has shed 1s. at 15s. Rapeseed has been dull with Toria 3d. down at 18s. 3d., and brown Cawnpore 3d. down at 17s. 9d. Cottonseed has been variable. Indian is unchanged at 9s., but Sakellaridis is 1s. 9d. down at 12s. 9d., while Egyptian black is 1s. 6d. down at 13s.

Seed Oils.—Prices have been steady. Linseed is 6d. up at 27s. 6d., while for November-December 26s. 9d. is quoted, and for January-April 27s. Rape oil has been dull, the crude variety being 2s. down at 48s., while refined is unchanged at 53s. Cotton oil has been very weak, refined common edible being 9s. down at 5c. Egyptian crude is unchanged at 42s., but deodorised is 3s. down at 52s. Turpentine is 3d. up at 68s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—The market has been fairly firm. Linseed cake has been done at 250s., while cottonseed cake is unchanged at 100s. Arachis cake has come to business at 220s., while palm kernal is the same at 110s.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in October:—

Cotton.—The notation figures for this month are even lower than those for last month which were the lowest on record. The drop is principally in the Mudiriyas of Daqahliya, Minufiya, Beni Suef, Faiyum, Minya, and Girga. From the data now available, the crop is provisionally estimated at 3,300,000 kantars. It has been more difficult than usual to estimate the crop due to the fact that returns from farmers all over the country have differed abnormally. The Ministry is in possession of evidence which clearly shows that the poor returns have been largely due to late sowing and careless cultivation. When good seed was used and care taken over the cultivation of the crop, the results, though below last year's, have been far above the very low average of the country. There are no doubt many other factors contributing to low yields, one of them being the long rotations between mid-June and end of July. This is borne out by the fact that on well managed estates where farmers have artesian wells and could choose their time for watering, they have obtained better results than others who had not the same facilities.

Maize (Nili).—In some provinces the weather was reported to have been cold and unfavourable, affecting to some extent the growth of the crop. The water supply was sufficient. The formation of cobs is progressing in late-sown areas, while some harvesting has already been done in early-sown fields. Very slight attacks of Prodenia (in Beheira Province) and Sesania cretica (in Gisa, Minya, and Qena) have been reported. The crop has very slightly improved since September, but the yield is still expected to be below the average.

Millet.—The condition of the crop is fairly satisfactory, but the yield is expected to be below the average. There were very slight attacks of the Stalk-borer in Qena and Aswan.

Rice (Sefi).—The weather was favourable and there was an ample supply of water. Harvesting, threshing, and winnowing were the chief operations in progress. The crop is below the average.

Rice (Nili).—The cold weather has affected the growth of the plants and the ears are small.

Sugar Cane.—The weather was favourable except in Faiyum and Beni Suef where cold and damp have affected the growth of the plants. Elsewhere the condition of the crop was satisfactory. Cutting for human consumption was progressing in early-sown areas. The stalk-borer has been reported from almost all provinces and the mealy bug has been noticed in Asyut, Girga, Qena, and Aswan, the attack being slight. The crop is expected to be a little below the average.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 28:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 140,525 bags as against 75,960 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 130,525 bags as compared with 67,960 bags for the same period last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 10,000 bags as against 8,000 for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to date total 155,000 loads as compared with 152,000 loads last year. The total estimated sales are 150,000 loads as against 148,000 loads for 1920, and the estimated stock unsold (mostly inferior and damaged) amounts to 5,000 loads as compared with 4,000 loads for last year.

Shipments.—The s.s. Belgravian for Liverpool has on board 24,893 boxes sultanas, 463 cases figs, 69 boxes figs, and 2,939 bags figs. The s.s. Borodino for London and Hull, the s.s. Gulf of Suez for Liverpool, the s.s. Hermes for Amsterdam, and the s.s. Braga for New York are loading.

Markets—Prices for sultanas and figs in local currency have been entirely subordinated to exchange fluctuations, but with exchange for sterling (dollars, francs, and florins in like proportion) jumping about hourly with a maximum variation from 895 to 735 over the week, it is easy to realise the difficulty facing shippers in cabling out offers in foreign equivalents and having to await replies before operating. Business is absolutely a gamble on exchange, prices for fruit in local currency being generally slow to follow the sharp variations of exchange rates for the various foreign currencies in which shippers have to work their costs out. Market uncertainties have been greater this week than at any time since the opening of the season.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 7:—

Season.—October 31—Monsoon extended slightly northwards in Peninsula. November 1—active to the south of Peninsula. November 2—extended over most of Peninsula. November 3—active in Peninsula, except northern districts. November 4—weakened appreciably in Peninsula. November 5—retreated temporarily from northern half of Peninsula. November 6—further decrease in rainfall in Peninsula.

Condition of Crops.—November 2—Burma—unchanged. November 4—in Bengal, rice good, except Western Bengal, where rain needed. In Bombay, crops good. Spring crops assured over most of Presidency, owing to satisfactory rainfall. In Sind, crops generally good. Central Provinces—cotton, sesamum and rice very good. Punjab—November 3—cotton deteriorating, especially American. Otherwise crops generally good. Assam—November 7—sugarcane, tea and cotton normal. Rice normal to good.

Markets.—Bombay cotton market, November 3—steady. Fine M.G. Oomras December-January Rs. 421. March Rs. 416. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to October 28, 278,000 bales as compared with 107,000 in the same period of the last year. Bombay piece-goods market, November 4—inactive on the whole. Divali week disappointing. Local goods moving steadily. Calcutta jute market, November 5—dull. Hessians very quiet; rates unchanged. Heavies steady. Some enquiry for Cees. At tea sale on November 1, quality offered was good, particularly from Dooars. Prices advanced three to nine pies for common and medium kinds. Better class teas firm. All markets interested, Persia showing more interest than for long time past. 327,466 packages sold to date at an average price of 9 annas per lb. November 5—special Straits quality rice, Rs. 610. November 4—shellac, T.N., R.s. 155.

No change in Bank Rates.

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The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended October 20 amounted to £E14,446; total for year £E201,886. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E18,224 and £E266,451.

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The representatives of the Czecho-Slovak timber industry have decided to draw up a scheme for the establishment of a timber exchange. The plan has been submitted to M. Novak, Minister of Commerce, who has promised to institute an enquiry into the matter.

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## ADVANCES IN RAW FUR PRICES.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association on the October Raw Fur Skin Sales states :—The attendance at the sales just completed has been very large and fully representative—buyers coming from the United States of America, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Scandinavia and elsewhere. The competition was well distributed ; it was very gratifying to note that France bought more freely than for some time past, the United States securing the larger part of the offerings in beaver, marten, blue fox and squirrel. Germany bought very considerably notwithstanding the very unfavourable exchange. The home trade was quiet throughout the summer, but experienced better demand during the past few weeks, and, having cleared a quantity of old stock, was able to support various articles such as skunk, American Opossum, white red, Japanese and kitt fox and wolf. Chinese and Japanese skins experienced good demand for raw red fox, Japanese fox, etc., but in kid and Thibet the demand was not so good, though a fair quantity was sold. Australian skins were fairly well upheld, the greater part being secured for Germany. Had the exchanges been more normal, it is possible that prices would have been still higher, but as it is the advance all round is rather greater than was generally anticipated. The comparison of prices given is with those of April—May last.

Badger, unaltered ; black bear, declined 10 per cent to 15 per cent. ; brown bear, slightly lower ; grizzly bear, unaltered ; beaver, advanced 25 per cent. ; civet cat, unaltered ; chincilla, advanced 15 per cent. ; ermine, advanced 10 per cent. ; fisher, advanced 10 per cent. ; fitch, advanced 20 per cent. ; blue fox, declined 20 per cent. ; cross fox, declined 10 per cent. ; grey fox, advanced 15 per cent. ; red fox, advanced 20 per cent. ; silver fox, declined 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. ; white fox, advanced 25 per cent. ; South American fox, advanced 15 per cent. ; white hare, no demand, nearly all unsold ; kolinsky, unaltered ; Persian lamb, advanced 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. ; lynx, declined 10 per cent. ; American marten, advanced 25 per cent. ; baum marten advanced 20 per cent. ; stone marten, advanced 20 per cent. ; mink, advanced 20 per cent. ; mole, advanced 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. ; monkey, unaltered ; black musquash, declined 10 per cent. ; brown musquash, first advanced 25 per cent. ; others advanced 50 per cent. ; southern musquash, not much alteration ; nutria, unaltered ; American opossum, advanced 20 per cent. ; otter, advanced 20 per cent. ; raccoon, advanced 10 per cent. ; Russian sable, unaltered ; skunk, as usual in October, a stale collection ; advanced 20 per cent. ; squirrel, advanced 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. ; wolf, advanced 25 per cent. ; wolverine, unaltered ; fur seals, Cape of Good Hope advanced 20 per cent. ; other sorts mostly withdrawn, limits being too high.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon : (Continental), 115s. cwt. ; (Canadian), 90s. cwt. ; (American), 82s. 6d. cwt. ; butter : (Danish), 248s. cwt. ; (Australian), 160s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 192s. cwt. ; cheese : (Canadian), 92s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 88s. cwt. ; lard, 73s. 6d. cwt. ; eggs : (Danish), 37s. 6d. per 120 ; (Styrian), 24s. 6d. per 120 ; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt. ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3¾d. lb. ; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 89s. cwt. ; coffee : (Costa Rica), 152s. 6d. cwt. ; (East Indian), 130s. cwt. ; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt. ; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt. ; (Mocha, longberry), 113s. cwt. ; (Santos, superior), 61s. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 57s. 6d. cwt. ; nutmegs, (110's to 80's), 1s. lb. ; pepper, (Singapore black), 4d. lb. ; (Muntok, white), 8d. lb. ; pimento, 3½d. lb. ; raisins (Valencias), 145s. cwt. ; sultanas (Smyrna), 140s. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 77s. cwt. ; currants (Amalias), 53s. cwt. ; sugar : (Tate's cubes), 55s. 9d. cwt. ; (Lyle's granulated), 49s. 10½d. cwt. ; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 3d. cwt. ; (West India crystallized), 40s. 6d. cwt. ; (centrifugal), 10s. 6d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour. 17s. 3d. cwt. ; rice : (Rangoon, No. 2), 19s. 3d. cwt. ; (bran, Rangoon), £6 7s. 6d. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 1½d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3d. lb. ; tea : Indian (common to good common), 11d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 5d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 8½d. lb. ; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 6d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 8½d. lb. ; Java (common to good common), 8d. lb. ; wheat (English white), 47s. 6d. qr. ; (La Plata, ex ship), 82s. qr. ; (Australian), 53s. 3d. qr. ; barley (malting), 57s. 6d. qr. ; barley (feeding), 40s. qr. ; oats (English), 29s. 6d. qr. ; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 25s. 9d. qr. ; maize (mixed American), 33s. qr. ; maize (La Plata), 29s. 3d. qr. ; flour, 40s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton ; antimony (English Regulus), £38 10s. ton ; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £66 16s. 3d. ton ; copper (electro), £74 10s. ton ; gold bars, 104s. 4d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 110s. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 126s. 3d. ton ; galvanized sheets (24G), £18 10s. ton ; lead (soft foreign), £23 10s. ton ; manganese Poti, 1s. 2d. unit ; molybdenite, 40s. unit ; nickel, £190 ton ; platinum, 382s. 6d. oz. ; plumbago, £20 ton ; quicksilver, £9 16s. 3d. bottle ; silver bars, 40d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 6s. 3d. ton ; tin (standard), £156 17s. 6d. ton ; wolfram, 12s. 9d. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 10s. ton ; tin plates (20 by 14), 22s. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 66s. cwt. ; oxalic, 9d. lb. ; citric, 2s. 5d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 4½d. lb. ; ammonia (sulphate), £14 16s. 6d. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £39 10s. ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 15s. ton ; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar, 129s. cwt. ; Potassium : Bi-chromate, 8d. lb. ; chlorate, 6d. lb. ; caustic, £31 10s. ton ; nitrate, £49 ton ; permanganate, 1s. 1d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.), £16 10s. ton ; Sodium : Crystals, 140s. ton ; bi-carbonate, £11 15s. ton ; bi-chromate, 6¾d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 8s. 9d. ton ; chlorate, 4d. lb. ; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 15s. ton ; hyposulphite, £17 2s. 6d. ton ; prussiate, 8d. lb. ; nitrate, £14 16s. ton ; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton ; glycerine (industrial 1,260 per cent) £110 ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 3d. lb. ; quinine, 4s. 0½d. oz. ; red lead, £38 5s. ton ; white dry lead, £41 5s. ton ; white ground lead, £50 17s. 6d. ton ; sulphate of copper, £29 15s. ton ; sulphate of iron, 117s. 6d. ton ;

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 7,1-8d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 8d. lb. ; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7,1-8d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 7d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs. 7d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 6,1-8d. lb. ; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 7d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6¾d. lb. Bulls (first), 5,5-8d. lb. ; (second), 4¼d. lb. ; Kips (first), 6¼d. lb. ; (second), 5¼d. lb. ; (third), 3¼d. lb. ; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic hides (cows) ; Agras, 7 to 12 ; Durbhangas, 5 to 6d. ; Patnas, 4.8 to 5. Salted cows, 3 to 6. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 5. Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. ; goat, 250 to 280 per 100 pieces ; Bombay Market :—Dressed buffs, 10 to 14 annas per lb. ; dressed cows, 10 to 14 annas per lb. ; goat and sheepskins, 1.4 to 1.12 rupees per lb.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton: (American), 12.50d. lb. ; (Egyptian Sakel), 20.35d. lb. ; Oilseeds : Linseed (La Plata), £16 ton ; rape (Toria), £18 5s. ton ; soya beans, £13 15s. ton ; sesame seed (China), £27 10s. ton ; palm kernals, £18 ton Oils : Linseed, £28 17s. 6d. ton ; olive (Levant), £78 10s. ton ; palm, £36 5s. ton ; rape (crude), £49 10s. ton ; soya, £36 ton ; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon), £44 7s. 6d. ton ; cotton (crude), £43 ton ; ground nut, £50 ton ; Rubber : Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 10d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 10d. lb. ; fine hard Para, 1s. 2d. lb.

## IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE.

In regard to the cost of immigration into Palestine it is officially announced that none of the cost of the Department of Immigration and Travel is being paid by the tax-payers of Palestine. Fees are charged to immigrants and these fees have lately been raised to L.E.1. per head, except for children under 16, for whom the fee is 20 P.T. Fees are also charged to travellers in respect of passports. Owing to the suspension of immigration from May 2 to June 3, and its closer restriction subsequently, the fees from immigrants have not yielded any considerable revenue during the present financial year. Nevertheless, for the period from April 1, 1921 (the beginning of the financial year) to September 30, the revenue collected by the Department has been as follows :—Immigrants' fees, L.E. 2,249,250 ; passport fees, L.E. 5,752,230 ; miscellaneous fees, L.E. 21,628 ; making a total of L.E. 8,023,108. During the same period the cost of the Department has been L.E. 6,782,117 ; showing a surplus of L.E. 1,240,991. This sum has been carried to the credit of the general revenue of Palestine.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on October 28 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4,9-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £7 ; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2¼ ; Associated Cotton Ginners, £23-32 ; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56¼x ; Behera Ord., £E 9¼ ; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75 ; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16 ; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100 ; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 90 ; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 24 ; Comptoir Fin. et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5¼ ; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 850; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 633 ; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 328 ; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 110 ; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130 ; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 81½ ; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 104; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 26s. 1½d. ; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4¼ ; Filature National d'Egypte, £11 ; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5,7-16 ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s. ; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi £4¾; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur £33 9-16 ex. ; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37 ; Lots Turc., Fr., 30 ; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270 ; Nungovich Hotels, £7 ; Ramleh Railways, £2,5 8 ; Salt and Soda, 34s. 10½d. ; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr., 45 ; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 56 ; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2,13-16; Egypt Hotels, £2 7-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 7-8.

Coupons and drawn bonds of the Kingdom of Bulgaria Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1909, due June 1, 1917, and December 1, 1917, payable in French francs, may now be presented for payment at the offices of Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## FUTURE OF PORT OF BUSREH.

### Suggested Loan.

A recent issue of the *Times of Mesopotamia* contains the text of a speech made by a representative of the Ministry of Commerce of the Government of Irak on the future of Busreh to a representative assembly at the office of the Mutasariff of Baghdad. We give the following extracts from the speech from which it will be seen that interesting developments may be expected :—

As the letter which recently issued from the Ministry of Commerce on the subject of a loan for the purchase of the Busreh Port appears to have given rise to some misapprehension, I thought it desirable, with the approval of the High Commissioner to invite you to a meeting here, in order to give me an opportunity of explaining the intentions of the Irak Government in the matter.

The object of the proposition was, as stated in the letter, to enable the Government, by becoming owners of the Port property to free itself from the inconveniences attached to a condition of affairs in which the local Government was responsible for the management of the Port, without having put its liability for the capital cost on to a definite or business-like footing. At present the Port remains the property of his Majesty's Government, and though it is contemplated that the ownership will be transferred to the Mesopotamian Government no formal transfer has yet taken place, no valuation of the property has been decided, and no arrangements have been made for the liquidation of the debt.

Our present intention is to manage the Port departmentally for a period of three years—an interval which should serve to clarify what is at present a very obscure commercial situation, during which it is hoped that what may be regarded as the normal year will occur, on the basis of which it would be possible for the Government to decide on a more permanent policy.

It is mainly to hasten the arrival of the normal period that we wish now to complete the transaction for the transfer of the Port, and in such a way as to secure that the administration of this local institution will be essentially under local control. That was the primary object of the proposal contained in the letter to which I am referring.

There is also another factor which makes the proposal a timely one, and which should, I think, commend it to your sympathetic consideration. The present uncertain tenure of the Port presents opportunities favourable to the invasion of interests which perhaps conflict with those of the business community in Mesopotamia. I believe that the general opinion of the commercial community in Mesopotamia is opposed to the creation of a transport monopoly.

Rumour has been prevalent that negotiations have been in progress for the transfer of the Port and Railway to a well-known group in London. I should like to emphasize that this Government has had no share whatever in any such negotiation, which are entirely opposed to its policy, nor have they had any knowledge that such negotiations were on foot.

On being informed of the rumour regarding the group in question, the High Commissioner telegraphed to the Secretary of State to enquire whether there was any truth in it, and has received an assurance that there is not. That is very satisfactory but at the same time we must remember that there are strong interests in existence which may attempt to secure a position in this country in connection with the Port which may be in direct conflict with the interests of local traders.

It is primarily then in connection with the protection of your own interests that the Government wish you to consider this proposition for a loan. Subject to the reservation of the principle of departmental administration for three years, which in itself precludes any idea of admitting a monopoly, the Government are anxious to make arrangements to ensure that the administration of the Port is conducted entirely in the interests of the community.


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## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses* :—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 25).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, November 19); s.s. Mandasor for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 23); s.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London December 3); s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 3); s.s. Maidan for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 17); s.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, December 24); s.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 7).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Merton Hall for Rangoon (Middlesborough, London, November 18); s.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Por Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 23).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Harrington for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, November 30).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Swansea, November 29).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Grodno for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania (Liverpool, December 1).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. Kosmo for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, November 21); s.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 24); s.s. City of Florence for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 8).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. Kathlamba for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, November 29).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenade for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, November 24); s.s. Glenamoy for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 8); s.s. Glentara for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc (London, December 22).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Defender for Calcutta (Liverpool, December 3).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Burma for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 30).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Calchas for Port Said, Penang, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, November 21).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Port Inglis for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 19); s.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 10).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Siptah for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, November 19); s.s. Assiout for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, November 26).

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*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Flaminian for Tangier, Malta, and Alexandria, (Liverpool, November 19); s.s. Belgravian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, November 26).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Plassey for Bombay (London, November 18); s.s. Sicilia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 18); s.s. Mirzapore for Bombay (London, November 26); s.s. Khyber for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 2).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 18); s.s. Nerbudda for Colom bo Madras and Calcutta (London, November 26); s.s. Nuddea fo Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 3); s.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 10); s.s. Mudura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 16).

## FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SUDAN.

In the House of Commons on November 9, Major Glyn asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Government had come to any decision in regard to the present financial position of the Sudan, especially the financing of the works now in progress for the completion of the Gezirah dam.

Mr. Harmsworth: It is anticipated that, as in the past, the accounts of the Sudan Government will close with a surplus at the end of the current financial year. It will, however, be necessary for that Government in due course to raise further funds for the completion of the Gezirah scheme, and this matter is receiving their consideration.

Major Glyn also asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the security for the investment of British capital in the development of the Sudan would be in any way unfavourably affected as a result of any treaty or agreement come to between the Egyptian delegation now in this country and the British Government; whether it was the policy of the British Government to urge upon the Sudan Government the importance of encouraging British capital to be invested in the development of the Sudan both by providing transport and bringing more soil under cultivation; and whether it was necessary for British would-be investors to be discouraged from getting their schemes advanced by the Government of the Sudan pending the settlement of the financial difficulties of the Sudan Government's irrigation schemes.

Mr. Harmsworth: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the last two parts, the Sudan Government are well aware of the desirability of attracting capital to the Sudan, but the development of the country must proceed gradually, so that it may not be burdened in the early stages with loan charges in excess of its capacity.

Major Glyn further asked whether the Government of the Sudan, faced with a serious financial position on account of the liabilities incurred as a result of the Gezirah dam, were unable to grant any concessions or trade agreements that ultimately depended upon the security offered by the revenues of the Sudan as to payment of interest, etc.; and whether under these circumstances the British Government could take any steps to assist in the development of the Sudan by British capital.

Mr. Harmsworth: I would point out that the Sudan Government, having regard to its existing liabilities, is unable to grant concessions likely to diminish its future revenue. With regard to the last part of the question I would refer the hon. and gallant member to the terms of the Trade Facilities Bill.

The Anglo-Egyptian Bank recommends a dividend of 10s. per share, free of tax, making 15 per cent. for the year, and bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, writing £4,000 off premises account, carrying forward £31,457. Meeting, November 29.

The Burma Railways announce a final distribution of £1 5s. per cent., together with a bonus of £1 per cent., both subject to income tax, on account of surplus profits, to be distributed with the guaranteed interest payable on January 2 next, making in all a return of 7 per cent. for the year 1921-22.

The report of the Bengal Dooars Railway for the year to March 31, state that capital expenditure amounted to £4,579. The net earnings (less Indian tax) were £37,053, plus gain by exchange, £9,843. The amount available was £59,974, less 3 per cent. interim dividend paid on Ordinary stock, leaving £57,974. The directors recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent. on Ordinary stock (subject to tax), carrying forward £45,974.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.*

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)*

**Egypt.**

Paper, etc.—The Controller of Printing and Stationery, Ministry of Finance, Dawawin P.O., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, bristol board, and strawboard, required by the Egyptian Government Press, Cairo, for the year 1922-1923. Representation by a local resident agent is essential. December 17. (D.O.T.).

General Stores etc.—The Secretary General, Port and Light houses, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of general stores, electric gear, chemicals, oils, paints, ropes, canvas hoses, etc., required for the first half of the financial year 1922-1923. Offers will be valid for twenty days from December 21, and delivery effected within three months from date of order. Samples for analysis should be submitted fifteen days before the date fixed for accepting tenders. Conditions of Tender and Specifications are obtainable from the Stores Department, Arsenal, Alexandria. December 21.

**Syria.**

Road Rollers.—The Direction des Travaux Publiques, Grand Liban, Beyrout, invites tenders for the supply of five road rollers weighting 4—6 tons on the road, having 20—30 b.h.p. oil engines, with a radiator of large surface, a minimum speed of four to five kilometres per hour on a 7 per cent incline, and a maximum speed of seven kilometres per hour. They are required to be equipped with two powerful brakes, and ballast boxes made from steel sheets, having a construction capacity of 1.3 cubic metres. All component parts to be interchangeable. Plans and specifications, catalogues, prices and full particulars, including date of delivery, should be submitted to the Direction Des Travaux Publiques, Grand Liban, Beyrout, Syria. The closing date for the receipt of tenders is apparently not fixed.

**India.**

Laminated Springs.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of (1) laminated springs, and (2) pig iron. (Specifications, £1 each, Secretary, 48, Copthall-avenue. November 22.)

Railway Material.—The Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company, invites tenders for the supply of (1) material for construction of bogie carriages (2) parts for construction of bogie carriage underframes, (3) wheels and axles, (4) laminated bearing springs, and (5) helical springs. (Specifications, Offices of Company, 91, Petty France.) November 25.

Steel Boiler Tubes.—The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of (1) steel boiler tubes, and (2) brake truss bars. (Specifications, Director General, Indian Store Department, Belvedere-road, Lambeth). December 1.

**Yugoslavia.**

Khaki Drill.—The Army Clothing Department of the Serb, Croat, Slovene Ministry of War and Marine invites tenders for the supply of 825,000 metres of Khaki Cotton Drill for summer uniforms. A translation of the conditions of tender and a small sample of the cloth required have been received from the Commercial Secretary to His Majesty's Legation at Belgrade, and may be inspected by United Kingdom manufacturers on application at the Department of Overseas Trade (Room 58) 35, Old Queen-street, Westminster, S.W.1. Local representation is essential when competing for Government contracts in the Serb, Croat, Slovene Kingdom. November 20.

**Bulgaria.**

Telephonic material.—The Bulgarian Direction of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders to be adjudicated in Sofia on January 10, 1922, for the supply of material for 60 fifty line telephone exchanges and 15 hundred line exchanges. Tenders are desired from manufacturers direct. Full particulars of the contract can be obtained from the Bulgarian Legation in London, 3, Queensberry Place, S.W.7.

## AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

118. Well known Sports Goods House with factory in India, wish to appoint Agents in Near and Middle East where not at present represented.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Stamboul, November 5.

The market has been adversely influenced by the considerable depreciation of the exchange and the sharp daily fluctuations that have followed. Some purchases of a speculative character have given a certain activity to the market. At the same time no consignments are being made to Roumania, and those for Batoum have greatly decreased on account of the stagnation and the difficulties connected with this kind of trade.

The rise in the price of manufactures and the rate of the exchange have had the effect of decreasing orders. On the other hand holders are showing no eagerness to realise their stocks.

*Produce.*—Sugar. The tendency is always for prices to decline; the total business is again smaller. A new fall in Cuba is to be noted, and Czecho-Slovakia is making offers at lower prices. Stocks here are estimated at about 10,000 sacks. Quotations are:—American sugar 8 dollars per 100 kilos; Belgian sugar £20 per ton; in Customs. £T26.27 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—Profit taking by German holders and other speculators has influenced the Rio market and prices have fallen. Very little business has been transacted. Stocks here being short arrivals have been disposed of at remunerative prices. Quotations are: Rio No. 1, 62s. per 100 kilos; here Ps. 62-70 per oke in transit.

Mamouret-ul-Aziz.

The report for September states:— Merchants are continuing to hold aloof from business because the cost of merchandise bought in Constantinople would be increased by from 40 to 50 per cent. by the Customs duties and the expenses on their arrival in the warehouse. But as on the one hand it would be impossible to obtain stocks in winter because of the poor means of transport, already so dear at this time (30 piastres per kilo from Samsoun to Mamouret-ul-Aziz), and on the other the peasant, who has sold his crop, has money to spend, merchants are entering into some small transactions. The autumn sowings have not yet commenced for lack of rain. Wheat costs two gold piastres per kilo.

## GIANT GRASSES FOR PAPER MAKING.

Hitherto tropical and sub-tropical countries have relied mainly for their supplies of paper-making materials on the forests of the northern temperate regions. Wood pulp, prepared from spruce and other timbers in the United States, Canada, and Scandinavia, is, for example, imported into India and Australia for the manufacture of the cheaper kinds of paper, whilst countries such as those of tropical Africa, in which manufacturing industries are in a less advanced state, import practically all their paper ready-made. In almost all these countries, however, there are native products which could be used for making paper.

Bamboos appear to be the most promising source of paper-pulp in India, and the Far East, whilst in other countries large grasses, many of which are similar to bamboos in appearance, exist over extensive areas and could be used for the same purpose.

In the current number of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute a comprehensive account is given of these giant grasses. Preliminary trials have proved that many of them give a satisfactory yield of pulp, which produces good paper. In the case of the so-called Elephant grass of eastern tropical Africa, these results have been confirmed by large scale trials and the material has been used in Uganda for Government printing paper, which is of excellent quality. Such grasses, owing to their bulk, could not be exported to Europe at a profit, but it is suggested that they might be employed locally for paper-making or for conversion into pulp for export.


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# Stock and Share Markets.

## TONE FIRM : BUSINESS RESTRICTED.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday Evening.

A distinctly better turn has been taken by the markets during the past week, and in a number of directions higher prices are to be recorded. The Prime Minister's speech at the Guildhall has helped to restore confidence, and with the feeling growing that the worst of the trade slump has been passed the general public is beginning again to look out for likely investments, which it may be added do not take very much finding at the present time. Of course the Irish situation is still exercising a depressing influence, and a settlement of that problem would give a great fillip to the markets.

Gilt-edged securities have on the whole been extremely firm. Consols are 3-8 up at 49,1-8, but War Loan Fives are 3-16 down at 87,1-8 xd. Fundings are ⅜ up at 72½. The India 7 per cent. Loan is unchanged at 104, while the Sudan 5½ per cent. Loan is 94,3-8. In Near Eastern securities which rank among British funds Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 68¾. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are the same at 69, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are unchanged at 68.

The fluctuation of the mark has again had a considerable influence in the foreign market. German 3 per cent. were at one time down to 2, and are now 2,1-8 after having been somewhat higher on an improvement in the mark. French War Loan 5 per cent. are 37¾, a rise of ¾, while Italian Rentes are unchanged at 23. Japanese securities have been firmer, the 4 per cent. 1899 issue being 61½, while the 4 per cent 1910 issue is 61.

Greek securities have been steady. The 5 per cent. 1884 Loan is unchanged at 34, while the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is the same at 34. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan remains at 32, while the 5 per cent. Funding Loan is unchanged at 33. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 36.

### Industrials Steady.

A firm tone has been in evidence in the Industrial section generally, but business has been on a very small scale. Textiles have, however, been rather dull on reports from foreign markets. Courtaulds are unchanged at 33s. 6d., but Bradford Dyers are 1-16 up at 1,9-16. Iron, Steel, and Engineering Shares have continued to present a firm appearance. Armstrongs are unchanged at 16s. 6d., while Vickers are the same at 11s. 9d. Guest Keens are 3d. up at 28s. 6d., while Cammell Lairds at 14s. are 6d. up. The American proposals with regard to armaments came too late to influence prices, and it will be interesting to see what effect they will have this week.

There has been an improved demand for Shipping shares, and the tendency has been for prices to rise. P. and O. Deferred are unchanged at 280. Furness Withy are 3d. up at 22s., while Cunards are 1s. up at 17s. Royal Mails were also a firm spot at 79.

### Oils Buoyant.

Oils have developed considerable strength, and have, in fact, provided the outstanding feature of the week, though closing prices are below the best as the result of profit taking. Burmahs have been in steady request, and are 1-8 up at 5,13-16. Shells have been a specially firm spot, closing at 4,27-32, but Mexican Eagles are about the same at 3,9-32. Anglo-Egyptian have been in some demand on favourable reports regarding the prospects of increased production, and are 1-8 up at 1,5-16. Roumanian Consols are 6d. up at 7s. 9d., while Steaua Romanas are unchanged at 8s. 3d. Phoenix are 6d. up at 7s. 9d., but Dacia Romanos have shed 1-16 at ¾. The Trinidad group have shared in the general improvement of the market, Trinidad Centrals being 3,1-32, and Trinidad Leaseholds 1,13-16. Anglo Persian 1st and 2nd Prefs are both 22s.

Mines have been fairly steady. Kaffirs showed weakness as a result of General Smut's speech regarding the effect on the industry of the cancellation of war debts by America unless working costs were reduced, but subsequently improved somewhat. Chartereds were again in some request, and are 3d. up at 11s. 9d.

### Banks Firm.

Bank shares have shown a firm tone. Agricultural of Egypt 3½ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 54½, while the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are the same at 55½. Imperial Ottoman Bank remain at 7, but National Bank of Egypt are 1-8 down at 18,5-8. Bank of Athens are unchanged at 2, as are Ionian Banks at 3,5-16. Chartered of India have advanced sharply to 15, a rise of 5-16, while National of India are ¼ up at 37½. P. and O Bank are unchanged at 11½, while Imperial of Persia are the same at 5,1-8, and Bank of British West Africa remain at 4¾.

Land shares have shown a rather variable tendency. Béhéras are 1-8 up at 9, while Béhéra Prefs are unchanged at 3,1-8. Egyptian Delta Lands are 3d. down at 7s 6d., while New Egyptians have shed 1s. at 22s. 6d. Egyptian Consolidated Lands remain at 1s. Sidi-Salems are unchanged at 1, while Union Fonciéres are 3-8 down at 2½. Sudan Plantations on the lower dividend declaration lost 1-8 at 2¾.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest. Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 96-97 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 220-260 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 22.43 | 975-1,075 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4 3/16-1.4 5/16 |
| Calcutta .... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 1.4 3/16-1.4 5/16 |
| Brussels..... | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 56.50-57.90 |
| Bucharest .. | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 585-615 |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 710-740 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 42.86 2-3 | 3.94-3.96½ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 54.40-54.85 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 350-380 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 93.75-96.50 |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ .... | 25.22½ | 625-675 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 51 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £.... | 24.02 | 11,000-14,000 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 11,000-16,000 |

**In some cases quotations are nominal.**


FOREIGN EXCHANGES

AND

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## LAND TRANSFER IN PALESTINE.

### Conditions of Purchase.

The following communique has been issued by the Palestine Government :—It is believed by some that sales of land above 300 dunams in area or L.E.3,000 in value cannot be made, or can only be made with difficulty. That is not so. The only rule is that the Governor of the district can give permission for sales, below those limits, on his own authority ; but sales above these limits can be made with approval of the High Commissioner. Permission for the sale of land above 300 dunams in area or L.E. 3,000 in value has been given between October 1, 1920, and September 30, 1921, in 26 cases. In no transaction has the High Commissioner's permission been refused. Out of over 2,000 applications for transfers of property which have been received during the year that the Land Registries have been open 59 only have been refused. The refusal was based on the following reasons :—27 cases—ownership disputed. 14 cases—Bei Bel Wafa, an illegal form of mortgage. 7 cases—absence of other means of maintenance. 7 cases—no title. 4 cases, insufficient consideration.

It appears to be thought that land can only be bought by a person residing in Palestine, and that Palestinians who are absent temporarily from the country, in America or elsewhere, or other non-residents, cannot acquire land in their own name. This also is not so. A land purchase can be carried through on behalf of a non-resident in Palestine, and can be registered in his own name, in the same way as in the case of a resident, except that he will have to appoint an attorney to act for him. The purposes of the restrictions in the Land Ordinance are, first to prevent land being bought for speculative purpose and held back from building or other use for long periods in the hope of a rise in price ; and, secondly, to protect the present cultivators of agricultural land from being treated unfairly when the land is transferred from one owner to another. When the purchaser can satisfy the Government on these points and if the title to the land is good, there is no difficulty in obtaining sanction to the sale, whether the area be large or small, and whether the purchaser resides in Palestine or elsewhere.

## ZIONIST PROJECT TO EXPLOIT JORDAN WATERS.

In the House of Commons last week Sir W. Joynson-Hicks asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Palestine Government had given a contract for the erection of a large plant for electric power supply to Mr. Rutenberg, a Russian Jew ; whether tenders were obtained from other firms ; and whether it was intended to employ Jewish labour in carrying out this work in exclusion of Palestinian labour.

Mr. E. F. L. Wood (Under Secretary, Colonies)—Mr. Rutenberg, acting by the consent and with the co-operation of the Zionist Organisation, applied to the Palestine Government for the grant of a concession for the utilisation of the waters of the Rivers Jordan and Yarmuk, and other rivers in Palestine for generating electrical power, and for the distribution of that power throughout the country. The project was examined exhaustively both by the Palestine Government and by the Colonial Office, and it was decided that it would be advantageous to Palestine and its population generally that the project should be carried out. An agreement has therefore been entered into with Mr. Rutenberg, by which the Palestine Government binds itself to grant him a concession, subject to his fulfilling certain conditions. No other applications for such a concession have been received from other parties, and having regard to all the circumstances of the case, apparently no other person or organisation was in a position to apply for such a concession, or to carry the project out satisfactorily. Mr. Rutenberg, so far from intending to exclude Palestinian labour, may be expected to give employment to Palestinians in large numbers.

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks—Is the Government providing any of the money ?

Mr. Wood—I would rather have notice of the exact terms of the arrangement.

---

A recent Budapest message states that a Government Decree is promulgated for the organization of the office for the supervision of the liquidation of pre-war debts between Hungarian and Allied subjects.

## TRADE WITH INDIA.

### Economic and Commercial Conditions.

There will shortly be published by the Department of Overseas Trade a review by Mr. T. N. Ainscough, O.B.E., H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, of the conditions of British trade in India during the years 1919-20 and 1920-21, revised to October, 1921, and the prospects for the future. This report covers one of the most interesting and abnormal periods in the recent history of British trade in India, and the mass of information (the report covers over 350 quarto pages) together with a few general suggestions made by Mr. Ainscough will go far towards assisting traders to form their conclusions from the general tendencies which are gradually shaping themselves and which will in due course crystallise into the future normal position.

One fact that emerges with striking clarity is that conditions have, in many instances, undergone radical changes, and that a new India, in a commercial sense, has been and still is in the course of development. The predominant importance of the Indian market to the commercial community of this country, and the wide general interest in the recent developments which have taken place there, make it reasonable to anticipate an extensive public demand for this report.

## COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

### Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The report of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company for the year ended March 31 states that the amount of capital raised to March 31, 1920, was £31,267,132, the Secretary of State's open line capital was increased by £2,975,390. and his advances for unopen lines were increased by £350,155, making a total of £34,592,677. The expenditure during the year was £3,255,601, stores and other amounts in suspense on March 31 amounted to £2,469,170, making the total expenditure £36,061,465. During the year the stock of the 5 ft 6 ins gauge was increased by 44 locomotives and 1,350 goods vehicles. and decreased by five coaching vehicles, and the stock of the 2 ft. 6 ins. gauge was increased by five locomotives. 70 locomotives and 1,034 goods wagons of the 5 ft. 6 ins. gauge, and 40 wagons of 2ft. 6ins. gauge were shipped to India during the year, and, in addition, 46 locomotives and 1,182 goods wagons are under supply or order ; five locomotives of the 2ft. 6 ins. gauge are also under supply.

The gross earnings totalled Rs6,42,66,227, a decrease of Rs14,90,745, and the net earnings were Rs2,18,57 718, a decrease of Rs54,02,904. The proportion of working expenses to gross receipts was 66 per cent., compared with 58.54 per cent. in the previous year. The excess of net. earnings over interest was Rs56,87,027, less outstanding earnings Rs30,658, leaving surplus profits Rs56,56,969. The company's share of these surplus profits amounted to Rs.6,56,701, or approximately, at the present rate of exchange, £45,148. The shareholders have received as guaranteed interest for the first half of the year under report £1 15s. and an interim dividend of 15s. per cent., together with bonus of 10s. per cent. less tax. In addition to the second half of the guaranteed interest at £1 15s. less income tax at 6s. in the £, the directors now recommend a further dividend of ¾ per cent. less income tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, together with a bonus of 10s. per cent. for the year ending March 31, 1921, less income tax at 4s. 9d. in the £. After providing for income-tax, corporation tax and for the annual contribution to the compassionate grant fund, the balance at credit of the surplus profits account at the end of 1921 will be about £183,500.

### Sudan Plantations.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate for the year ended June 30, states that cotton crops dealt with at ginning factories were as follows :—Zeibab, 1,684 bales ; Tayiba, 1,237 bales ; Barakat, 1,646 bales ; total of 4,567 bales compared with 6,670 bales for previous year. Owing to the depressed state of market no sales had been made at June 30 last, and cotton is shown in balance-sheet either at cost or at brokers' valuation. During the visit of the Chairman to the Sudan last winter arrangements were made by him to purchase jointly with the Sudan Government a considerable portion of Tokar cotton crop. The total of the joint purchases somewhat exceeded 7,000 bales. For the reason stated above their value likewise figures in the balance-sheet at cost. The pumping station at Hag-Abdullah has been completed and is providing irrigation for 6,000 feddans, which area should yield an important addition to this season's production. The net profit was £38,968, plus £176,812 brought in making £215,780. In view of the considerable carry forward last year and of improvement in the cotton market the Board recommends a dividend of 15 per cent. equal to 3s. per share, less tax, carrying forward £170,780. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., November 23, noon.

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Reuter's Prague correspondent announces that the following commodities have been cancelled in the export free list, their export being conditional upon a licence from the Ministry for Foreign Trade :—Colonial produce, spices, tropical fruit, ropes, coverings for wagons (Plachen), raw wood, wool, asbestos goods, locomobiles, certain salts and liquefied gases.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 550—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *Great Britain and Egypt.*

The failure of the British and Egyptian Governments to arrive at an agreement regarding the future of Egypt is a keen disappointment to those who hoped that among the various questions awaiting adjustment which are preventing the world's return to more settled conditions this one at least was about to be eliminated. A statement issued by the Foreign Office announces that "the proposed agreement drawn up by His Majesty's Government, together with the reply of the Delegation thereto, have been dispatched by post to Egypt, and will be handed with an explanatory note by Lord Allenby to the Sultan." Simultaneous publication of the documents in the two countries is then promised, and until this takes place, final judgment on the break-down of the negotiations must be withheld. It is difficult to believe that the military problem alone should have been allowed to wreck the negotiations. But whatever the distance that may be shown to have separated the British and Egyptian points of view, the Egyptians have the certain knowledge that a great step forward has been taken towards the attainment of their aspirations. They can adduce no better evidence of the justice of their claims than scrupulously correct behaviour in the face of their present disappointment. We can only hope that Adly Pasha will still keep control of the situation, as proof of his confidence in himself and in the line of policy that he has adopted. Now more than ever he can show Egypt and the world the difference between a statesman and the irresponsible demagogue of the Zaghloul type.

### *The Situation in Roumania.*

The rapid depreciation of the *leu* in Roumania has inevitably caused grave heart searchings in political and financial circles in that country. Audiences given by King Ferdinand to the leaders of the Opposition Parties were regarded as a sure prelude to a Ministerial crisis, coming as they did after one resignation from the Cabinet. But the King's action has been explained as having been prompted by a desire to be informed of the Opposition point of view, in the face of the refusal of the National Liberal and the Transylvanian deputies to attend the sittings of the Chamber. Parliament will shortly meet again, and it is only natural that every effort should be made to enable the country to present a united front to the crisis through which it is passing. Although General Averescu's Government, as a result of the abstention of two of the Opposition parties, is assured of an overwhelming majority in the Chamber, its position in the country would be strengthened by more cordial relations with its opponents. In some quarters it is felt that only a Coalition Government of all the chief parties will meet the situation; but it remains to be seen whether the present Cabinet is willing to share its responsibilities to this extent.

### *Holding up the Mirror.*

The picture of Roumanian politics given by the Chairman of the congress of the Conservative-Progressist Party recently held at Jassy was not overpainted. "Calumnies, insults, and passion," he declared, "take the place of ideas and programmes. Political strife as indulged in by our parties is absolutely outrageous; and if the world were to judge us by what we say of one another, it and we would have to despair altogether of the future of the country." In these circumstances the prospects of a genuine Coalition Ministry would not appear bright; but it is a step in the right direction when the Roumanian politician begins to see himself as others see him. M. Marghiloman, the leader of the party, speaking at the same congress, also struck a more dignified note than a Roumanian Opposition leader always feels called upon to adopt. If the example thus set could be generally followed, and if the political leaders would compel their organs in the press to be more restrained in their language when referring to their political opponents, Roumania would probably find it easier to bring the talent and the resources that the country possesses in such a marked degree to bear upon its present difficulties.

### *The Allies and Asia Minor.*

If France intended that the Angora Treaty should be the means of hastening the Turkish settlement, she has signally failed in her purpose. Its first effect has been to concentrate attention on the rift that it is supposed to have made in the Entente lute; the second, to give precedence to measures for the protection of the Cilician minorities rather than to the terms of the settlement of the Asia Minor problem. Whatever the French Memorandum to the British note of protest against the Treaty may try to prove, there can be no doubt that the French Cabinet has been guilty of a criminal act in causing a stampede among the peoples who had been told to rely

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upon her protection. It may be possible to represent their panic as premature and exaggerated; but it was France's duty to see that there was no cause for the least uneasiness. Her supreme selfishness has betrayed her into a grave breach of trust. We are inclined to believe that the most effective way of stopping massacres and oppression in Turkey is to cease driving the Turks up against a wall; when they no longer regard themselves as struggling for their existence against a hostile world, they will abandon any belief that they may previously have entertained in the efficacy of massacres and deportation as a method of self-preservation. But to place the Turks at their ease in this respect, they must be freed from attack or pressure in every direction. The French have deliberately left the Cilician minorities at the mercy of the Nationalists, while the latter are smarting under a sense of indignity at having a Greek army on Turkish territory, and the mere panic into which the unhappy people have fallen invites excesses on the part of the Turkish lower orders. If the Allied Governments do not wish to witness the tragedy so carefully staged by the French, they had better cease to wrangle over the betrayal of the Christians in Cilicia and set to work to bring about a general settlement with Turkey.

## *A Treaty with Irak.*

The British Government last week notified the Council of the League of Nations of an important decision to which it has come regarding its relations with and duties towards Irak. Through Mr. H. A. L. Fisher it announcd that it had come to the conclusion that its obligations *vis-à-vis* the League will be most effectively discharged if the principles governing them are embodied in a treaty between His Majesty's Government and King Faisal. This decision, Mr. Fisher explained, had been reached as the result of a march of events so rapid that it had not admitted of consultation with the Council before acting; the recognition of a local sovereign had modified the position of the Mandatory Power; and it was to meet the modified situation that the Treaty was proposed. Subject to certain conditions, the British Government holds that such an instrument will provide a more satisfactory definition of the relations between the Mandatory Power and the Mandated State than any other device. It must not, of course, contravene either the spirit or the letter of the League of Nations; and in addition it must provide for: (1) British control over the foreign relations of Irak, (2) due fulfilment of the international obligations incurred by the British Government, and (3) such measures of financial control as may be necessary.

## *King Faisal's Attitude.*

Inasmuch as it makes for direct dealing between this country and Irak, the arrangement proposed is doubtless a good one; but Mr. Fisher's statement insisted that it was not intended as a substitute for the mandate, which will remain the operative document defining the obligations undertaken by His Majesty's Government on behalf of the League of Nations. This should satisfy all parties: Irak will have an arrangement with Great Britain which it will easily understand, and no third party can have any reasonable ground for suspecting any 'British perfidy.' King Faisal, as Mr. Fisher reminded the Council, has already expressed his willingness to include in a Treaty all proper provisions that the government of Irak shall be carried on in strict conformity with the spirit of the Covenant of the League; and there should be little or no difficulty about drafting the Treaty and getting it signed, sealed and ratified in a very short time. Reports recently received in this country show that King Faisal on his visit to Mosul and the North has been received with no less enthusiasm than he was in Baghdad and the South. A noteworthy feature of his reception at Mosul was the honour done him by Kurds as well as by Arabs, and by Christians of many sects as well as by Moslems. Even the Yezidis of Sinjar, the "devil-worshippers," are reported to have acclaimed him. Irak has undoubtedly made a good start under its new ruler.

## *Malicious Rumours.*

Quite apart from the negotiations between the Marquess Curzon and Adly Pasha, Egypt last week provided two rumours, both mischievous and both utterly false. One, set about by supporters of Zaghloul Pasha, was to the effect that the trial of persons concerned in the recent riots at Alexandria was being conducted by the standing military court in secret. As a matter of fact special accommodation has been provided for Press representatives, at least one paper is reported to have been represented at all the sittings of the Court, and no objection has been raised to the widest publicity being given to the Court's proceedings. The other rumour was probably floated by parties interested in diverting travellers and winter visitors from the Nile valley to other parts, and unfortunately it gained currency in circles which are usually better informed. Briefly, it was to the effect that very large quantities of ammunition, and at least a considerable number of rifles had found their way into the hands of the extremists, who might be expected to use them if they did not get their own way over the London negotiations. The worst part of the lie was that the cartridges had been sold recklessly by the Disposals Board, who thus undid the work of the military authorities. The story has now been denied on good authority; and it is to be hoped that it will be traced to its source, and that suitable steps will be taken to prevent any repetition or fresh edition of it gaining currency.

## *The Prince in Bombay.*

The accounts of the reception of the Prince of Wales in Bombay show that the welcome offered by the great city was worthy of the occasion. It is, of course, difficult at this distance to attach a precise value to the superlatives with which the cables have been loaded, but the fact that the size and demeanour of the crowds carried some of the correspondents off their feet is in itself good evidence that the foreground of the picture was in accordance with the loyal traditions of the country. In the back ground, Mr. Gandhi was sacrificing other people's shirts on the altar of his fantastic dream, and the roughs of the city were playing the game they knew best. These features show that the old unanimity of India has gone, never probably to return, but they serve also to remind us that the sincerity of the welcoming crowds has stood a test to which their predecessors were not exposed. Vigorous efforts had been made to organise a boycott of the whole affair, and if Bombay has resisted the domination of a noisy and unscrupulous clique, its resistance marks a long step forward on the road leading to democracy.

## *The Moplah Rebellion.*

At last it seems possible to speak of a definite improvement in the situation in Malabar. The most noteworthy

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features of the latest *communiqués* are the references to surrenders, for the reason that the idea of surrender is wholly repugnant to the Moplah mind. Their tradition requires them to fight to the death, and it will have been noticed that in several small engagements practically the whole force has been accounted for in the casualty lists. Of late, however, we have been allowed to know that considerable numbers of insurgents, including some leaders, have been surrendering in certain areas, that larger numbers are showing signs of willingness to take the same course, and that the time has come for offers of leniency to the rank and file with a view to accelerating the movement. It is permissible to infer that this is the beginning of the end, but the information supplied to the public does not as yet suffice to indicate precisely when the end will be. In any case we fear there will remain bands of irreconcilables, the very smallness of whose numbers will increase the difficulties of rounding them up, but which will have to be exterminated before the country can have peace.

### *Parties in India.*

The latest news from Lucknow seems to indicate the approaching fulfilment of a prediction we ventured on some months ago, that parties grouped on economic rather than religious or racial lines might emerge in the course of the pending agrarian legislation. A Liberal League came into existence during the summer, and began operations by vigorously espousing the cause of the Oudh tenants. More recently a very influential gathering of the landholders of both Oudh and Agra has called on all supporters of the landed interest to withdraw from the League, and has initiated a strong counter-propaganda. The League consists mainly of lawyers and other dwellers in the cities; town and country are about equally represented in the provincial legislature; and if parties actually crystallise out on the lines indicated, we may reach the unexpected result that the balance of power will rest for a time with the handful of official members. Undoubtedly those observers are right who maintain that the new Constitution is alive and growing fast, but this development at least does not seem to have been foreseen by any of its builders.

### *Indian Finance.*

The movement of the provincial Governments to deplete the Central Treasury proceeds apace. We recently noted that Bengal had been relieved of its liability to contribute, and that Bombay was pleading for assistance towards raising necessary capital. Since then we have learned that Madras, with Lord Willingdon at its head, is asking loudly for relief; Bengal, not satisfied with its exemption from contributing, is talking of a subsidy; while in the United Provinces Sir Harcourt Butler has described the contribution as "dacoity *in excelsis*." Already then the four principal provinces are suppliants for aid from a Treasury the impending deficit of which is being talked of up to twenty crores of rupees, and which is threatened by the Railway Commission with the permanent loss of one of its few sources of revenue. A writer in *The Times* suggests that the whole scheme of reform is threatened by the prospect of a financial breakdown; and without going quite so far as that, we think it may be fairly said that the outlook is decidedly unpleasant for an administration which has not of late inspired the public with confidence in its financial abilities.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening.*

### The Liverpool Conference.

The Conservative Party still lives, but it is no longer Unionist. That, I think, is the general verdict on the most important political event of the week, the Liverpool Conference of the Conservative and Unionist Party. It was a trial of strength between the Die-Hards and Compromisers, and the Compromisers won all along the line. They had the heavier metal, in the support of Lord Derby, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, and the recognised leaders of the party; but the Die-Hards had no real leader at all. They had had hopes of Mr. Bonar Law, but he was not there.

The Die-Hard case was in effect the Ulster case, but this does not make quite so strong an appeal as it did ten years ago, and it was seriously weakened by the fact that the Southern Irish Unionists, led by Lord Midleton, are definitely for peace. There is much to be said for two dominions in Ireland, and I think that the Sinn Feiners are open to very effective criticism by their refusal to give the self-determination (which they claim for themselves as a divine right) to Ulster. But this point does not seem to have been emphasised. The upshot is that Conservatism stands for peace in Ireland, if it can be obtained without the actual coercion of Ulster; and it hopes privately that Ulster will be reasonable; while the Die-Hard minority hopes that Ulster will not.

### The Coalition to Continue.

Behind the actual Irish question, however, was the larger problem of whether the Coalition should continue. It was not definitely discussed, but it was present in everybody's mind. The Die-Hards profess themselves to be not so much against a Coalition in itself as against a Lloyd George Coalition. What they want is a Coalition in which Conservatism counts for more and Liberalism for less, but whether that could be still called a Coalition or not I am very doubtful.

It was this same section of the party which raised the cry "Balfour must go" years back; that was followed by "Bonar Law must go"; and they would like to shout now "Lloyd George must go." But a party that is always rebelling against its leaders never gets a leader worth having—the job is too precarious. For that reason alone I think the Coalition will continue for some time.

### A Downing Street Interlude.

The Irish negotiations were practically suspended while the Conservatives discussed the state of their soul, for everybody knew that, if the Die-Hards won Ulster, further negotiations would be useless. Mr. Lloyd George therefore snatched a day or two at Bournemouth

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while all the correspondents went to Liverpool. No doubt he smiled at the paper which obtained the news of his purchase of a piece of land near Hindhead, and published it with the remark that he was getting ready to leave Downing Street. Unless the Irish Conference collapses altogether, this is not in the least likely; and even if he did resign office on that ground—as he would in certain eventualities—the fact that his successor would have no majority in the country or the House would almost certainly bring him back again within a few weeks.

**Washington.**

The Washington Conference has had a good press, and everybody here believes in the naval holiday principle, and on the whole regards the proposals as fair for the next ten years; there is, however, a very distinct reluctance to bind ourselves for a longer period—or rather, I should say, a feeling that it is quite useless to look more than ten years ahead.

Apparently some of the correspondents in Washington like the American papers, have got swept off their feet by a wave of enthusiasm; rather like the converts at a Salvation Army meeting, who are never more surprised in their life than on waking up next morning to find themselves pledged never again to touch a drop of beer. Some of the cooler heads at home seem to think that things are going almost too smoothly, and that we shall find a good many real difficulties have been made light of; this is notably the case with regard to the open door in China. It suits us, and it suits America; whether it will really satisfy Japan, and whether she will not attempt to get round the agreement in some legitimate way, is another matter.

The question of the military forces of Europe has still to be discussed, but it is doubtful whether America will take much interest in these matters, as she has neither knowledge of, nor interest in, the details of European affairs. The success of the Conference is assured apart from these problems; what it has actually succeeded in doing is in making a definite agreement between Great Britain and America. Again, this suits us and it suits America, but there are a few other countries in the world which may not be quite so pleased. One notices incidentally that the German Press is in its most captious and bitter mood.

**Reparations.**

After ships, money. It is suggested in many quarters that when we have an agreement on armaments we shall settle down to talk hard common sense on finance. Britain believes it would be the right thing to cancel the French and Italian war debt to ourselves—and, moreover, that it would be good business to do so. France and Italy naturally agree. It is possible that in the end we may cancel it, even if America refuses to follow suit; for the money is really owing by France and Italy to America, with Britain as guarantor.

It is understood that this is the subject which really disturbs the United States; having advanced the money, she does not want to cancel the debt. That is, of course, understandable, but in the long run it will prove neither good politics nor good business for America to dun France and Italy. There is no question, of course, of her dunning Britain, as our own debt in the States is relatively small, and can be paid off in a few years; but it would be a very hopeful person who anticipated that either France or Italy will ever be able to return the millions they borrowed through New York. No doubt it was for that reason that President Wilson insisted on our backing their bills—which shows that his mentality was not so entirely in the clouds of idealism as has been imagined—but what then seemed a business precaution has now been found an added obstruction to a settlement, or rather to any approach to a settlement.

The Germans are also making a great push to be let off their indemnity, and the newspapers here are discussing the subject with the maximum of disagreement and the minimum of financial knowledge. But on this matter France is likely to make her voice very definitely heard, and there is no doubt that she has the popular sentiment of England behind her.

**A Question of Comment.**

Two very amusing libel actions were fought out in the courts before Mr. Justice Darling last week. The *Morning Post* was sued by a Labour leader for having said that he was a revolutionary who took money from Scotland Yard for spying on his own comrades. As he had to admit the truth of the allegations, he lost the day, and it is difficult to understand how he can have thought he had even a sporting chance of success.

The *Sunday Times* was less fortunate. Its dramatic critic had remarked that Miss Ethel Irving, a celebrated actress, so overdid her part that she bit her own toe-nails with rage. I remember reading the notice, and wondering how the lady achieved the feat, seeing that she had shoes and stockings on. The evidence was very lively—incidentally it came out that Mr. Patrick Hastings, whom one had not suspected of a desire for fame as a dramatist, had had two plays rejected by Mr. Arthur Bourchier—but the lady won, and was handsomely acquitted by the *Sunday Times* of supping off her own toe-nails. I hope it is not libellous to wonder whether the dramatic critic is now biting his finger-nails.

**A London Sky-Scraper.**

London is being steadily rebuilt, and many old houses are being pulled down and whole terraces transformed into blocks of modern offices. Of those so far erected, perhaps the most notable is the new building of the Port of London Authority, but it seems that even this is to be eclipsed. A real sky-scraper is to be put up near Billingsgate, ten or twelve storeys in height; and if Macaulay's New Zealander cares to come and stand on London Bridge he will soon be able to see "London's largest" rising from its foundations.

Another big scheme which seems likely to go through is the building of St. Paul's Bridge, from the Churchyard, over Queen Victoria Street, and thence across the river. It appears that the reconstructed Southwark Bridge is not much used after all, and it is rudely said that it leads from nowhere to nobody

**London Fares.**

The penny is coming into its own again. Tram fares in the London County Council are to be reduced from the exasperating three-halfpence to the convenient penny; and omnibus fares will probably follow suit as soon as the General Omnibus Company has made an agreement with its men. The trade union leaders advised their men to accept the terms, but they voted against them, and the project, therefore, is held up for the present. It is, however, believed that, when a few minor alterations are made, the plan will go through. And there is some talk of a reduction in railway fares early in the new year which will help the companies in the desperate struggle with the motor-charabancs.

**The Week's Books.**

The book of the week, perhaps of the autumn, is the "Life of Robert, Marquis of Salisbury" (Hodder and Stoughton) by his daughter, Lady Gwendolen Cecil. Unfortunately it only comes down to 1880 at present, so that his Premierships and the most important part of his public work remain untouched. These two volumes, therefore, contain no political secrets, and only one political surprise—that Lord Salisbury felt his "honour not safe" under Disraeli's leadership. It was known, of course, that he disliked "*der alte Jude*" intensely, but it was not quite realised before how completely he distrusted him.

But the book is a revelation in its picture of Lord Salisbury's boyhood. He was a delicate child, and he was bullied both at the first private school he attended and afterwards at Eton. He seems to have hated both. He showed no particular signs of ability, let alone brilliance, as a youth, and his first years in the House of Commons discovered nothing remarkable. It was only later that he became the "master of gibes and flouts and jeers;" he was one of those men of massive character who mature slowly. But his letters from Australia, written when only twenty-two or three, show that even then he was already a confirmed Tory. Perhaps nothing else can grow at Hatfield.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, November 4.*

**Political Movements.**

Various interpretations are given to the audiences accorded by the King to the two Opposition leaders, M. Bratianu, Chief of the Liberal Party, and M. Maniu, head of the Transylvanian National Party, as well as to the President and Vice-President of the Senate, General Coanda and M. Mihaly. There are rumours that M. Marghiloman and other political leaders will also be called to the Palace. Particulars of these audiences are not yet known, but it is generally thought that, in view of the approaching opening of Parliament, the King wishes to be informed on the internal political situation, and especially to learn whether the Opposition, which has withdrawn, intends to reoccupy its seats in Parliament; the more so, since General Averescu has not as yet succeeded in settling this question during the recess. Should the Opposition still persist in its recalcitrant attitude, there will be more than a hundred seats vacant, so that the question arises whether a general election might not be preferable to over 100 by-elections. There is no doubt that the governmental crisis is approaching its climax. The wish of the King as well as of the country is that a Coalition Government should be formed, comprising the best elements of all parties.

**M. Marghiloman's Speech.**

It may be interesting to give a summary of M. Marghiloman's speech delivered the other day at Jassy at a meeting of the Conservative-Progressist party, of which he is the leader. M. Marghiloman, despite his pro-German attitude during the war, which has considerably reduced his former popularity, is still considered, as far as statesmanship is concerned, one of the foremost men of the country. He said, in touching on the critical economic and financial situation of the country, that the different parties had devoted their time more to politics than to work. It was time that war between the new and old parties as well as personal animosities should cease, and that all competent men in the country should join hands to co-operate for its salvation. A single party could not carry on a Government; only by a collaboration of all parties could the country attain the Government it needed. The speaker then proposed a series of measures and solutions, which, in his opinion, would remedy the present difficult situation. In the first place, he advocated economy. Then in regard to the new taxes, he would cancel M. Titulescu's Fiscal Reform Bill, and would re-establish the old fiscal régime, with increases in proportion to the present needs, plus a progressive income-tax. For improving the rate of exchange he declared that there was only one solution, namely, entire freedom of trade and exports, with certain restrictions on imports. To remedy the transport question he would cede the railways to Roumanian companies, allotting to each company a certain province, for these could raise the necessary capital more easily than the State.

In conclusion M. Marghiloman said that the measures advocated would have to be carried out concomitantly with a proper administration, in order to ensure the successful issue of the task of unification and reconstruction.

**Suspension of Russo-Roumanian Negotiations.**

It is reported that the negotiations between Roumania and Soviet Russia at Warsaw have been suspended *sine die*, and that the delegates are now returning to their respective countries for instructions. In connection with these negotiations it is now thought here that Roumania has been tricked, for she was originally invited to discuss the question of resuming commercial relations by settling the navigation question on the Dniester. Instead of this, the Soviet delegates started off by demanding the evacuation of "occupied" Bessarabia. The broaching of such a question, in view of the facts that Bessarabia was first an autonomous republic and then by self-determination decided to join Roumania (not to mention the Entente's consent), proves to Roumania that Soviet Russia is affirming its imperialistic tendency and has no intention whatever of resuming commercial relations.

**Forests on Fire.**

During the last few weeks it has been repeatedly reported that large tracts of forests were burning in different parts of the country, the damages amounting to millions of lei. There is no doubt that a good many of these fires are due to the very dry state of the wood owing to the protracted drought, for very often a spark from a passing locomotive is sufficient to set the wood on fire; but investigations have brought to light the fact that some of these fires have been purposely caused by shepherds in the mountains, who perpetrate these deeds in order to obtain larger grazing fields for their sheep and cattle. The Government, with the help of the army, is taking the necessary steps to stop such malignant acts, so detrimental to the riches of the country.

**Roumanian Students Abroad.**

Hitherto the Government has been subsidizing the Roumanian students abroad by providing them with foreign currency at a very reduced rate of exchange but, owing to the continuous depreciation of the leu it cannot support this expense any longer, and has decided to stop this subsidy. Exception, however, will be made in the case of students who are studying special subjects that cannot be acquired at the Roumanian Universities. It is thought here that this measure, although unfortunately necessary, should have been applied first to a number of missions abroad that are not indispensable to the welfare of the State.

**General News.**

On Friday last the birthday of Queen Marie of Roumania was celebrated by a *Te Deum* held at the Cathedral in the presence of the members of the Cabinet and other high dignitaries.

A marriage was celebrated on Sunday, October 30, in the strictest privacy between M. Argetoianu, Minister of the Interior, and Mme. Valentina Boamba at M. Argetoianu's country seat in Dolj.

*Bucharest, November 12.*

**Ex-King Charles' Journey through Roumania.**

Ex-King Charles and his Consort on their journey of exile travelled through Roumania. On the morning of November 4 they arrived by boat at a small Roumanian port called Moldova Noua, 20 kilometres from Orshova. Owing to the low water level of the Danube, the river voyage could not be continued, and they were then conveyed by motor-car, belonging to the Roumanian War Office, to Orshova. They were escorted by four other motorcars and accompanied by the Marquise Borovocini, formerly Lady-in-waiting to ex-Queen Zita and Count Esterhazy, formerly Chamberlain of the

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Hapsburg Court, both of whom were appointed by the Hungarian Government to accompany the royal prisoners as far as Galatz. The escort further consisted of Commander Snagge of the British Navy, Major Chirculescu, representing the Roumanian Government, and six British sailors of H.M.S. Cardiff. At Orshova a special train was waiting for them, and immediately on their arrival the train started on its journey to Galatz, which took place without any incidents on the way. The train was guarded by the British sailors, while the Roumanian military authorities took all the necessary precautions to guard the line and to keep the public away from the stations *en route*. Ex-King Charles was reserved and taciturn during the journey ; the ex-Queen, however, was more talkative and showed special interest in their destination.

On arrival at Galatz the train ran straight down to the docks, and stopped in front of the Roumanian passenger boat *Principessa Maria*, which had been commissioned to take the royal exiles to Sulina, whence a British cruiser, H.M.S. Cardiff, will convey them to their destination.

At Galatz the first person to alight from the train was Count Esterhazy, who helped ex-Queen Zita to descend. The Queen did not appear downcast, and smiled her acknowledgments to the passers-by who saluted her.

Then followed ex-King Karl, who appeared rather sombre, and responded to the salutes with a forced smile. The royal couple, however, seemed very touched to meet Count and Countess Huniady, who will accompany them into exile. On arriving on the boat ex-King Charles and his wife immediately retired to their cabin, and later, it being Sunday morning, attended a short service conducted by a Catholic priest, specially called in for the occasion. Before the departure of the boat ex-King Charles expressed his thanks to the representative of the Roumanian Government for the courteous manner in which he and his wife had been treated while travelling through Roumanian territory.

Count Esterhazy and Marquise Borovicini then left Galatz for Bucharest to return to Budapest ; and H.M.S. Cardiff, with the royal prisoners on board, left Sulina on Monday morning, November 7.

It may not be out of place to remark that recent events in Hungary in connection with the Karlist adventure, for some reason or other, did not seem to stir public opinion in Roumania as much as it did in the other Little Entente countries.

**The perpetrators of the Senate Attempt.**

After a lapse of ten months the police have succeeded in discovering the scoundrels who caused a bomb to explode in the Senate last December. A few weeks ago I reported that a nest of communists had been discovered in Bucharest and that 30 of them were arrested. While the authorities were examining these prisoners, one of them, named Osias Saul, a student, 20 years old, turned King's evidence, declaring that he and Max Goldstein and Leon Lichtblau, the former a commercial clerk, 30 years old, and the latter a student of 22, were the principal authors, that they had 14 accomplices, and that they were carrying out orders received from their chiefs in Ukrainia. The two other principal authors and some of the accomplices managed to escape to Russia soon after the attempt. It was further elicited that these same communists are responsible for many terrorist attempts in Roumania of late.

**M. Ghica's Suicide.**

The financial embarrassment of the Banca Natiunei has had a very sad sequel. M. Ghica-Comanesti, President of the Bank, committed suicide in very tragic circumstances. On Tuesday morning he was visited by several of his friends and collaborators to discuss means of saving the Bank. His wife was also present at these conversations. Despite the assurances on the part of his friends that his prestige was not involved, M. Ghica was very despondent, and while one of his secretaries was talking on the telephone with a prominent lawyer, he left the room. A few minutes later a shot was heard. It was found that M. Ghica had gone straight to the bath-room, fixed a rifle to the handle of the door by means of the bath-chain and shot himself in the head. The news quickly spread through the city and caused a great sensation.

No suspicion has been cast on the honesty and straight forwardness of M. Ghica, but the opinion is expressed that he allowed himself to be carried away by others in regard to the exaggerated hopes entertained of the multifarious activities of the Bank. It would be unfair to say that he dreaded the material responsibility attaching to his position, for it is generally understood that he could easily have supported bigger blows without serious financial embarrassment to himself—he passed as one of the richest, if not the richest, man in Roumania. What, however, he could not survive, it is supposed, was the idea of facing his numerous friends in Roumania, and abroad, whom he had induced, in all good faith, to invest their money in the Banca Natiunei. He was well known in Great Britain, France and Italy, and only a week before his death he returned from a shooting party in Scotland. Recently he had established two banks abroad, one in Paris and another in Milan, with participation of Roumanian, French and Italian capital. M. Ghica leaves a wife and four children, who are at present in Switzerland for their education.

It is of pathetic interest to recall a similar tragedy which happened in his family fifty years ago. His grandfather, Prince N. Ghica-Camanesti, in drawing up an inventory of his fortune, found that his liabilities exceeded his assets. Without any further investigation he went into the public park of Jassy and committed suicide. His family, in checking the books which he left open on the table in his library, to establish the cause of his desperate act, found that Prince Ghica had made a mistake in adding the figures, for on closer examination his assets were found to exceed by far his liabilities.

**Miscellaneous.**

A circular order of the Roumanian General Staff instructs the different Army Corps in the country to retain under arms the 1920 class, which should have been released on November 1. The men of this class from Transylvania, Bukovina, and Bessarabia, will have, however, from 30 to 60 days' leave, but those of the Old Kingdom will only receive the usual holidays' leave.

According to the last official bulletin from Sinaia Palace, Princess Helen's health is approaching complete recovery, and the young Prince Mihail is developing very satisfactorily.

Queen Sophie left Bucharest on Tuesday last for Athens via Yugoslavia. She was accompanied by Prince Carol as far as Temesvar.

Mr. Cyril Herbert Alfred Mariott has been appointed British Vice-Consul at Braila.

It is reported that the re-organisation of the Roumanian Navy will be carried out according to British methods. For this purpose a number of British Naval officers are expected to arrive here soon. A large ship has already been bought in Italy to be used as a naval school.

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## GREECE.

*Athens, November 12.*

**The British Colony.**

A successful dance was held at the British Club on Saturday, October 29, by the British Colony in Athens. The rooms were artistically decorated with flags of the Allies and chrysanthemums and roses. Among those present were to be noted, Earl Granville, G.C.V.O. and Lady Granville; H.M. Consul, Mr. R. E. W. Chafy, the Military Attaché and Mrs. H. Nairne; the Commercial Attaché, and Mrs. Rawlins; Captain and Mrs. E. G. Hayes, of the British Naval Mission to Greece; and many prominent members of the British Colony, including Major and Mrs. R. Murray Meikle, M. Calphoglu, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Rowe, Mr. R. G. Knox, Mr. A. E. Watkinson, and others.

**The Situation.**

The political situation continues to be very unsettled, and there seems to be little prospect just yet of a clearer atmosphere. We are still without any official news whatsoever with regard to the doings of the Hellenic mission in London, and naturally public opinion is kept in a state of extreme nervousness. Interviews with Lord Curzon and dinners given to the members of the mission by important personages in London are announced almost every day by the Press. These, however, though viewed with extreme satisfaction by the followers of the Government Party, who point out with unconcealed joy that Monsieur Gounaris is no longer an "undesirable," do not, it is realised, solve any of them any problems which the country is facing at present. Though the papers are trying to attach much importance to the Anglo-French controversy over France's treaty with the Kemalists, there are in reality few people who believe that this incident might prove in any way beneficial to Greece. The treaty in question was a very bitter blow to the Greeks, who now realise quite clearly that, in the event of a new conference on the Near Eastern question, they have absolutely nothing to hope from the French.

It would appear that M. Gounaris will eventually have to place his country's cause unreservedly in the hands of the Allies, and may probably find himself obliged to agree to an autonomous Smyrna; but it is difficult at present to conceive what effect this decision will have on the internal situation; although it is fairly certain that the Cabinet would be compelled to resign on its Chief's return to Athens.

**Internal Troubles.**

The Directors of the Gas and Electricity Companies, also those of the Athens-Piraeus Railways and Athens-Piraeus Tramways have visited the Ministry of Communications and conferred with the Minister on the demands formulated by the employees. The Directors stated that they could not grant the increase or indemnities demanded by the employees, unless the Government in turn granted the companies compensation. The Tramway Company in particular pointed out that despite the increase in tariff, it ran at a loss last year to the extent of 1,500,000 drachmae.

The hotel employees have submitted to the Minister of National Economy a demand for 100 per cent. increase of salary, also an obligatory 15 per cent. on the bills paid by the hotel residents.

**The New Patriarch.**

Relations between the Greek Government and the Patriarchate of Constantinople have been rather strained of late, owing to the refusal of the former to sanction an immediate election of a Patriarch. The Patriarchate on the other hand absolutely refuses to comply with the Greek Government's wishes, and points out in a memorandum that the critical state of the national affairs at present makes the election of a head of the Greek Orthodox Church indispensable. The Government has not yet replied to this memorandum, but it is believed that it will insist upon its original views, which will undoubtedly result in a complete breaking off of relations—a very bad thing for the nation just now, when unity is so essential.

## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, November 15.*

**The Conference of Ambassadors.**

At last! After three years of delays the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris, which has replaced the Peace Conference, has just brought forth a decision, on the 5th inst. On the 9th inst, the protocol relative to this decision was signed, and communicated to Albania, Serbia, and Greece.

According to this protocol, the southern frontiers of Albania will be left untouched, as they were traced in 1913. In the East it has been decided to make a territorial concession to Serbia: the region of Gora, south-west of Prizrend, with a population of 40,000. North-east of Scutari, the frontier will be modified in such a way as to assure the defence of Podgoritza, without endangering the defence of Scutari itself! In the region of Dibra there will also be a rectification, so as to leave to Serbia the whole of the road between Struga and Dibra.

Against these sacrifices Albania receives the small and insignificant village of Lin—on the western side of the Ochrida Lake—a village of 14 houses, which the protocol, doubtless in irony, refers to as a town.

**Feeling in Albania.**

These rectifications at the expense of Albania have created a very bad impression in the country. It is considered here that the Conference of Ambassadors has shown but one care: to impose sacrifices on Albania, for the aggrandisement of Yugoslavia. A country already too small and too weak has been further weakened and reduced. It is asked what Albania would have stood to lose if she had fought against the Allies, instead of having aided them by collaborating with the French and Italian forces.


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The sacrifices imposed on Albania are also useless; for the Serbs will be encouraged by them, and the Radical party, of M. Pashitch, will only double its activities against Albania.

More serious still, the frontiers as traced in the North and the East leave almost all mountainous Albania without roads, without communications with the towns, and thus condemn it to perpetual misery.

The Albanians still cherish a last hope: that the Commission which is to be sent to Albania by the Ambassadors' Conference, to demarcate the frontiers, may yet fix the frontier in accordance with the essential needs of the people. According to the protocol, this commission will be composed of four representatives of the Great Powers, who will be assisted in a consultative capacity by an Albanian expert and a Serbian expert.

The other Commission, appointed by the League of Nations, and made up of a Luxemburger, a Norwegian, and a Finlander, has left Geneva, and is expected to arrive at Tirana on the 19th inst.

**Recognition of the Government.**

Although recognition *de jure* was accorded to Albania in 1914, and though she has established diplomatic relations with the Great and lesser Powers, she waited in vain for the resumption of these relations. The Great Powers had forgotten. It was a strange case of loss of memory! And the Government of Tirana daily expected full recognition. Happily this recognition as an independent and sovereign State has come with the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors. It was the British Consul, Mr. Eyres, who first notified this recognition on the 7th inst., and he was followed by the French and the Italian representatives. If only this recognition had been accorded earlier it would have saved Albania much suffering. Serbia would not have attacked her, thousands of lives would have been spared, and countless people would not now be homeless.

**The Yugoslavs.**

In the district of Bunja, north-east of Scutari, at Lurja and at Mirdita the damage caused by the Serbs has been incalculable. Cannon have done their work everywhere, and thousands of people have been driven from their homes. When the decision of the Ambassadors' Conference is communicated to them, will the Yugoslav troops quit the country? It is to be hoped they will; but already there is talk of the organization of 'bands' and of Serbian soldiers and officers disguised as *Komitajis*, who are to remain in the country. Time will show whether the Belgrade Government will be strong enough to follow a frank and honourable policy.

**Albanian Red Cross.**

In order to save the children from lingering agony and certain death there is need of a lot of money and a powerful philanthropic organization. Up to the present the American Junior Red Cross has distributed soup, and the Government has given bread; but the Junior Red Cross is shortly ceasing its work in Albania owing to shortage of funds. On the other hand, the number of refugees increases daily. In view of these circumstances there has just been created in Albania a Red Cross. That of Valona was the first organised; then that of Tirana, where the presence of M. Eugène Pittard, a professor at Geneva University, and of Mme. Pittard—whose pen name is Noelle Roger—has exercised a very helpful influence. Mme. Pittard has established a committee at Geneva, which collects funds and comforts for the poor little ones of Albania. May I appeal to readers of *The Near East* for help for this very excellent work? Any one who gives may rest assured that any donation to the Tirana Red Cross will be used to save some unhappy mother's little one. Money and gifts in kind may be addressed direct to: The Albanian Red Cross, Tirana, Albania, *via* Italy.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, November 7.*

**The "Boteff" Case.**

It will be remembered that M. Boteff, the ex-Minister of Railways, resigned a few months ago under what were considered to be rather peculiar circumstances. It was said that he had been guilty of irregularity in connection with the ordering of some railway material. In view of this M. T. Theodoroff, leader of the Nationalist Party, lodged a request with the Sobranye some weeks ago, asking that the Government might furnish an explanation of the affair. On the 3rd inst., M. Daskaloff replied for the Government. He said that M. Boteff had retired purely and simply because he was not in agreement with his colleagues over certain matters; and added that M. Boteff's resignation was a private matter, and that the Government had no intention of giving any further explanation. This reply did not satisfy the Opposition. The Government, however, refused to grant this request and forthwith closed the debate. The affair is now closed, but it would seem that the Government's interests would have been better served if they had made a fuller explanation of the matter, and thus cleared M. Boteff from the odium that still hangs over him. M. Dimitroff was understood to have been instrumental in first bringing the case to light, and if he had been still alive, it is not likely that the matter would have been hushed up as it has been.

**The Greek Frontier Commission.**

Yesterday the members of the Inter-Allied Military Commission, whose duty is to carry out the demarcation of the new Greco-Bulgarian frontier, left for Paris. Their work has of late been somewhat impeded by the existence amongst them of divergent views regarding the procedure that they should adopt in the creation of the new frontier line. The opinion of at least one of the countries whose frontiers have to be marked, appears to be that the work should be finished as soon as possible, in order that the Commission should cease being a burden on its exchequer. The Commission, however, took up a different standpoint, and it will not be surprising if they return to Sofia endowed, first, with a new President, and, secondly, with considerably increased powers.

The British representative, Colonel Allcard, has pronounced the opinion that the whole summer had been wasted in useless arguments and discussions, which had led to the failure to accomplish the Commission's work.

*Sofia, November 14.*

**Changes in the Cabinet**

The King signed the Decree on November 9, authorising the appointment of two new Ministers, and the interchange of two Ministers at present holding office. M. Manoloff and M. Yaneff, who were mentioned in last week's letter as being the two probable newcomers, have been appointed Ministers of Railways and Justice respectively. M. Manoloff succeeds M. Boteff who resigned, but M. Yaneff's appointment necessitates M. Radouloff's leaving the Ministry of Justice for the Ministry of the Interior. M. Thomoff in his turn leaves the Ministry of the Interior and becomes Minister of War, *vice* M. Dimitroff. The new appointments meet with general approval, as both M. Manoloff and M. Yaneff are known to hold moderate views and are regarded as being among the best products of the Agrarian Party. M. Manoloff, in particular, is a fine example of the peasant who, although a strong advocate of the Agrarian cause, recognises that brains and intellectuality are also required. He has taken over a Ministry which in many ways is the most important of all the Ministerial posts. The railways of Bulgaria are sadly in need of reorganisation, and although M. Karakacheff, the able Director of Railways, is doing all he can to repair the rolling stock and to put things on a better basis, he has been greatly handicapped by a constant change in Ministers. Under M. Manoloff the Railways should prosper, and thus enable the country rapidly to export the stocks of cereals that are lying at different depots, but that cannot be moved owing to a lack of wagons.

The internal changes in the Cabinet do not call for much comment, although it is understood that M. Radouloff is none too pleased at being obliged to leave the Ministry of Justice; the post of Minister of the Interior is no sinecure, and the lack of a sufficient

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number of gendarmes is a great drawback in the task of maintaining law and order.

**Final Reduction of the Army.**

The Minister of War has now only 4,000 voluntary soldiers at his disposal, as the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control have received orders from the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris for the demobilisation of all "Conscript" soldiers by November 14 (today). Apart from the 4,000 voluntary soldiers mentioned above there are approximately 8,000 gendarmes and frontier guards still under arms, so the total strength of the Bulgarian Army, all branches included, is 12,000. The Government seem to have realised that it is hopeless to expect any further concessions from the Allies concerning the question of the Army, and in the words of the Prime Minister a few days ago "We must just face facts in the face, and do our best to get along without an Army." Although it may not be much actual satisfaction to Bulgaria, it is at least worth while recalling that she is the first European State to do without an army, thus even anticipating the results that are hoped to accrue from the Washington Conference.

**Payment of Reparations.**

A certain amount of apprehension exists in Government circles regarding the question of reparations. The Inter-Allied Commission at Sofia held a meeting on November 7 to consider the possibility of extracting any payment out of Bulgaria. The results of their deliberations were, of course, not made public, but it is generally believed that the Commission will recommend to Paris that the payment should be postponed for a certain period, which is estimated at anything from three to five years. The Government's first idea was that this postponement would be in the nature of a boon and a blessing, but more mature consideration has shown them that a postponement, if it is granted, will entail a new system of financial legislation. The Allies are not going to renounce their claims for three or five years, without obtaining some guarantee by which they may feel sure of eventually touching some of the money due to them. Wild rumours are afloat concerning the nature of these guarantees, and the taking over of the Pernik Coal Mine is said to be under consideration. It can, however, be stated on good authority that no definite line of action has yet been decided on, because the Commission at Sofia is under the orders of the Reparations Commission at Paris, and cannot either sanction the postponement of the payment of reparations, or exact guarantees without the consent of Paris.

**Democrats and Liberals.**

M. Malinoff, the chief of the Democratic Party, opened the new Democratic Club at Rustchuk last week. It was interesting to note that representatives of other bourgeois parties in Bulgaria attended the opening, and this is regarded as a very distinct step forward in the long striven after *rapprochement* between the bourgeois parties. The Narodno-Progressists, the Liberals, and the Radicals were all represented and it is understood that in addition to the latter *i.e.* the Radicals, the Liberals have also decided to give their support to the Democrats. The Liberal, or National Liberal Party, as it is more commonly called, is passing through somewhat of a crisis, owing to the fact that its leaders, who constituted the Cabinet when war was declared, are now all on trial. Nevertheless the party has about 10,000 adherents in the country, and although their Deputies number only six, it is thought that they will double or even treble this number at the next election. The various Opposition parties are gradually coming together, for their only chance of success lies in co-operation. It now rests for the Naro dniaks and the Democrats to come to a working agreement, and if this is achieved the bourgeois bloc in the Sobranye will represent about a third of the country, and will constitute the main opposition to the Government.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, November 9*

**The Franco-Kemalist Agreement.**

The signature of the Franco-Kemalist Agreement has been followed by a loud chorus of mutual congratulations on the part of the two sides interested. General Pellé has granted several interviews to local journalists, and made certain statements which are worthy of deeper attention than official interviews usually deserve. The General's remark concerning the precedent created by the French in ignoring the unwritten law of European diplomacy to the effect that the Cross should never be again supplanted in territory wrested from the Crescent, aroused considerable comment; but this was merely an elaboration of the General's remarks upon the antiquity of Franco-Turkish friendship. The following passage, published in the *Journal d'Orient* on November 3, was of much deeper significance.

> The limited nature of the agreement cannot be too strongly emphasised, affirmed His Excellency. From the moment of the conclusion of the armistice convention, the state of war had ceased to exist between Turkey and France. Subsequently there was a resumption of hostilities in Syria between part of Turkey and France. The new agreement puts an end to this partial war, *and brings us back, for the whole of Turkey, to the state of affairs established by the armistice convention.* We could not, or rather we did not desire to touch the body of the general peace conditions, which can only be settled with the participation of our Allies, and with regard to which we only intend to enter into engagements in agreement with them.

As the article was passed by the censor before being published, there can be little doubt that it reproduces the exact statements of the French High Commissioner, and in view of its importance, the above paragraph has been translated as literally as possible. The italicised passage is of especial importance, for the Kemalists certainly consider themselves definitely at peace with France, and in any case repudiate all community between the Angora Government and the Sublime Porte. This point is of capital importance as may be deduced from the following paragraph.

**Is Peace Yet Possible?**

When General Pellé stated that the agreement concluded between the French Government and the Angora Government restored the state of affairs established by the armistice convention, two important factors were overlooked. In the first place, so far as the disarmament clauses are concerned, the armistice conditions are by no means restored, and in the second place, the single authority of the central Government which signed the armistice, has not been restored. Thus, the Franco-Kemalist agreement only restores the post-armistice conditions in so far as the French and the Kemalists are no longer fighting each other.

There is, however, another aspect of the Agreement which is of capital importance, for according to the Constitutional Law of Turkey, no agreement or treaty is valid without the assent of the Sultan. Therefore, unless the Sultan himself abandons his attitude towards the Angora Government, no agreements made with the latter can be binding upon Turkey. The Angora Government has made several attempts to coerce the Sultan, but without success. At the present moment, the issue is being raised once again, for if the existing current in the direction of peace continues, negotiations between Turkey and the Allies may be resumed. In this event, which Government is to select the delegates who will represent Turkey? The Angora Government insists that it constitutes the sole legal Government of Turkey, and that the Sublime Porte has therefore no right whatever to send representatives to a general peace conference. Unless the Sultan gives way, it will be difficult to find a solution of the problem.

Meanwhile further complications have arisen in another direction. The Anatolian press recently announced that the Unionist leaders under Enver have started a National movement of their own, under the title of the Union and Progress Popular Soviet Party. The Unionist leaders are stated to have recently addressed a request to the Great National Assembly for the recognition of this queerly named association, and for permission to work in Turkey. The Angora Government has responded with a request to the newly formed Government of Ajaria for the expulsion of the Unionist leaders from its territory, which comprises Batoum and the neighbourhood.

It is common knowledge that Enver has the support of

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the Soviet Government of Moscow, and the question therefore arises whether the present activities of Enver and his friends are not connected with the dissatisfactoin of the Soviet Government at the apparent inclination of the Angora Government in the direction of an understanding with the "Imperialist and Capitalist Powers of the West." If the Moscow Government really means business, and intends to place Enver at the head of an army for the liberation (sic) of the "Turkish proletariat," Mustapha Kemal's difficulty would be the Sultan's opportunity *if the Sultan were supported by the Allies.*

As may be deduced, the situation is by no means so simple as the French High Commissioner would have us believe, and there are far more serious obstacles to peace than those which were surmounted before the hostilities in Cilicia were definitely terminated.

## CYPRUS

*Nicosia, October 24.*

**The Nicosia Municipality.**

This body is in the fortunate and very unusual position of rejoicing in a surplus of over £1,000. The Council propose to devote it to the enlargement of the market and the establishment of a petroleum store, both revenue-producing institutions. But the project has been at once challenged. Loud protests are being raised by some citizens, who desire that the money should be devoted to the repair of streets, which are described, by no stretch of imagination, as intolerable from mud in winter and dust in summer. Complaints have been endless, and it is certainly a discreditable fact that the streets of the capital are deplorably neglected. The municipality might well learn a lesson from some of the other towns. Moreover the failure to collect rates regularly, and to levy rates for various necessary purposes, continues to reflect blame on the Corporation.

**The Turkish Community and the Elections.**

The large Moslem section of the people see no cause to regard the approaching elections and the Greek village propaganda otherwise than with their customary equanimity. Nothing beyond a flood of rhetoric or threadbare propositions is anticipated. Throughout the agitation of recent years they have preserved a temper which has recognised no need of counter-demonstrations. At every succeeding "crisis," so laboriously engineered, they have maintained complete reliance on the promise made by Mr. Churchill when he visited Cyprus, and repeated since he has been Colonial Minister, that the interests of the Ottoman community will always be fully considered and protected.

This is not to say that they are not fully prepared to act at once should need at any moment, in their opinion, arise. They are well represented by their members in the Legislative Council, and have, under the leadership of the Hon. Irfan Bey, his colleagues, and other prominent men—in their respective classes—invariably preserved a dignified and completely confident, but resolute, attitude. They have continued to co-operate with the Government in carrying on the work of legislation during the misguided and "reactionary" line of proceedings adopted by their Greek fellow members.

**General News.**

The 700 Russians, whose only priest has left for Jerusalem, being now without one, have petitioned the Greek Archbishop to consecrate a suitable member of their community. His Beatitude is in consultation with his bishops, there being some doubt as to the authority of the Church of Cyprus in such a matter. Meantime he has directed the Bishop of Kition to send the Archimandrite Juvenal, who is a Russian scholar, from time to time to minister to the camp.

The Oecumenical Patriarch has written to the Archbishop asking for the help of the Cyprus Greek Church for the Russian distress; and a similar appeal has been received from the Bishop of Kieff as representing the Russian Patriarch, who is unable to communicate with the outer world.

## ITALY'S YUGOSLAV SUBJECTS.

*Liubliana, November 5.*

Not long ago we learned from the papers that the King of Italy had abandoned his project of visiting Venezia Giulia. A friend who has just arrived from Gorizia gives an account of conditions down there which throws a good deal of light on the King's decision. The prospective Royal visit roused no enthusiasm among the public in general, though the Government parties and press did their best. The *Piccolo* in particular sent out a circular, summoning all the mayors in the province to voice their views in declarations of loyalty, thereby providing a kind of "plebiscite of love"! The Slovenes refused point blank, as was pretty well to be expected, and the Italian "Republican" paper *La Liberta* suggested that black flags would be a suitable decoration wherewith to greet the King. Still it was not Gorizia that decided the change in the Royal plans, but Trieste, which has fallen on hard times since the union with Italy. Trade has vanished, business is dead, and the unemployed workers declared that if the King wanted to visit Trieste, he would have to go to see the harbour! All this was scarcely encouraging, and so, although all was prepared, down to the necessary police precautions, it was thought wiser for the King to cancel his trip.

I think that in Great Britain it was never sufficiently realised that the whole of the Gorizia district was just as much a "devastated region" as the battlefields of France, and that owing to the complications entailed by the armistice with Austria practically nothing was done to repair the havoc of war in that part of the world. The Reparation funds were paid to the Italian Government, which handed them on to the Land Mortgage Bank (l'Istituto Fondario) in Gorizia. At first only 65 per cent. of the allotted sums were spent in rebuilding, the property was burdened with a mortgage up to the half of the *full* amount, and the owner had to pay the interest. The result was that in many cases the peasant free-holders ended by preferring life among the ruins to saddling their land with a debt which they would never be able to repay, and which would place them in a position more dependent than that of mere tenant farmers. Housing conditions throughout Gorizia became so impossible that Slovenes and Italians joined to form committees to petition the Government for improvement in the regulations. It is noteworthy that it was found expedient to employ *both* languages—Slovene and Italian—at the meetings of these committees, even in the town of Gorizia. They were successful in obtaining the concession that henceforth 90 per cent. of the reparation money was to be spent on the property, the mortgage not to exceed 40 per cent., and the Government to pay the interest, instead of the owner. In view of these more equitable arrangements it is unfortunate that no more reparation monies are being paid out now.

Meantime prices in Gorizia are still rising; the peasants round about are making their purchases in Udine, where things are cheaper; there is nothing being done except in the building trade. But the worst feature of all is the disgraceful lack of public safety throughout the country. Farms are attacked; people are afraid to venture out after dark. A shocking crime, and doubly so in a Catholic country, was committed recently not far from Caporetto, near the old Italo-Austrian frontier. A parish priest, Cadenaro, was found murdered one morning; his throat had been cut and the house robbed. The murderers had escaped, and have not been found. The Slav colours are the only offending element that is prosecuted with unfailing success. Even dresses the colour scheme of which suggests the Slav tricolor are forbidden.

This public insecurity, which paralyses local trade and enterprise, reflects very badly on the Italian administration, especially as it contrasts disadvantageously with the orderly conditions we are enjoying here, such a very little way off, in Yugoslav Slovenia.

F. S. C.

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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

## The Entente in the Near East.

The *New Statesman* of November 12 contains an article called "The End of a Sham," which is a discussion of the Franco-Turkish Peace Treaty. After a brief note disapproving the attitude both of the Foreign Office, and of the Quai d'Orsay on the matter, it details the main features of the Agreement, and continues :—

It is a first-class treaty, which affects the interests of all the world. In so far as it establishes peace with Turkey, by a direct pact with the *de facto* government of Turkey, the Angora Nationalists, it is substantially right. In certain of its details and in the manner of its execution, it is open to grave objection ; we are not interested to defend it. But neither are we interested in the wordy warfare which is swaying backwards and forwards between Paris and London. The vamped-up indignation of the British champions and the special pleadings of the French ring equally hollow. The greater part of the arguments on both sides are based on an utterly false assumption—the assumption that the Triple Entente in the Near East was a reality, with a united and an honourable policy, striving disinterestedly to make peace with justice in Asia Minor. In point of fact, it has not for the past two years been anything of the sort. It has been the flimsiest *facade*, behind which each of the three Great Powers has been fighting for its own national interests. To the promotion of those interests France and Italy have been as ready to subordinate the welfare of the Greeks as we have been to subordinate the welfare of the Turks. From the days of San Remo, when Mr. Lloyd George, amid French and Italian protests, threw an empire across the table to M. Venizelos, we have used Greece as a pawn. The Greeks, it is true, have been only too willing to play the part assigned to them, but that is irrelevant here. France and Italy, sore at the establishment of British hegemony in the Near East, have been bickering with us and intriguing against us ever since in Constantinople and in the Levant. Last spring they made their own private arrangement with the Angoran envoy, Bekir Sami Bey. Italy got a strong economic foothold in Southern Anatolia, France came to terms which, we are now told, were in all essentials very little different from those of the present Agreement. Throughout the summer the Greeks have been extending their empire in Anatolia, till they were brought up with a bump a few weeks ago on the Sakaria river. The three Great Powers, of course, maintained an attitude of "strict neutrality" in this conflict ; that is to say, the British Government favoured Greece and the French and Italian Governments Turkey, while everybody outside this country believed that British munitions were being supplied to the Greeks, and everybody here believed that French and Italian munitions were being supplied to the Turks. And, finally, the French, their patience exhausted, desperately anxious to balance their budget by getting troops out of Cilicia and to regain their old commercial and cultural influence in Turkey, stole this march upon us, and left us, with our defeated Greeks, protesting on the wrong side of the fence. A breach of faith and decency ? Of course it is ; and therein it is all of a piece with most of the Allied activities in the Near East—those that we have mentioned and others that we have had no space to mention. By all means let the British Government and its henchmen in the Press show their annoyance, but do not let them contrast French naughtiness with their own virtue. Satan rebuking sin is an unedifying spectacle.

It goes on to describe the futility of keeping up idealistic pretences. There is no point in lamenting the Treaty ; it is now an accomplished fact ; and the British Government "will have to make the peace with the Turks that they ought to have made long ago." Of the task before us, of repairing "the damage done in the last two years to British prestige throughout the Moslem world," it says :—

It will not be an easy task, for not only in Turkey, but in Persia and in Mesopotamia (despite King Feisul), in Afghanistan, in Egypt, and in India, our reputation is at this moment lower than it has ever been before. Evidently it will not be the best possible beginning of the recovery of that reputation to follow reluctantly after France and make what will be represented as a capitulation to the Turks. But what is the alternative ? A perpetuation of the Graeco-Turkish war, more British troops in Asia and less money in the British taxpayers' pockets, a sharpening of our quarrel with France, and in all probability a general blaze-up in the Near and Middle East. It is unthinkable ; there is nothing left to us but to get out as best we can from the pit which we have dug for ourselves. But the Angora Treaty has done something else besides exposing the sham of a united policy and common interests in the Near East. It has dealt a heavy blow at the Entente itself. That awkward machine may be patched up and a new start made. But what if it proves unmendable ? There would be difficulties in the settlement of Constantinople and the Straits and various important joint undertakings involved in the Treaty of Sèvres. On the other hand, it might be an advantage for all of us, now that we are no longer under any Wilsonian illusions about "the world after the war," to be done with shams, and to have a free hand to pursue our own interests in the East. The peoples with whom the Entente has experimented for three years could hardly be worse off by its dissolution—not even the Cilicians, whom France has abandoned, or the Armenians, whom we have all abandoned; while France and Italy and Britain might all succeed in establishing themselves in something like their pre-war positions, instead of thwarting one another in their joint council. It is even conceivable that, with a British Government that was both capable and honest, we might not only extend our commercial interests but play a principal part in defending the peace and civilisation of Western Asia. At any rate, the possibility of this break-up of the Entente has to be faced. If it breaks in the Near East, it will speedily break in Europe, and what France has done with Turkey, we may well do with Germany. For ourselves, we can see advantages as well as inconveniences in that. But those who want to preserve the Entente, had better study the Angora omens, and put it on a new and sounder basis.

## Turkey, Great Britain and France.

The *Morning Post* of November 14, has an article, written by "Crusader," entitled "Turkey's Future : France and the Arabs." It begins with the self-evident statement that "if we and the French want peace in our Moslem dominions we must allow no fancy map-painting in Turkey in Asia," and continues with the less evident statement that "Turkey needs both economical and political reconstruction, and is perfectly willing to accept it at the hands of one of the Allies, preferably England or France, so long as the integrity of Turkey is maintained, and peace is given to a land that has been crying for it for ten years." It proceeds :—

Now it may be urged that England is not in a position to take on fresh responsibilities in the East. She has quite enough on her hands as it is, nor has she vital interests in Turkey in Asia to protect. The case of France is different. Not only has she large interests, particularly in Syria, but she was for many years closely associated with Turkish political affairs, and would be still had she not been ousted by the Germans. Six out of every ten Turkish officers and nine out of ten Armenians talked French. Were France to superintend Turkish finance, there is no doubt that both would benefit enormously thereby, particularly with English administrative co-operation. Further, the main objects, which both England and France desire, would be assured : (1) The integrity of Turkey and peace with the Moslem world. (2) The economical development of a country with enormous possibilities ; (3) The protection of the Christian and Jewish communities in Turkey from internal oppression and external aggression. But, again, to ensure this both England and France must work together.

There are two main factors which demand consideration. The Baghdad railway on leaving the Eastern foothills of the Taurus enters, at a station called Katma, the Aleppo plain, and from here onwards runs through a country exclusively inhabited by Arabs ; secondly, among one of our promises to the Arab Kingdom was an outlet to the Mediterranean, which, like others, has not been fulfilled. Alexandretta is an Arab town, but it is cut off from Syria proper by the southern part of the Taurus range, and is connected with the Baghdad railway only by a branch line which runs north along the coast, on the western slope of the Taurus and joins through purely Turkish territory. If a boundary is to be drawn it would be no difficult matter, for the geographical features divide the races ; the Arabs in the plain, the Turcomans and Kurds in the hills. The western boundary of Arabia would run from Killis south of Aintab, cross the railway at Katma, and then follow the course of the river Afrin into the Orontes, past Antioch to Jebel Akra. Here would be the outlet for the Arab nation to the Mediterranean, for the next possible harbour, Tripoli, belongs by right to Syria, and there would be no proposal or need to remove it from the French zone. A harbour would have to be constructed at Jebel Akra and a railway run to Aleppo, but here would be a great chance for someone (perhaps Lord Cowdray ?) to pour oil on troubled waters (the waters of the river Afrin are always troubled, but could be stilled) and show himself a benefactor to both the Christian and the Moslem world.

The article ends with a modest proposal :—

It is of supreme importance, however, that the Baghdad railway should not fall into the hands of the Kemalists. It is hinted that under the terms of the Angora Treaty this will eventually take place as soon as the French have withdrawn from Cilicia. Does that mean that the French intend to give up Aleppo and Muslimieh too ? If so, would it not be better that the wrongs of the Arabs should be righted by giving them certain concessions in return for the advantages which France would obtain by helping Turkey to restore her shattered finances.

## France and Turkey.

In the *Nation and Athenaeum* of November 12, there is an extremely gloomy article called "Nemesis in the Near East." Its text is the Franco-Turkish Agreement, which, it says, "can hardly fail to mark a new phase of detachment in our relations" ; but it prefers to avoid recriminations on this ground, because, to it, "the alliance is morally obsolete." It continues :—

How to adjust our respective interests and policies in the Near East is going to be an exceedingly difficult problem. It is rendered none the easier because the conduct of foreign policy on our own side is as shifting and opportunist as that of France is logical and persevering. Nothing on our side is foreseen, nothing reckoned on a long calculation. Event after event

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shows either that our statesmen do not listen to their experts, or else that the experts are incompetent. They blundered all the time in Russia by underestimating the capacity of the Bolsheviks and overestimating the power of the Whites. They cherished absurd delusions about the popularity of M. Venizelos in Greece. They lost Persia by listening to the corrupt little clique round the Shah. They lost Turkey by mistaking a handful of Anglophil Pashas for the Turkish nation. Always in this life of narrow coteries which is diplomacy, any person or any group, however abject and unrepresentative, which knows how to play upon our national vanity, can mislead our experts. The power of objective thought, which can see the ability and strength of human forces which it happens to dislike, seems utterly wanting. This mental failure underlay the breakdown of the Foreign Office policy in Turkey, and what the French have done is to take pitiless advantage of our mistakes. Anyone who knew the Turks could have told Lord Curzon and Mr. George (as we did at the time) that though it might be possible to find in Constantinople a clique of feeble and elderly grandees who could be cowed or wheedled into signing away their country's independence, the mass of the nation would not follow them. The French and the Italians both knew better, and neither of them shared our official illusions about the military power of the Greeks. The Treaty of Sèvres was an iniquitous document in itself, and it was doubly foolish because it could not be enforced. The broad result of these miscalculations is that France is now unquestionably the dominant Power in the Near East. The treaty with the Kemalists is very much more than a mere peace settlement by which France retires from a burdensome complication. On the contrary, it seems to provide for her future participation as an active force in Turkish affairs. Her economic interests will be considerable, and widely scattered, in the shape of railway and mining concessions. It is almost certain that she has pledged herself to back Turkey in recovering Smyrna and Thrace. That is the kind of obligation which she is apt to hold scrupulously, and the Turks will have every reason to be satisfied if she supports them as she supported the Poles in Upper Silesia.

The article concludes with a suggestion of three Bradshaws "to stop the ruin," the first of which is:—"The Greco-Turkish war must stop, and the Greeks, as invaders in unquestionably Turkish territory, should be called upon to retire, on pain of forfeiting every sort of British support."

## Militarism and Serbia.

The *Contemporary Review* of November contains an article written by "O. de L." on "The Prospect in Jugoslavia." It traces historically the growth of the Pan-Serb idea, in which sketch the author gives his opinion that it is in Slovenia rather than in Croatia that Separatism has any chances. It goes on to point out that Yugoslavia is not a West European country, but a country of peasants who are brought into touch with their Government only by the annual levy of recruits for the Army. But that institution the Yugoslav peasant does understand, and the writer of the article has some instructive comments on this subject:—

> But there is one Department of State with which the peasant is in very close touch. That is the Army. He understands the Army. It is something ever present to him, in which he has part and lot, like God, and the Land, and Tsar Lazar, and St. Cyril and St. Methodius—and perhaps the King. Not only is he proud of the achievements of the Army in the late War, and in the two previous Balkan Wars, but he is convinced of the necessity for its existence in the present and future. The Army has done more for him than all the Ministers of Public Health and Social Welfare who have ever held office. When the waters of affliction closed over Serbia in 1915, and for three long years it seemed that flood would never subside, it was the Army which preserved, and cherished, and at last brought to fulfilment the national hope. It has become to him, to a degree which can be predicted of the Army of no other European people, the expression of the national idea. The idea of Jugoslav Unity is not "politics" to the Jugoslav peasant. It is not new or foreign to him. It seems to him the natural thing, which God intended. He has been waiting for nothing else ever since Kossovo Polje. And now God by the hand of the Serbian Army has brought it to pass, he conceives that it ought not to be let go. In the West, and especially in the heated atmosphere of Paris, there is a tendency to regard any one of the new States in Central and Eastern Europe as being very much like any other. They ask, it is felt, put forward preposterous demands, which only require to be settled by a diplomatic compromise. This attitude is writ large in every line of the Peace Treaties. The world is already beginning to learn its shortsightedness. One lesson, which the future has still to teach, is the difference between those States whose existence is due to their own efforts, and those who owe their existence to the Allies. Of the first category are two only, Jugoslavia and Roumania.
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> The chiefs of the Army are pursuing consciously the ends for which the people is unconsciously striving. They are militarist in the sense that Germany was militarist before 1914: but rather in the sense that Bismarck was militarist before 1870. They believe, as Bismarck believed, that war with a powerful and aggressive neighbour who blocks their national expansion is inevitable, whether they desire it or not: and they believe that such a war, if crowned with success, will precipitate and crystallise, as nothing else could, the solute and floating elements of unity, which have not been gathered together in the melting-pot. They have no illusions as to the magnitude of the task before them. They have twice thrown their influence on the side of peace at moments of tension in 1920 and 1920; and they are primarily and personally responsible for the temporary understanding attained at Rapallo. But Rapallo did not settle, and no Conference held on the basis of the present situation could settle, the future of the East coast of the Adriatic. The Army chiefs believe that, unless Italy is broken up by internal Revolution, war alone can settle that problem; and they are preparing accordingly. The military reorganisation, which they are carrying out, is accepted without demur by the non-Serbian races as the reorganisation of Moltke was accepted by the South German peoples in the years 1866-1870. The Army is the strongest unifying force in Jugoslavia to-day; and if events continue to move in their present direction, it will be the most powerful factor in the shaping of South-Eastern Europe in the future. It is not a situation in which the friends of peace, in or outside Jugoslavia, can find much satisfaction.

## BISHOP MACINNES ON ZIONIST METHODS.

In our issue of October 20 we published a brief report of a speech delivered by Bishop MacInnes at a meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission. In a letter received last week a correspondent informs us that "In the speech, as reported, there were allusions to the Zionist Movement which were read with surprise and regret by many who were familiar with Bishop MacInnes' tolerant and fair-minded attitude on this and other public questions." Our correspondent also directs our attention to a letter which we had already read, with interest, in the *Palestine Weekly*, from the Bishop. From this it appears that the Bishop had been unfortunate enough to be not very well reported in the *Palestine Weekly* and that he wrote his letter in order to correct some misstatements and to reply to certain editorial criticisms. The views of the Bishop are so interesting that we reproduce below the most important parts of his speech as given by himself in the letter referred to. After mentioning "a very interesting set of visits to Jewish institutions, schools, colleges, and so on," which he had had, and to the impression created on him by a visit to the Rothschild Hospital, Dr. MacInnes went on to say:—

> "In addition to these visits I spent two days motoring round several of the Jewish colonies near Jaffa with Dr. Ruppin. Now I knew a good deal about these colonies already, but greatly valued the opportunity of seeing them myself. The work they are doing and voicing the ideal surpasses all I have previously heard, and I wish there were many more colonies throughout the country. At the same time I more than ever feel sorry for the methods adopted by the British Government at home and the Zionists in endeavouring to establish a national home for the Jews in Palestine. I do not oppose that creation on the contrary I heartily support it, but it required both tact and wisdom and strength to do it. Neither have been conspicuously employed. The result is that nine-tenths of the natives of the country have been more and more stirred up into active and bitter opposition of the whole movement. Palestine is seething with discontent, and even Mr. Churchill in his speech in the House of Commons said: 'The cause of unrest in Palestine arises from the Zionist movement, and from our promises and pledges in regard to it.' But for these promises, and this movement, there is no doubt that the gathering hatred of the British exposed in Palestine could be speedily reduced. I cannot hold out any hope of doubling this force in the immediate future. On the contrary it may require some slight reinforcement.'
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> "So the strange anomaly is presented—on the one hand we see these wholly admirable colonies, many of them the largest possible hopeful to the country in an almost unbelievable degree, and on the other hand there is no room for the development and the establishment of many like these. On the other hand, we find that the Zionists by their statements and by their demands, by their intolerance and by their lack of sympathy with the people of the country, have alienated them to such a degree that it will take years of prudent effort to counteract the effect. Meanwhile the country is impoverished and the Zionists' own cause is set back, both of which I very deeply deplore. However, I still believe that all may turn out well in the end if both sides make the endeavour.
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> "I am thankful to know—for I have high authority for saying it—that the High Commissioner's speech of June 30 does represent the policy of the British Government. His Excellency said that the Balfour Declaration about the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people does not mean that a Jewish Government will be set up to rule over the Christian and Moslem majority, but that the Jews, a people who are scattered throughout the world, but whose hearts are always turned towards Palestine should be enabled to find their home here, and that some among them, within the limits that are fixed by the mandate and the interests of the present population, should come to Palestine in order to help by their resources and efforts to develop the country to the advantage of all its inhabitants.'
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> "I agree with that statement. But it is most regrettable that the British Government has allowed three and a half years to elapse since Mr. Balfour's Declaration was published, during which time it has never explained what it meant until now. Indeed I have a suspicion that the British Government has not the slightest idea what it did mean! Since then the Zionists

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have read their own interpretations into it. They have based on it the most extravagant claims. They have said that they intend to make Palestine "as Jewish as England is English." I regard it as most natural that the natives of the country have been very deeply alarmed and are still.

"Nevertheless, I believe that Sir Herbert Samuel's statement is a fair and proper statement, and that—*given the hearty desire of all parties to make it such*—it should be a practical and practicable ideal for Palestine. But the Zionists must realize that this ideal is absolutely impossible of attainment, and that Zionism as now manifested, will collapse as a terrible failure, if they do not drastically change their ways, I shall therefore seek every opportunity of appealing to natives, Moslems and Christians as well as to Jews, to give up clamouring for their own sectional interests and to start working for the common weal of Palestine. That is a higher and greater thing than the rights and the position of any one party or community."

After replying in spirited fashion to the criticisms of his inaccurately reported speech published in the *Palestine Weekly*, Bishop MacInnes concludes his letter :—

"Whenever I speak, the Zionist papers publish articles headed "The Anglican Bishop against Zionism," they never demonstrate or prove it. They merely asseverate. But I am not against Zionism nor have I ever been against it. I challenge any man to produce a single sentence in any speech or writing of mine during the last three years in which I have ranged myself against Zionism. It is not Zionism that I oppose, but the methods and statements of many of its adherents."

## MUSICAL NOTES.

### The Royal Philharmonic Society.

The second concert of this Society's season was given at Queen's Hall on November 17, when the principal items were a new Concerto for viola and orchestra by Arnold Bax, Holbrooke's orchestral poem. "Ulalume," and Brahms' Third Symphony in F, Mr. Albert Coates being the conductor. The viola concerto was played with marvellous skill by Mr. Lionel Tertis (the greatest viola-player in the world), and was conducted with insight; but it was more poetical than musical, more of a nebulous rhapsody than a formal concerto. There is any amount of beautiful writing in it, but the composer seems to have wandered into too many by-paths, pondering the while on his wistful Celtic fancies. The work had, however, a great reception. Mr. Coates' reading of "Ulalume" was excellent, sometimes even suggesting that there was more in Holbrooke's poem than there actually is. In Brahms' Symphony both his strength and his weakness came out; it had virility and purpose as well as a heavy pointedness. And there was very fine analysis in Delius' "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring," though the *tempo* was dragged unduly and the haunting melodic movement might have been a little more flowing.

### Albert Sammons.

One had no doubt, even before the orchestral concert of Albert Sammons at the Queen's Hall, on November 16, that he was England's finest violinist, and one knows now that he is a class apart, like Kreisler or Ysaye, Thibaud or Manen. With Frank Bridge conducting the London Symphony Orchestra in Elgar's concerto in B minor and in Brahms' in D, Sammons had a supreme evening. He has a most glorious richness, breadth and purity of tone, an amazing though unostentatious technique, and a power of interpretation which, in the Elgar at any rate, one felt to be perfectly just. The lyrical grace of this concerto, its appealing tenderness, and its noble dignity were alike caught and translated by this young English violinist, and a more perfect performance than his one cannot even in dreams imagine. It is only fair to point out that great credit belongs to the conductor, who supported Sammons with magnificent perception and responsiveness. In the Brahms there was not quite this degree of unanimity, particularly in the last movement where the soloist's rhythm seemed to be cramped. Mr. Bridge is neither a striking nor a showy conductor, but he is an extraordinarily fine musician, and the brilliant way in which he never failed Sammons in the Elgar proved that he is a greater conductor than his holding of the orchestra in the "Magic Flute" overture or in the second of his own Richard Jeffries poems would suggest.

### Mr. Leonard Borwick.

Mr. Leonard Borwick, an admirable English pianist, gave the first of a series of three recitals at the Æolian Hall on November 16. He is a player of a very high type, one with whom you often agree and sometimes disagree, but whom you always revere. There is a simple sincerity in his readings that savours of a bygone day, making one almost blush for the hypocrisy of so many modern "interpretations." But it is easy and superfluous to praise him: let us state our disagreements. First of all (I think) one bumps against his love of variations. Last year, I remember, he made us sit through the whole of the "Diabelli" variations, and now, at his last recital, he served us with an even crueller trick in the second movement of Schubert's Sonata in A minor (Op. 42). This leads up to the second grievance: his passion for Schubert's pianoforte pieces. Obviously no one can believe more fully in these pieces than Mr. Borwick (because he plays them on the slightest provocation), and if he can't persuade us that they are not thin and dull, no one else can. (Moreover no one else will). And lastly, his device of not playing the notes of his two hands together, while perfectly justifiable in some places, is apt to become monotonous in Chopin. But what a fund of delights he has to set against these things! He played some Couperin pieces, and notably the "barricades mistérieuses," with the most charming restraint and spirit, and a very merry "Gigue" of Graun was perfectly finished. Unaffectedness was again the mark of his Chopin group. He achieved in the prelude in D. minor a tremendous lift, at the expense, however, of good tone; but the C sharp minor Scherzo was gloriously and dazzlingly done. One sometimes feels that Mr. Borwick's successes depend on whether the music he is playing is good or not (though this is not so), so content is he to let the composer speak for himself.

### The Classical Concert Society.

The Classical Concert Society began its season at the Wigmore Hall with the first of eight concerts on November 2. The occasion was made notable by the presence of Cortot, the great French pianist, for the Allied String Quartet, who, with him, played Fauré's second Quintet and Schumann's Quintet in E flat major, were not playing in their best form. He, without any forced prominence, kept these players together, held them and led them. True, nothing that he could do or persuade his colleagues to do could make the Fauré work sound important: it was merely a composition of pleasing insignificance. But there was some beautiful playing in the Schumann, the pianoforte part, which of course is the main part, being perfectly done. Here there was neither sentimentality nor lingering caress nor fond idealism, but the sheer beauty of the thing was unostentatiously and exquisitely reflected. Some of the *tempi* adopted were strange, but that is a matter for the individual. Cortot's playing of Debussy's "Children's Corner" was amazing in its deliberate, almost cold, clarity. Here every value was focussed with an intense, unruffled intellect; and the resultant tones and shades came through as clear as crystal. Without any doubt he is one of the greatest pianists living.

### Pianists.

The last thing of which one could accuse M. Marcel Ciampi, who gave two pianoforte recitals at the Wigmore Hall recently is lack of individuality. Whatever he does has an original impress, though whether that originality is always artistic is open to doubt. In a curiously-chosen programme on October 31, he was a mixture of good and bad. He achieved some fine pedalling effects in the first movement of d'Indy's "Poeme des Montagnes," while in the second he failed to draw out the fine tone-colours of which his Pleyel pianoforte was capable. Whether it was merely a desire to be in touch with the modern movement to revive Mendelssohn or really a genuine belief in its merits that made him bring forward the preposterous "Prelude and Fugue in E minor," I cannot guess: in any case, the choice was unwise. Again in half-a-dozen of Brahms' waltzes there was an adoption of *tempo* that was sometimes nearly unintelligible; also a proclivity for emphasising inner melodies that did not need it. And yet in Chopin's Scherzo in C sharp minor, there was a very vivid display of technique, with the possession of which M. Ciampi ought to be a finer player than he is.

There was a certain amount of disappointment in the orchestral concert which Miss Olga Carmine gave with Sir Henry Wood and his orchestra at the Queen's Hall on November 2. For though she has neatness, unaffectedness, and facility, her charm was on this occasion rather superficial. Apart from one or two slips, she did not make the pianoforte part of Mozart's C minor concerto stand out as it should, and seemed content, (quite possibly through nervousness) to subordinate the importance of her part. However, we know her worth and are confident of her future.

**Andante.**

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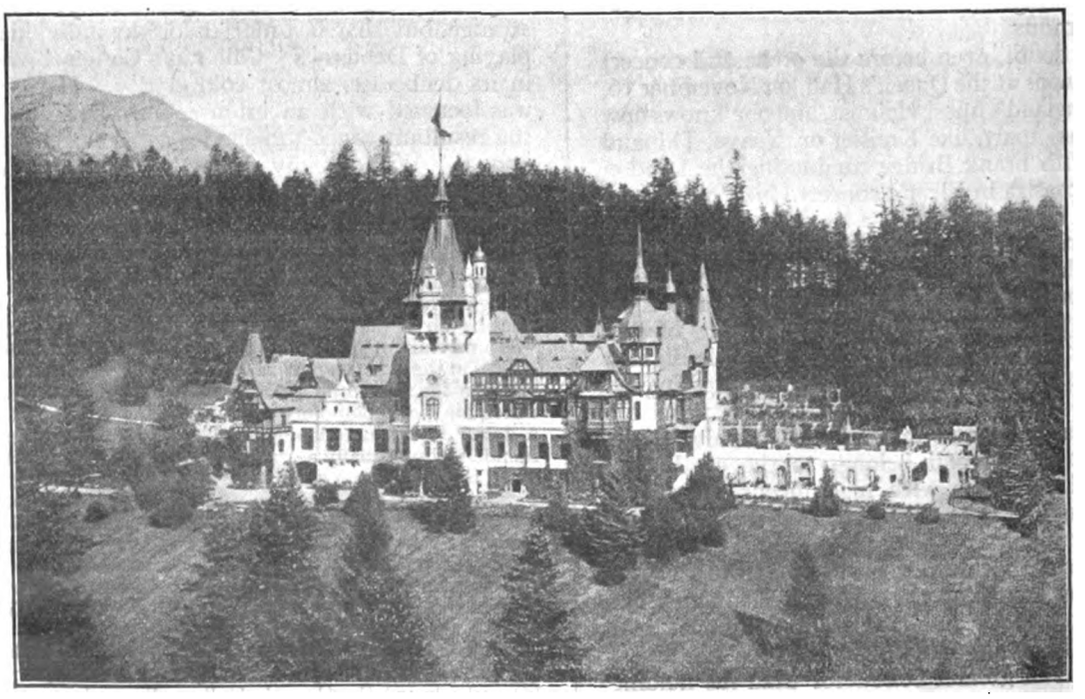
# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## ROUMANIA FROM WITHIN.

**"ROUMANIA IN LIGHT AND SHADOW." By Ethel Greening Pantazzi. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 30s. nett).**
**"TWENTY YEARS IN ROUMANIA." By Maude Parkinson. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 10s. 6d. nett).**

That two striking books on Roumania should appear simultaneously is a coincidence and, we may hope, an earnest of increasing interest being taken in Roumanian affairs by the English speaking public. Both volumes may be warmly commended, as they give, each from a different angle, a real insight into Roumanian life. In "Roumania in Light and Shadow." Mme. Pantazzi, Canadian-born, married to a Roumanian naval officer, sets forth in diary form her experiences from the time of her first arrival in the country in April 1909 until the end of the war. It is a very human document throughout, arresting in the simple unaffected way in which the author presents her pen pictures of everyday life and scenes, and towards the end acquiring the dignity of a valuable historical narrative when she relates the little-known story of the imprisonment of a number of Roumanians by the Soviets in Odessa and the dramatic circumstances of their liberation and escape. In the course of the nine years Mme. Pantazzi saw much of Roumania, and was a conscientious diarist; but there is nothing monotonous in the way the chronicle of her doings is reproduced, and the reader, in spite of the thickness of the book, will be tempted to regret some of the wide gaps that mark, it may be, a whole month skipped. Of the early part of the diary suffice it to say that it brings the parts of Roumania that it describes: Galatz, Sulina, Bucharest, Sinaia, and the itineraries of motor tours—very vividly before the eye. Not a page should be missed, but here we conceive it to be a duty to call special attention to the author's graphic description of her Odessa experiences under the Soviet régime. When the Roumanian Court and Government left on the approach of the Germans, removed from Bucharest to Jassy, Commander Pantazzi was sent to Odessa to superintend the transport of munitions which were being sent from England to Roumania *via* Russia. His family went with him, and a few days after their arrival in Odessa came the news of the outbreak of the Russian Revolution. Then followed the Soviet régime, and Bolshevist doctrines not only spread to Odessa, but made headway among the Roumanian soldiery in the town. There was by this time a considerable Roumanian Colony there, and a house had been taken for the Royal family. Eventually the Bolshevists assumed command of Odessa, and Roumanian deserters formed a "Battalion of Death." A reign of terror was started. Roumanian officers and the leading members of the community were arrested. Mme. Pantazzi gives a vivid account of those days of peril. There can be little doubt that the fate of the seventy-one prisoners would have been sealed, had not Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Boyle, of the Canadian Army, who was in Jassy at the time, taken upon himself the task of rescuing them. How it was accomplished and the type of man who did it we may leave our author to tell. The story deserves to rank among the outstanding deeds of the war. Mme. Pantazzi's narrative may be supplemented on one point. Asked how he managed to get his own way with the Soviet Committee of Odessa, Colonel Boyle, who is not easily persuaded to be communicative on these matters, explained that he had been helped by his experience in handling dog-teams in Canada. There is always one top-dog in a team, and until you have mastered him, you will have trouble. It is generally the same with a body of men. Confronted with the Bolshevist Commissars Colonel Boyle marked down the top-dog and left the others to themselves. Mme. Pantazzi, who rendered invaluable assistance to her fellow-Canadian, tells of the outcome of this mastery of Racovski, and pays a well-deserved tribute to a remarkable man.

Miss Maude Parkinson approaches her subject in a different way. She has spent twenty years in Roumania and during that period has given, as became an educationalist, close study to the people and their customs. A keen sympathy with and love of her surroundings, happily combined with an Irish sense of humour, has resulted in a very readable book, full of interesting information, but never dull. "If anyone feels curious as to how the story gained publicity." says the author, in one passage, I can only say that my long residence in the country taught me, among other things, that there are no secrets in Bucharest." And the reader will be grateful to her that she has given further publicity to so many of them. We are introduced to many celebrities, but we agree with Miss Parkinson that the



**PELESH CASTLE: The Royal Residence at SINAIA.**

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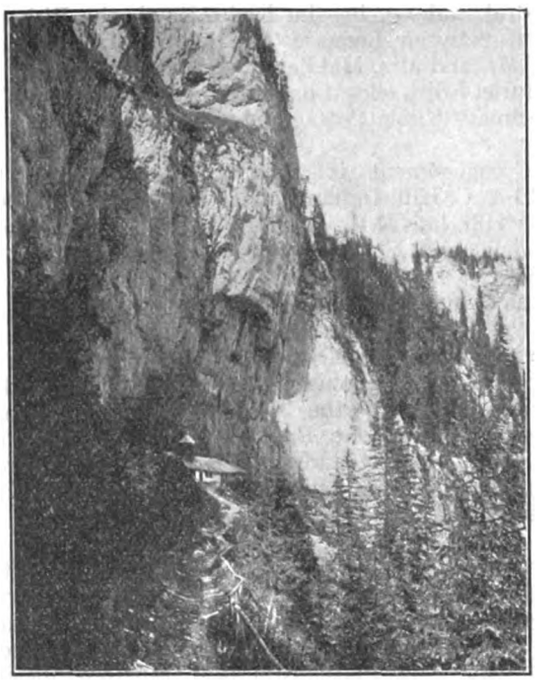
Roumanians also have a sense of humour and will not take offence over her anecdotes. Many will be familiar under various forms to those who know Roumania well, and in some instances the version in this book seems to rest on such good authority that it can hardly fail to



The JALOMITZA Hermitage, Roumania

become the "official" text in future. It is surely too an original "howler" that our author has to her credit in a pupil's translation of a portion of the fourteenth chapter of St. Mark: "The ghost is agreeable but the meat is feeble," a rendering which, in the second part at least, might be held to have a special application in Roumania.

## ALGERIA AND TUNISIA.

**"THREE TRAVELLERS IN NORTH AFRICA." By the Hon. Emily Ward, with photographs and a chapter on Southern Tunisia by Lord Leigh, and preface by the Hon. Agnes Leigh. (London: The Bodley Head. 6s. net.)**

The companions who describe their happy three months in North Africa do so in a very simple and unpretentious manner, and we feel that they are writing as much for the pleasure of reminding themselves of their journeys and the pleasant things they saw as with a desire to help those who want to follow their excellent example and to spend a winter motoring in Algeria and Tunisia. Miss Ward is responsible for the actual story, which she has re-written from a carefully kept dairy; Lord Leigh occasionally describes expeditions for shooting or sight-seeing which he undertook without the others, and he contributes the illustrating snapshots.

The party had their headquarters at Algiers, and started out, with their French chauffeur, for the first expedition on December 19, 1919. They spent a fortnight exploring Southern Algeria and the country of the Mozabites, who are one of the original Berber races of North Africa. The three travellers were much impressed by the peaceful atmosphere of Ghardaia, the Mozabite chief city, where they spent Christmas. Miss Ward gives an amusing account of the camel races which they were fortunate in seeing at Laghouat. When the car set out again from Algiers it travelled eastwards along the coast to Tunis and the accounts of the country through which the travellers passed, and of the places at which they stopped are varied and pleasant, and give a clear impression. From Biskra to Touggourt they were obliged to travel by train on "a single line of railway . . . through the sandy waste."

Miss Ward devotes a long chapter to Timgad and its very interesting Roman remains; the signs of the busy lives spent there so long ago caught her fancy, and she felt that she had made two new friends in Marcus Sertius and his beautiful wife, Valentia, the great benefactors of the city.

This little account of a picnic at Bone when the three were nearing Tunis, is typically reminiscent of enjoyment. "The day was so delicious that we chose the seashore for our picnic, a lovely strand, with the town brilliantly white on higher ground and beyond the sandy beach, the waters of the Mediterranean at her bluest." We are given vivid glimpses of Tunis, with the startling contrast that it presents between the modern and ancient quarters, and of Carthage with its memories of vanished greatness.

Lord Leigh's account of his little tour in Southern Tunisia is interesting, especially the description of Troglodyte dwellings, of one of which there is a photo graph. The travellers motored back to Algiers, which they left for the homeward journey with regret, carrying with them many happy memories. This is a cheerful, enjoyable book, and should—with its excellent map—prove of real use to those who think of spending a holiday in these parts, in order to experience "a sense of space and peace and greatness in these desert regions." They will be relieved to learn that only once did the car stick on a desert road and have to be pulled out of the sand by the contemptuous camel.

## "A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT."

**"DAVID THE SON OF JESSE." By Marjorie Strachey. (London: Jonathan Cape: 7s. 6d. nett.)**

*Malecho pow Elijohu*? Such was the somewhat disdainful comment of a Jewish friend who, rapidly handling this book, found that it was the work of Miss Marjorie Strachey. "What doest thou here, Elijah?"—or, paraphrased, "What doest thou here, young lady?" The life of David, the son of Jesse, as sketched in the Jewish Scripture and amplified in Talmudic lore, is a full one, an epitome of varied experiences; or as Nathan is said to have said, "Thou art the Man!" It is this man, this ancient salient of the great fortress of literature whom our authoress aspires to reduce to plain, prosaical proportions. David, she has convinced herself, was a mere man, a tribal King, a petty chieftain, a fairly inferior sort of hero, looking upon his Jahweh, or Jehovah, as a portable, useful, anthropomorphic God, but obviously superior to Dagon, Bel, and others. She tables quite earnestly a close arithmetic of David's *amours*, which we know were all inferior to his love for the son of Saul. Where her arithmetic seems to us faulty is when she tackles military, geographical and strategical measures; ten miles or two hundred miles, between the River of Egypt and the Rivers of Damascus, are covered in her book by the forces of Israel, Judah, Philistia, Syria, or Moab, equally easily in space of two or three days. The publisher provides a map as though to emphasize these solecisms. But—mankind has acquiesced long enough in traditional adherence to the letter of "Scripture," whether Jewish, Christian, Moslem, Buddhist, or other, and our authoress is ambitious for the spirit, not the letter—in a word she strives to induce people to think, and not to have their thinking done for them by priests, or parents. She has made here an iconoclastic picture with no little scholarship and skill, and Hebrew, Christian and Moslem will find no acerbity in her conception of David, the son of Jesse.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"An Administrator in the Making; James Saumarez Mann, 1893-1920." Edited by His Father. With Illustrations and a Map. (London: Longmans Green and Co. 16s. net.)

"The Flag of the Adventurer." By Sydney C. Grier. (London: Wm. Blackwood and Sons. 7s. 6d. net.).

"An Introduction to Mahayana Buddhism." By Dr. W. M. McGovern. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.).

*La France* is the title of a weekly paper pubiished in London, which contains extracts from the French Press. It is intended to promote the study of French in this country, and undoubtedly the wide range of subject matter covered by the extracts provides most interesting reading. *La France* is well printed and contains a number of illustrations each week. The office is at Montague House, Russell Square, W.C.1.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**

November 24 (New Style).
November 11 (Old Style).
Rabia I., 24, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshvan 23, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord Somerleyton has left London for India.

M. Frederic Nano has been promoted Second Secretary of the Roumanian Legation.

M. Ivan Stancioff, Hon. Attaché to the Bulgarian Legation, has left London for Switzerland on leave.

The Hon. Mrs. Ronald Greville has left for Marseilles on her way to India, where she will visit the Viceroy.

The Hon. Mrs. Patrick Macnaghten has left 71, Knightsbridge, for India, where she will be for the winter.

Mr. Sidney H. Goldsmid has left London on a short visit to Ceylon, and no correspondence will be forwarded. He will return to 35, Chesham Place on February 1.

Sir Thomas and Lady Bennett have returned to Harwarton, Speldhurst, where they will stay until the middle of December, when they will leave for India.

The marriage was celebrated on November 9, at the Greek Church of St. Sophia, by the Very Rev. The Great Archimandrite, between Manoli Tombozi and Nancy Rodocanachi.

The marriage took place on November 15, at Christ Church, Down-street, between Sir Charles Henry Kesteven, of Calcutta, and Annie Lauder (Nancy) Wilson, daughter of the late James Wilson.

The marriage arranged between Neville A. Dyce Sharp, late of Abyssinia, and Flora Macdonald, of Waternish, Skye, took place at St. John's Church, Outwood, Surrey, on November 22.

Sir George Buchanan, K.C.I.E., left England for India by the P. and O. s.s. Morea, for his annual tour in the East. He expects to return to this country about March.

An engagement is announced between Constantine P. Zochonis, only son of Mr. P. B. Zochonis, and Mrs. Zochonis, of Bowdon, Cheshire, and Nitza, eldest daughter of Sir John and Lady Stavridi, of 33, Lennox Gardens, S.W.1.


# Cunard Line

**MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST**

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA :-: SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE :-: ROUMANIAN PORTS ALSO FROM—— LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS.

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The marriage arranged between Captain G. C. Sloane Stanley, late Grenadier Guards, of Ury Estate, Badulla, Ceylon, and Miss Hilda Leach, of 34, Elm Park Gardens London, S.W., will take place in Southern India towards the end of January.

The marriage was celebrated on November 10 at the Cathedral, Lahore, by the Right Revd. the Bishop of Lahore, between Leonard Middleton, I.C.S., younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Middleton, Acacia House, Shanklin, and Muriel Edith, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. McKechney, Knole Cottage, Wimbledon.

The engagement is announced between Captain Ronald A. C. Hill, Indian Police, younger son of Colonel Arthur Hill, late R.E., and Mrs. Hill, 18, The Common, Woolwich, and Shelagh, only daughter of the late Andrew Orr Deas, advocate, Edinburgh, and Mrs. Orr Deas, 26 Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, London.

The marriage was celebrated on November 16 at the Greek Church, St. Sophia, by the Great Archimandrite Pagonis, assisted by the Archimandrite Maschovakis, between Everard John Boothby How, second son of Major John Herbert and Mrs. How, of St. Andrews Fife, and Fanny, only child of the late Theodore Zarifi and Mrs, Zarifi, of 25, Berkely Square.

It is stated that Mr. H. St. L. Philby, the expert on Arabia and British adviser to the Ministry of the Interior at Baghdad, has been appointed in a similar capacity to the Emir Abdullah in Transjordania. He is expected soon to reach Amman, the capital of Transjordania, after seeing Sir H. Samuel at Jerusalem. Colonel Lawrence who is now on a visit to Transjordania, after a mission to King Hussein at Jeddah, will then return home.

The Council of the Senate of Cambridge University have elected Mr. Alfred Chilton Pearson, Litt. D., of Christ's College, into the Regius Professorship of Greek in succession ot the late Dr. Jackson. Dr. Pearson was a first-class classic in 1881-3, gained the Hare Prize in 1889, and is at present Gladstone Professor of Greek in the University of Liverpool. He has lately edited, in three volumes, the fragments of Sophocles, in continuation of Jebb's edition of the Plays.

The Countess of Hardwicke, Lord and Lady Willoughby de Broke, Major the Hon. B. A. Forbes, Sir Robert Henderson, Sir Charles Kesteve Kesteven, Sir Arthur Priestly, and Sir Treverdyn Wynne were amongst the passengers who left London by the P. and O. express for Marseilles to join the steamship Morea for Bombay. Sir Allan Horne, Sir Wilfred and Lady Stokes, the Mahraja of Cutch and Prince Karam, Prince Amarjit and Princess Amarjit Singh of Kapurthala, also joined that vessel at Marseilles.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Mr. Edward James Standen. He was born in 1836, and served as a lieutenant with the Turkish Contingent Engineers at Kertch and Yenikale, in the Crimea, 1855-6. From 1857 to 1872, he was Secretary to the British Commissioner on the European Commission of the Danube, and he served as Resident Director in Paris to represent the British Government on the Council of the Suez Canal Company from 1876 to 1891, being appointed a member of the Managing Committee in 1888.

## THE GREEK NAVY.

The Admiralty announce that the torpedo gunner required for service with the Greek Naval Mission has now been selected. It is also notified that salutes of foreign men-of-war will be returned at the following Greek ports :—Piraeus, Patras, Nauplia, Corfu, Kavalla, Poros, Salonika, Salamis (Royal Arsenal), and Suda (Crete). Salutes to the Moorish flag will also be returned at Tangier.

Belgium will take care of 200 Russian children, at present in Constantinople, who are to be brought to Antwerp.

Two Arabs have been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment apiece for having been found in possession of a bomb and arms during the riots of November 2 in Jerusalem.

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## ARMISTICE DAY IN SMYRNA.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes:—

On Armistice Day in response to an invitation sent out by Captain S. D. Wilson, the S.N.O., a representative gathering of the British colony took place on the quarter deck of the H.M.S. *Tumult*. The guests included Lady Lamb and the Misses Lamb, Mr. Symonds (Ottoman Bank), Mr. C. E. Winter (National Bank of Turkey) and several ex-Service officers. At 10.55 the warships hauled down their gay dressings and the *Tumult* ran up a black cone on the foremast. Precisely at 11 this signal was dropped, and all ships in the harbour lowered their ensigns half-mast. On the British, French, Italian and Greek destroyers, the crews stood to attention for the two minutes' silence, which was respectfully maintained by the hundreds of spectators lining the Quay. Meanwhile a bugler on the Italian ship sounded the "Last Post" impressively.

The Churchwardens and congregations of St. John's Church assembled at the Caravan Bridge Cemetery and, laid a wreath on the graves of the Kut prisoners and R.A.F. officers and men who lost their lives in Smyrna during the Great War and were buried near their comrades who fell, fighting *for* Turkey, in the Crimean War.

In the evening an ex-Service officers and men's dinner was held in Costi's Cafe, when some 30 old comrades enjoyed an excellent dinner and much "bonhomie." Major-General Raymond de Candolle, C.B., C.E., presided, and was ably supported by Mr. T. R. Treloar, son of Sir. Wm. Treloar, who organised the dinner; Major Johnston, *liason* officer with the Greek Army; Mr. F. S. Cole; H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul Edwyn Hole; Paymaster Lieut.-Commander Duncan G. Wallace, R.N.R.; while Commander Gelis, of the *Centre-Torpilleur* Hovas, represented the French, and Vice-Consul Wallace R. Treat, the American forces. The gathering was such a success that it was decided to form a permanent Committee to help to keep together ex-Service officers and men and look after their mutual welfare.

## PICTURES OF MOROCCO.

There is now being held at Walker's Galleries, 118, New Bond Street, an exhibition of very interesting water-colours by Mr. Romily Fedden. Last year Mr. Fedden stayed seven months in Morocco, and was moved to paint upwards of twenty pictures. For the most part they are direct and faithful representations, at once vivid and accurate, but in a few of his best efforts the painter has gone farther, and penetrated into the essence, as it were of his subjects. Particularly in the reproduction of a crowd, especially of the movement of a crowd, is he successful, a high example of this being No. 28, "Fanatacism," in which the dusty frenzy of strict Mohammedans is excellently suggested. We meet this intense directness of purpose again in No. 12, "Dance of the Assiou," and in No. 52, "A Religious Procession, Tangier," where the ordered life of the thing is beautifully kept. Mr. Fedden appears to paint with a rather wet brush, but for all that he is in no way afraid of colour, and much of the interest in this exhibition lies in the method by which he has, without going to extremes, preserved the colours of the East. There is a wonderful kind of nondescript mauve in No. 13 "Twilight in the Kasbah," in No. 34, "In the Souks, Rabat," he has admirably caught the velvety richness of the carpets; and No. 49, "Marrakesh," is a very bold and brilliant treatment in colour—for in the background stands a tower and, in startling but quite just contrast to it, trees in a blue light. This, indeed, is probably the finest picture of them all. A very subtle use is made of twilight and of moonlight effects; notably in No. 18, "A Grey Evening, Rabat," in No. 30, "Tangier Bay, Moonlight," which has a most exquisite thinness, and in No. 50, "The Little Shop, Twilight." Then again, there are pictures that stand by themselves in excellence; No. 10, for instance, "A Corner of the Soko, Tangier," which is finely characterised with deep-set detail; or No. 20, "Rabat, Rose and Green," of very happy neatness; or the low-priced (12 guineas) No. 43, "The Place of the Dead, Tetuan," which is a tombed hill that sad women are slowly ascending; or the highly-conceived No. 51, "Tetuan," in which the literal contrast is extraordinarily well done. This exhibition, which remains open until November 29, should be visited by all those who know Northern Africa.

## PERSIA SOCIETY MEETING.

The Persia Society which had not held any meetings for some time previously, assembled on November 15, at 74, Grosvenor Street, London, W., to hear an address by Mr. Gregoshch, Honorary Secretary of the Georgian Legation. Lord Lamington presided. The meeting was well attended, and several notable people, including Prince Sumbatoff, were present. The Society proposes to have meetings at regular intervals in the future.

The paper read by Mr. Gugushvili was a lengthy one. In the course of it he said that to Russia the Middle East had always been a goal of ambition. She naturally looked in that direction for expansion, and in this matter Revolutionary had followed in the footsteps of Tsarist Russia. At first the Red Army had been handicapped by lack of men experienced in handling guns, but this had now been remedied. To-day two-thirds of the officers of the Red Army were men who had previously served in the Tsarist Armies. Generally speaking the Red Army was red only in name; in reality it did not differ from the imperialist armies that had gone before it. Officers in the Red Army did not say they were fighting for Bolshevism but for the honour of Russia. He had not met a Russian of any shade of opinion who was opposed to the Bolshevist policy in external matters, and, in spite of irreconcileable differences, all elements were for this purpose now rallying round the Communist flag. It might be asked how could the Bolshevists carry out their campaign with a famine raging in the country. But the desire to restore their ruined industries, and to obtain food for the Army and population, compelled the Bolshevists to embark on imperialistic campaigns. The industrial centre of Russia had formerly got oil from Baku, cotton from Turkestan and flour from the Ukraine by exchange. To-day there was nothing to go in exchange, and the endeavour was to get these things by force. In one way the famine itself was assisting in Russia's expansion; entire villages from the famine stricken areas were being settled in Central Asia. What could not be achieved under the Tsarist régime was being realised by the Bolshevists.

Mr. Tcherkesoff supported the remarks of the Lecturer; but another speaker, Mr. Allen, said there was a tendency in this country, dating back to the Crimean War, to exaggerate Russian imperialism, and to misinterpret the Russian national movement. Russia had been to a great extent a civilising force in the Middle East.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Lecturer.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

A Nairobi telegram says that the Convention of Associations has decided to send a deputation to Mr. Churchill on the subject of Indians in Kenya. The Convention maintains its objection to the grant of equal rights to whites and Indians.

Permission has been given for 7,000 more Russian refugees to enter Bulgaria from Gallipoli.

An Arab rising in the Deir-ez-Zor district on the Euphrates has been suppressed by the French.

According to a newspaper telegram from Belgrade, the Italian Military Attaché there called at the offices of a newspaper, which, he alleged, had spoken of Italy in offensive terms. The editor refused to withdraw, and a scuffle ensued, in which the Attaché was badly hurt.

A Greek *communiqué* states that an enemy aeroplane attempted to bomb Afium Karahissar railway station. The only bomb which exploded fell in a prisoners' camp. The aeroplane was chased and compelled to make a forced landing.

The Cairo Correspondent of *The Times* is able to deny rumours which have recently been circulating in Egypt to the effect that many thousands of rounds of ammunition had got into the hands of civilians in Cairo owing to the carelessness of officials in the Disposals Board.

General Gouraud, the French High Commissioner in Syria, has been visiting the British, French, and Mussulman military cemeteries in Palestine.

The Athenian newspapers published cordial farewell articles on the occasion of the departure for Copenhagen of Lord Granville, former British Minister.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1921.


## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ACTS.

In decreeing a "naval holiday" for ten years the Washington Conference will not have to its credit a more practical contribution to the cause of peace than that which the League of Nations has made in compelling the Yugoslav Government to withdraw its troops from Albania and to respect the frontiers prescribed by the Conference of Ambassadors. The fighting on the Serbo-Albanian frontier may have been confined to a relatively small area, and while it lasted Europe may not have considered that its rest was being unduly disturbed; but at any moment the trouble might have involved other countries. Moreover, a grave principle was at stake, and if the League had not taken decisive action its continued existence must have become a farce. Already it or its sponsors, the Supreme Council, had remained indifferent far too long to an open scandal, and we can but hope that the machinery so tardily put into motion on this first occasion will be more easily started in the future, if the need for it should arise. The unsatisfactory situation on the northern boundaries of Albania has been common knowledge for the last two years, and it ought not to have been necessary for the League of Nations, as guardian of the world's peace, to delay action until Albania was admitted to membership. During the last few months, however, the fighting between Serbs and Albanians assumed more serious proportions. The Albanian Government seized the earliest opportunity of appealing for the protection of the League, but did not at first meet with any practical response. An excess of caution prompted the League to shield itself behind the fact that the frontiers of Albania had not been formally decided upon by the Ambassadors' Council, and it was left to the British Prime Minister to bring directly to the League's attention the fact that the Serbians were carrying on military operations in Albania, and to ask it to consider the question of an economic blockade of Yugoslavia, under Article 16 of the Covenant, unless the Serbian troops were withdrawn from Albanian territory. At a meeting held in Paris on November 18, after the British case for setting the machinery of the League in motion had been stated, the Yugoslav representative challenged the action of Great Britain in the matter, but announced that his Government had decided to conform to the ruling of the Ambassadors' Council in regard to the frontiers and would withdraw its troops. At a subsequent session the Yugoslav and Albanian developed their cases in detail, but the point had been gained and the League's authority vindicated with the decision of the Yugoslav Government to respect the Albanian frontiers in order to avoid the risk of having the penal clauses of Article 16 enforced against it.

To all the Allies, and in particular to Great Britain, it is a matter for regret that Yugoslavia should have adopted a line of action that compelled intervention on the part of the League. The Allies' indifference to the tragic fate of Montenegro would seem to have led the militarist party in Serbia to believe that they could indulge with equal impunity in the same tactics against the Albanians. But the fact that the Allies turned a blind eye did not imply that they were not aware of what was happening to the Montenegrins, and they were not prepared to see similar measures meted out to Albania. To what lengths their dilatoriness was carried may be inferred from the statement made to the League of Nations that, as a result of the Serbian invasion, a hundred and fifty Albanian villages had already been burnt, forty thousand Albanians driven out, and large quantities of cattle carried off. That Great Britain should have been the agent by whom Serbia has been brought to account will not, it is to be feared, enhance British prestige, already on the wane, in Yugoslavia. But this was a matter in which the Serbians had to be saved from themselves. No one has had better opportunity than the British of learning the worth of the Serbs, and it is doubtful whether any help was of more practical value to the cause of Yugoslav unity than that given by Great Britain. It is not, however, the act of a friend to remain silent while a Belgrade Government commits mistake after mistake, which not only lowers its standing among the Allies, but also threatens to undermine the solidarity of the Yugoslav State. THE NEAR EAST dissociates itself from any attempt, such as was recently made by the Balkan Committee, to dictate the terms of the Constitution of the Triune Kingdom; but it requires only a slight knowledge of the internal affairs of the country to realize how a régime which rendered Serbian aggression against Albania possible may cause resentment even to the point of political disintegration among the more enlightened and less bellicose parties to the union in Croatia and Slovenia. The rebuff administered to the Belgrade authorities by the League of Nations can hardly fail to benefit the cause of real union in Yugoslavia; for the attempt made by the Serb representative before the League to justify Serbian action was so weak that it proved conclusively that the Albanian policy could never have commended itself to a Cabinet claiming to govern on Western lines. Not a single argument advanced by M. Boshkovitch, as far as the abbreviated reports of his long defence enable us to judge, could have carried conviction with the League, and if the meeting had had to gauge the intellectual standards of the Belgrade and Tirana Governments from the speeches delivered by their representatives, it must have been left with a very poor opinion of the new Yugoslav State. It is to be hoped, however, that the League is better acquainted with conditions in Yugoslavia. The dragooning of Montenegro and the wanton aggression against Albania are only possible with a state of affairs that compels Croats and Slovenes to dissociate themselves from the present régime. The good sense of the Yugoslav peoples will work out their own salvation. While they need no prompting from without, they can hardly fail to be grateful to the support given to the cause of ordered and progressive, as against arbitrary and reactionary, government, by the action of the League of Nations, and they will not, it is to be hoped, endorse the attempt to distract attention from shortcomings at home by stirring up feeling against the country that has once again come to their help.

Apart from the relief felt at justice having been done to Albania, the most satisfactory aspect of the incident is that the League has been shown to be an effective instrument for compelling States into the path of rectitude. Even if it might still hesitate to measure its strength against that of a refractory Great Power, it has certainly established its claim to be regarded as a court of appeal for the smaller countries. In the present instance it has had to deal with a crude case of aggression but there is no reason why its aid should not be invoked for a dispassionate verdict on a number of points where the attempted settlement of the Near Eastern question has merely served to perpetuate old injustices or to create new ones. We do not recommend an immediate rush of claimants to the League's portals, for there can be no other case as pressing as Albania's. But where any country in the Near East feels itself aggrieved by the settlement laid down by the Peace Treaties, it will do well to realize that it has in the League a far more useful advocate of the right than is to be found in any warlike efforts or underground intrigue on its own part. The lesson of the Serbo-Albanian incident suggests that no country in future will be allowed to benefit by the doctrine Might is Right; whereas an aggrieved State, if its cause is just, has only to bide its time, marshal its evidence and carefully prepare its case in order to obtain justice far more effectually and at less expense than if it trusted to its own armed strength.

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## BRITISH PRISONERS IN ANATOLIA.

### The Release of British War Criminals.

In our last issue we referred to Admiral Sir Percy Scott's letters to *The Times* on the treatment of Colonel Rawlinson by the Kemalists; and gave Lord Curzon's reply to his denunciation of the Foreign Office and the War Office. Lord Newton, who raised the question in the House of Lords on November 9 without associating himself with Sir Percy Scott, severely criticised the Government on the following day for failing to try the Turkish war criminals who have been in British hands since shortly after the Armistice. It appears that early in 1919 the British Military Commission in Constantinople handed the Turkish authorities a list of Turkish officers and men who were wanted for various war crimes—mainly ill-treatment of British prisoners—and about 64 of them were arrested and sent to Malta. They were still awaiting trial, however, when the Peace Treaty with Turkey was signed at Sèvres in the summer of 1920. This treaty provided for Allied military tribunals to try Turks accused of violating the laws of war, but it was never ratified, and the 64 men continued to languish in Malta. In the meantime Mustapha Kemal had established his authority throughout most of Asia Minor, and about 35 British officers and men fell into his hands. Some, including Colonel Rawlinson, were Intelligence officers who in the eyes of their captor had no right to be in Anatolia; one or two, perhaps, had accompanied the Greek army, and a few were civilians. These captives were an enormous asset to Mustapha Kemal, and, as mentioned by Lord Curzon in the speech which we reported last week, he did not fail to make the most of it. After much bargaining, and after 15 or 16 Turks had escaped from Malta by the simple expedient of breaking their parole (Why were men charged with crime ever allowed liberty on parole?), the British Government agreed to hand back unconditionally all the men under arrest, in exchange for the 35 British prisoners. Thus it has now released scot free the men deemed responsible, or partly responsible, for the appalling fact that of all the British and Indian officers and men taken by the Turks during the war, over 38 per cent., and of the British rank and file led away as prisoners from Kut over 70 per cent., perished in captivity.

We give Lord Newton's remarks on these facts in his own words:—

> "The charges against these men included murder, the manslaughter of hundreds, if not thousands, of British prisoners by neglect, merciless flogging, gross cruelty of various kinds, unnatural offences committed upon British prisoners, and wholesale theft of their property. Why were these men, when they were in our possession, not tried immediately after the Armistice? There was nothing whatever to prevent their being tried nearly three years ago. They had committed offences against International Law, and if it was in our power to arrest them I presume it was equally in our power to try them. There was any amount of evidence available against these men. Every prisoner who came to this country during the war—and they numbered thousands—was subjected to an elaborate examination as to his experience and as to his treatment, and when the Armistice was proclaimed every single man had an opportunity afforded him of making any complaints that he chose to formulate against the Government whose prisoner he had been. What was there to prevent this evidence being immediately used and supplied to the military authorities in Malta, who were in a position to try these men? All the labour and all the expense incurred in preparing this elaborate evidence has been absolutely and completely wasted.
>
> "I ask your Lordships to mark what this so-called exchange means. These men who were in our possession were the worst type of criminal. The British who have been obtained in exchange were ordinary prisoners of war who had committed no crime at all. They had been taken prisoner merely through the treachery of the Turks, or through their own misfortune, and in order to recover these perfectly innocent men we have had to give up these criminals. It is perfectly plain that someone has blundered in the most inexcusable manner."

On this occasion Lord Curzon was not present, and Lord Crawford was put up to reply. His defence was that until the Treaty of Sèvres had been ratified the trial of the Turkish war criminals was not legal. But that eminent lawyer Lord Parmoor swept this plea on one side:—

> "The difficulty regarding war criminals is, as a rule, of course, to get them into your possession at all. That was the difficulty as regards the Kaiser. But these are quite different cases. These are cases where the criminals did not need handing over to us, but were in our possession. Now, if anything like the crimes which Lord Newton has referred to have been committed, undoubtedly they could be tried and ought to be tried, and that entirely independent of whether the Treaty of Sèvres has been ratified or not."

On a legal question, we prefer the opinion of Lord Parmoor to that of Lord Crawford, and the Government's explanation of its own inaction reads very much like an afterthought, designed to conceal at best a great oversight, at worst a gross neglect of duty. These Turkish war criminals were not arrested in the exercise of any power given Great Britain by the Armistice terms, which were, indeed, silent concerning war crimes, but in pursuance of the right of a beligerent to punish offences against the laws of war. If Britain did not need a peace treaty to allow her to arrest them, why did she need one to allow her to try them?

Lord Newton suggested that if and when the British Government comes to make terms with Mustapha Kemal it should insist that the worst of the war criminals be handed back, or else that they be tried and punished by their own Government. But if the Turks failed to punish these men during the war, will they be disposed to punish them now? A demand for their trial could, we think, have no other result than to delay the conclusion of a treaty of peace with the Angora Government, a treaty which, as we have often pointed out, is urgently required by our interests in the East. We are afraid that the damage done by the failure to avenge the British prisoners who died in Turkey is irretrievable, and it will not be surprising if Turks continue to ill-treat Englishmen who fall into their hands.

Since we wrote last week, further facts have emerged regarding the British prisoners just released by the Kemalists. At the time when some, if not all, of them were captured, over 40,000 of the Turks taken prisoner by the British during the war were, owing to the delay in concluding peace, still detained in Egypt and elsewhere. Why was the release of Colonel Rawlinson and others not made a condition precedent to the release of these men? Possibly the Foreign Office will plead that it had promised the Constantinople Government to

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release all war prisoners, and could not make use of them to bargain with the Angora Government. But if Angora could use Colonel Rawlinson and his comrades to get back the men in Malta (who had been handed over by the Constantinople Government), surely Great Britain could use the 40,000 war prisoners to get back Colonel Rawlinson. Angora, even more than Constantinople, was interested in the return of the 40,000 men. If Great Britain was at war with Kemal, she was entitled to keep them until he released Colonel Rawlinson. If she was not at war, he had no right to detain Colonel Rawlinson at all. It is difficult to believe that strong action by the Government, accompanied, if necessary, by a threat to bombard a Kemalist port, could not have procured the release of all the British prisoners.

It appears also that no effective steps were taken for the well-being of our men while they remained in captivity, in spite of the knowledge of the sufferings and enormous mortality among prisoners in Turkey during the war. We are informed that although clothing, food, and medicines have been sent from France to the French prisoners for months past, through the Ottaman Red Crescent in Constantinople, nothing was done for our men (some of whom have been prisoners for over 18 months) until a few weeks ago, when the Foreign Office allowed the Red Cross to despatch supplies through the same channel.

It seems to us that the Government's failure to try the Turkish war criminals, and its failure to protect the interests of our officers and men who fell into the hands of Kemal, call for further inquiry,

## MUSSULMANIA!

In what the Turks no doubt regard as the happier days of a century ago non-Moslem subjects of the Sultan met with scant respect from the Faithful during their lives; and when they were unfortunate—or fortunate!—enough to shuffle off this mortal coil, Moslem scorn still pursued them. When such an one died it was necessary to obtain special authorization to bury him in Turkish soil; and this had to be procured by the Church, or head of the religion to which he had belonged. It would be thought that such permission would be accorded in terms free from offence, but in point of fact the representatives of the Padishah seem to have gone out of their way in order to make them as brutal as possible. Below we give specimens of such authorizations, translated from the Turkish of three actual letters issued by the authorities, sanctioning the burial of an Orthodox Christian, of an Armenian, and of a Jew, respectively. These were discovered by a correspondent, among some treasured souvenirs of an old Constantinople family. They contain expressions which are highly objectionable; but we reproduce them, in order that our readers may be able to estimate more correctly the spirit which actuated the "Proud Osmanlee" of those days, and which is doubtless responsible for much of the hatred felt for him to-day by the peoples who were formerly under his rule.

It will be observed that the date of the Letter of Authority to the Armenian Priest is missing; but our correspondent informs us that the letter may be regarded as having been written at about the same time as the other two, or between the years in the Turkish Calendar 1223-1239 (A.D. 1808-1824).

The following are translations from the three letters:—

To the Greek Priest.—Oh! Thou, whose cloak is as black as the devil, and whose garment is the colour of tar, detestable monk, fat, filthy, and crafty priest, who art deprived of the grace of the Holy Jesus Christ, take notice:—

Authorization has been accorded to dig a grave and to hurl inside, the repulsive putrid flesh (which even the earth shrinks from) of the infidel Constantin, who belonged to thy race and has just died.—Le 21 Chaban 1223.

To the Armenian Priest.—Thou who wearest the crown of the devil, who art clothed with a garment of the colour of tar, fat, cunning, and filthy priest, and deprived of the divine pardon, here is the object of our present communication:—

The infidel, Kirkor, who belonged to the detestable herd that constitutes thy filthy race, has just died. It is true that the earth does not wish to have this pig's carcase; but in order to prevent its stink from infesting the Mussulman quarter, I order thee to dig a grave immediately, to throw it inside, and to beat down, without ceasing, the earth with which thou shalt cover up this blashemous pig's hole.

To the Jews.—O thou, Rabbi of the traitorous nation, which denies the coming of Jesus Christ, and does not recognize Holy Moses, take notice:—

One of the individuals of the encumbering herd of thy community established at Salonika has just rendered his soul to the pitiless devil, and thus plunged it into the flames of Hell.

The venerable Chéry authorizes thee, traitrous Rabbi, to find, somewhere, a latrine, which you will fill by throwing into it his stinking carcase.—Le 15 Redjeb, 1239.

## THE KING'S MESSAGE TO INDIA.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has, on his arrival at Bombay, delivered the following message on behalf of His Majesty the King-Emperor:—

On this day, when my Son lands for the first time upon your shores, I send through him my greetings to you, the Princes and people of India. His coming is a token and a renewal of the pledges of affection which it has been the heritage of our House to reaffirm to you. My Father when Prince of Wales counted it his privilege to see, and seeing to understand, the great Empire in the East over which it was to be his destiny to rule; and I recall with thankfulness and pride that when he was called to the Throne it fell to me to follow his illustrious example. With this same hope and in this same spirit my Son is with you to-day. The thought of his arrival brings with a welcome vividness to my mind the happy memories I have stored of what I myself have learned in India; its charm and beauty, its immemorial history, its noble monuments, and above all the devotion of India's faithful people, since proved as if by fire in their response to the Empire's call in the hour of its greatest need. These memories will ever be with me as I trace his steps. My heart is with him as he moves among you, and with mine the heart of the Queen-Empress, whose love for India is no less than my own. To the friends whose loyalty we and our fathers have treasured, he brings this message of trust and hope. My sympathy in all that passes in your lives is unabating. During recent years my thoughts have been yet more constantly with you. Throughout the civilised world the foundations of social order have been tested by war and change. Wherever citizenship exists it has had to meet the test, and India, like other countries, has been called to face new and special problems of her own. For this task her armoury is in the new powers and the new responsibilities with which she had been equipped. That with the help of these, aided by the ready guidance of my Government and of its officers, you will bring those problems to an issue worthy of your historic past and fraught with happiness for your future; that all disquiets will vanish in well-ordered progress, is my earnest wish and my confident belief. Your anxieties and your rejoicings are my own. In all that may touch your happiness, in all that gives you hope and promises your welfare, I feel with you. In the spirit of sympathy my Son has followed from afar your fortunes. It is now his ambition by his coming among you to ripen goodwill into a yet fuller understanding. I trust and believe that when he leaves your shores, your hearts will follow him and his will stay with you, and that one link the more will be added to the golden chain of sympathy which for these many years had held my Throne to India. And it is my warmest prayer that wisdom and contentment, growing hand-in-hand, will lead India into ever-increasing national greatness, within a free Empire—the Empire for which I labour and for which, if it be the Divine will, my Son shall labour after me.

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## THE CARAVANSERAI

*Think in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*

OMAR KHAYYAM—

I learn from a friend that the death of King Peter of Yugoslavia caused quite a flutter in a certain small Cornish seaside resort. Suddenly a rumour flew round the place that the German flag had been hoisted above the British; and though no one believed it, no one in the place could make out what the strange flag flying at the signalling station, on the cliff, really was. Finally a distinguished military officer who was in the place on a visit, went up to the station to ask. The coastguard on duty told him that as they had no Serbian flag at the station, he had used a French one, turned the wrong way. And that is a true story, my masters.

A witty person once made a remark—in words which I cannot, unfortunately, recall—to the effect that Truth was always plagiarizing Fiction's plots and situations. I am told that one of the latest illustrations of the truth of this saying comes from Egypt, where—at Behera, I fancy—a certain brigand, escaped from gaol, was recently appointed *nazir* of a big *esba*. Having regard to the fact that this took place in Egypt, it may be well to state that the new *nazir* had changed his name, and thought he had covered his tracks. But he had not forgotten his old habits; and ere long he found a gang of choice spirits after his own kind, and started brigandage on a wholesale scale. For once in a way, however, the authorities got wind of the truth quite early, raided the *esba* and arrested the enterprising *nazir*, who will now have an opportunity to show whether he can repeat his success in the gaol-breaking line. And if these facts are not "bagged" from one of Mr. Pickthall's stories, my memory is even less trustworthy than I suppose it o be. Sheer plagiarism!

In his letter on the subject of the deportation of the Archbishop of Rhodes, that vigorous champion of Dodecanesian freedom, Mr. J. D. Moscona, mentioned that Dr. Skevos Zervos in visiting the exile found it advisible to disguise himself as a sponge diver. Now, I may be entirely in error, but I was under the impression that the costume of the sponge divers of those southern seas was extremely simple—indeed, that in most cases it might be described as The Altogether; and if that be so, it seems to me that the interview between the Metropolitan and the Doctor must surely have been quite striking. If only an enterprising cinema man had been there, we might have had a fine film with an alliterative title, "The Bishop and the Bather." But I fear the movies were caught napping for once, and anyone who is thinking of going to a fancy dress ball as a sponge diver will have to look elsewhere than to the intrepid Dr. Zervos as a model.

The mention of the cinema reminds me that that modern form of entertainment, which, owing to its abuse and mishandling, has made many bitter opponents in this country, has lately been coming in for some pointed criticism in the East. A friend home from India tells me that its popularity is by no means unmixed out there, and similar reports have reached me from Mesopotamia. Now, I note, the *Times of Mesopotamia* reports that a proposal for a film censorship is under consideration in Basrah; and adds that far more is to be said in favour of such a scheme than for the existing press censorship. It proves its case, too, up to the hilt, by quoting a case in which "some ambitious rascals in Basrah" turned the education which they had acquired at a local picture house a week earlier to account in entering, robbing and escaping from a house in quite approved Western ways. Yo ho, my lads, yo ho! Why was not the cinema winking its way in the days when I sailed the seas in pursuit of my former calling. I was never above taking a hint; and I might even have earned an honest *para* by lending myself, my gallant ship and my crew of ruffians (now 'Andante,' 'Ocellus' 'Commentator' and Co.), for a reel or two. Only, after the operator had filmed us all, I should have run him up to the yardarm and got *all* the profits for myself. (Yo ho!) And if 'Andante'—who is an ingenious and adaptable fellow—had learned enough, by watching, to film the final act, so much the greater our profits. And who would pity the 'movieman'?

**Corsair**

## THE NYALA RISING.

The Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan has sent the following telegram to Brig.-General Sir Herbert Jackson in Khartoum.

I have just seen telegram of Oct. 14, from Governor Darfur to Civil Secretary, giving details of action at Nyala. There can be no doubt that the stand made by this small force against overwhelming numbers was not only a very conspicuous achievement in itself but averted what might have been most serious and far reaching consequences. I deplore the loss of so many brave lives, among them McNeill and Chown, whose gallant example inspired the defence. The initiative and presence of mind shown by El Yuzbashi Belal Rizk and Moawin Hassan Mohammed Zien at the critical moment of the action after the death of these British leaders are worthy of the highest praise. When I receive the full written report I shall take steps to bring the action into more prominent notice but in the meanwhile I beg you will convey to all the survivors of the fight my thanks, and express to them my high sense of the results achieved by their courage and devotion to duty.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**Bulgarian Loan Negotiations.**

The statement of M. Tourlakoff, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, in an interview with the Sofia correspondent of *The Times* that he has asked Messrs. Balfour, Beatty and Co. to increase their offer to £4,000,000 suggests that the advantageous character of the proposal—7 per cent., it will be remembered, was asked—has not been overlooked by Bulgaria. The present offer of Messrs. Balfour, Beatty, is for £2,500,000, and the amount to which they are asked to raise it is the same as the offer of the Franco-Belgian group. Should the latter group be successful, Great Britain would apparently still participate, inasmuch as, according to M. Tourlakoff, the loan would be raised equally in France, Belgium, Italy, and England.

**Cotton Freight Settlement.**

Since it was clear, as I pointed out in a recent issue, that there was no longer any real point at issue between the United States Shipping Board and the Liverpool Conference Lines over the Egyptian cotton freights question there was excellent ground for hoping that a settlement of the unfortunate dispute would be reached. This has happily proved to be the case. An official statement was issued last week announcing an agreement on terms satisfactory to both parties. It is believed that the settlement recognises the right of the Shipping Board's claim to participate in the transport of cotton to America, the contract for which had been obtained by the Liverpool Conference Lines, who, however, had expressed their willingness to permit the participation of the Shipping Board.

**Palestine and the Tourist.**

To Palestine as to Egypt the tourist in his numbers is an indispensable factor for economic well-being, a fact which is fully recognised by the authorities there, as will be seen from the memorandum which we publish this week on the development of the tourist traffic which throws an interesting light on the measures that are being taken to make the country attractive to the visitor. In pre-war days the number of tourists in the season often reached 6,000, and in view of the special appeal that Palestine makes to the imagination—an appeal which has been added to enormously as a result of the war—it may be taken for granted that when conditions are more normal that number will be easily passed.

**Competition.**

As to the prospects at the present time it is difficult to write with any confidence. While it is possible for the would-be tourist to enjoy a holiday very cheaply on the Riviera and elsewhere and with the certainty of comfortable conditions it is obvious that, as a result of the handicap under which they labour in consequence of the high rates for steamship passages, centres like Palestine and Egypt will be to some extent neglected unless, as Egypt is doing, special steps are taken to bring the local attractions before the attention of likely visitors. It would appear from the memorandum in question that the Palestine authorities do not fully appreciate the importance of publicity. But it was essential before the war, while now it is either that or a poor season.

**The Rupee.**

At this period of the year the normal tendency should be for the rate of the rupee to harden, but as a matter of fact for some weeks rupee exchange has displayed pronounced weakness, and now stands at the low figure, judged by the new standard, of 1s. 4¼d. It is worth noting that the downward movement has coincided with the great depreciation of the mark. Germany was one of India's most important customers before the war, and had again begun to purchase a certain amount of produce, and it is to be presumed that the weakness of the rupee arises from the anticipation that unless something unexpected happens the German market may be practically closed to her for a long period because of Germany's inability to pay for commodities with the exchanges at their present rates.

**India's Trade Outlook.**

India is admittedly in an unfortunate position as a result of the war for, besides the loss of the German market, other countries of Central Europe and Russia, who were substantial consumers of her produce, are no longer in a position to make purchases. This being so it is evident that the authorities were at least somewhat optimistic in standardising the rupee at 2s. If it does reach that rate it is unlikely to be for a very long time, and in view of the general outlook it would seem at least possible that the rupee may see a lower level than it has yet touched, particularly in view of India's requirements of machinery, and other similar commodities.

**Holidays in Basrah.**

The question of Bank holidays in Busreh is raised in a recent issue of the *Times of Mesopotamia*. The banks mainly obtain their staffs in the district, and the consequence is that they close on all the religious festivals of the various sects. All who have been in the East will appreciate what that means, and the inconvenience to business that is caused. The writer of the article points out that the view is held that the banks should disregard all but very general holidays, and urges that the matter should be placed on a satisfactory basis. "No one

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objects," he says " to the London bank clerk's day off on Easter Monday, because that is a legal holiday. Let us have a few 'legal' holidays in Busrah." Whether the inhabitants, and, in particular, those immediately affected, would take to bank holidays in the sense in which we understand them is a moot point. I fear they would regard a few general holidays as a poor exchange for those they have at present.

**Bengal-Nagpur Railway.**

In his speech at the general meeting of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, the chairman, Mr. Robert Miller, commented on the way in which the traffic of the line had readjusted itself since the war. From this point of view last year's decrease in the gross earnings was, in his opinion, not a matter of importance, particularly in view of the trade depression and the partial failure of the monsoon. As against this decrease expenditure rose, due to the enhanced cost of labour, fuel and upkeep, and the same conditions are operating in the current year it was pointed out, so that unless there should be a great expansion of trade this autumn the next report is not likely to be very much more favourable. Mr. Miller takes a favourable view of the general conditions in India. He emphasised the point that India is a very rich country, with money ready for industrial enterprise, and said that as soon as the world's trade began to improve India would quickly respond to it.

**Commentator.**

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The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended November 12, amounted to £8,883.

Interest on the Six per Cent. First Debentures of the Aboukir Company due December 1 will be paid at the offices of the company on presentation of coupon No. 6.

Reuter's Athens correspondent in a message dated November 19 states that in view of the difference between the official rates and the Smyrna free market resulting in secret transactions on an extensive scale the Consortium has raised the pound to 100 drachmae, the French franc to 181, the dollar to 25, and other currencies accordingly.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Steaua Romana-Societe Anonyme pour l'Industrie du Petrole is to be held in Bucharest on November 30 to authorise the earlier redemption of certain bonds of the company. Shareholders may deposit their shares at Messrs. Stern Brothers, 6, Angel Court, E.C., in connection with the meeting.


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*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)*

**Egypt.**

Glass Panes.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of glass panes during one year. November 28.

Cleaning Articles.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the general supply of cleaning articles such as aprons, brooms, cloths, dusters, polish, soap, etc., for the Ministry of Public Works, during the year 1922-1923. December 5.

Miscellaneous Stores.—The Director-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of ropes, canvas, bunting, oils, paints, and general miscellaneous stores (including asbestos, chemicals, brushes, electric lamps, files, etc., etc.), for the first half of the financial year 1922-23. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt or have a representative in Egypt. December 21. (D.O.T.).

**India.**

Steam Coal.—The Bengal and North-Western Railway invites tenders for the supply of 100,000 tons of steam coal for twelve months beginning April 1 next. Tenders may be submitted for the whole amount or for a portion only. Forms with the specification for the coal are obtainable from the agent for the North-Western Railway, Gorakhpur. December 1.

Axle Boxes etc.—The Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company, invites tenders for the supply of (1) axle-boxes for wagons, (2) steel fish bolts, nuts, and washers, (3) steel dog spikes. (Spec., 10s. each, Secretary, 91, Petty France). December 7.

Stoneware Pipes.—The Madras Corporation invites tenders for the supply and delivery of about 58 miles of stoneware pipes and specials, 4in. to 18in. in diameter. (Spec., 5s., Messrs. James, Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria-street, S.W.1.) January 23.

**Bulgaria.**

Concrete Grain Elevator and Drying Shed.—The Agricultural Bank of Bulgaria gives notice that on February 15, 1922, at 3 p.m., tenders will be examined for the construction at the port of Varna of a concrete grain elevator (capacity 30,000 tons), and drying shed. Tenders should be in the Bulgarian or French languages, and may be submitted for both buildings or for each building. Only such firms as have already undertaken similar construction are eligible. For the grain elevator in particular tenderers must show that they have erected similar buildings of a capacity of not less than 10,000 tons. If the actual tenderer has not done similar work it must be shown that the firm who will erect have done so.

A guarantee of 750,000 leva for the elevator and 150,000 leva for the drying shed must be deposited by all tenderers at the National Bank of Bulgaria or the Agricultural Bank of Bulgaria. The conditions of tender, specifications and plans may be obtained from the Banque Agricole de Bulgarie (Room 39), Sofia, on payment of 500 leva. (D.O.T.).

## YUGOSLAV MARKET FOR PAINT.

Only a small percentage of the paint used in Yugoslavia is sold ready mixed, and of that sold the larger part is manufactured locally, says an American Consular Report. There is no factory at present in the country which manufactures varnish, but one is in course of construct on in Zagreb. Most of the paint materials are imported. Lead white, however, is neither manufactured nor imported to any extent, since its use in paint is now prohibited. Zinc white and lithopone are used, instead of lead white, as paint bases. Zinc white is manufactured by a State-owned and operated factory at Celje, but a larger amount of it is imported. Paint colours are not manufactured locally, but are now imported principally from England, France, and the Netherlands. Some of the linseed oil used is manufactured locally, but most of it is imported, the greater portion coming from the Netherlands, but some is now obtained from Argentina and Brazil. Ready-mixed paints are not imported into Yugoslavia to any great extent at the present time.

According to Reuter's Prague correspondent in a message dated November 13, the following goods, the export of which is permitted without licence or fee, have been added to the export free list:—Syrup (from Sugar), candy-sugar, hops, artificial honey, medicinal and pharmaceutical wafers, coffee substitutes and burnt chicory, cocoa-butter, cocoa-powder, cocoa-pulp, chocolate, chocolate substitutes, chocolate products, preserved fruit, fruit juice, confectionery, sweetmeats, soup-spices (in cubes, etc.), graphite, certain kinds of magnesite etc.

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, November 4.*

**The Financial Crisis.**

A very important public meeting attended by a very large number of merchants and bank representatives, took place last Saturday at the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce, for the purpose of discussing the question of payments in foreign currency at the present very unfavourable rate of exchange. It was decided that in cases where the foreign creditors could not come to an arrangement with local debtors, and intend enforcing payment by legal proceedings, the State should step in and decree a fixed rate of exchange or at least the rate which existed at the time when the order was booked.

It was ascertained that the total amount of merchants' liabilities due in foreign currency represented at the time when the orders were booked about six milliard lei, while to-day, on account of the great depreciation of the leu, they would represent about 20 milliard lei, which sum it is considered materially impossible to be met.

A delegation of the Chamber of Commerce has since submitted the above resolution to the Ministers' Council, who, fully realizing the desperate plight of the merchants, has promised official intervention with the respective foreign Governments to induce their nationals to grant extensions of payment until the rate of exchange improves somewhat.

It is true that a certain number of foreign creditors are granting extensions, but many others, probably in tight straits themselves, are demanding immediate payment.

**The Banca Natiunei.**

The sudden news of the financial embarrassment of the Banca Natiunei, one of the largest banks, though of recent formation, has caused great uneasiness in the financial and commercial circles of Bucharest. This embarrassment was brought about by the fact that the Banca Natiunei's cheques, drawn on their Paris Correspondent, were not honoured. The bank's books are now being checked by experts in order to establish whether it is a case of speculation or due to the adverse rate of exchange.

A momentary panic set in on 'Change, but has been alleviated by the official announcement that the State and the other large banks intend giving their support. It is further rumoured that M. Ghica, the chairman of the Banca Natiunei, who is one of the wealthiest men in the country, is willing to make personal sacrifices in order to save the bank.

**Oil Industry's Progress.**

Roumania's oil industry has shown lately a marked improvement both as regards production and export. Many of the large oil companies have procured with great sacrifices the necessary machinery and purchased material to increase their production work and refinery plants. The electric current, which hitherto was poorly supplied by the Campina Power House, has been supplemented by their own plants with petrol engines.

Recent eruptions of wells belonging to the two leading oil companies, Romano-Americana and Astra Romana, have also largely contributed to the increased daily production, which is now more than 4,000 tons per day. Exports have increased thanks to the reduction of the export tax on petroleum and its by-products, which tax did not allow Roumanian producers to compete on the world markets. Enquiries for Roumanian oil are now growing daily especially for lamp-oil, while the available quantities of petrol are booked for three months ahead.

With regard to prices, in August the price for lamp-oil, f.o.b. Constantza, was 0.80 to 1 lei, per kilo; to-day it has risen to 1.80 to 2 lei. The price for petrol on August was 2 lei per kilo; to-day it is 5 to 6.50 lei.

**The Weather and Autumn Sowings.**

Despite a few rain showers at intervals in different parts of the country the drought is still prevailing. There has been no really heavy rain for almost four months. The soil has become so hard that in many places the plough-shares cannot penetrate into the soil, and in consequence the autumn sowings have been somewhat retarded. The lack of rain has also caused a shortage of fodder, so that farmers are very anxious about their cattle especially with the winter coming on.

**Export of Salt.**

The Roumanian Government has closed a contract to export 20,000 tons of salt to Bulgaria. The price for 5,000 tons is to be 725 lei per ton, and for the remainder 800 lei per ton, delivered at Port Ramadan (Giurgiu).

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*Bucharest, November 12.*

**The Banca Natiunei.**

At first the creditors of the Banca Natiunei were of the opinion that the institution should be saved, despite the alleged guilt of its managers, but since the tragic end of M. Ghica, President of the Bank, the creditors have withdrawn their confidence. Accordingly, the board of directors decided to hand over the books of the bank to the Tribunal and to ask for a six months' moratorium, on the ground that within that period they would be able to cover all liabilities, as some items of their assets represent certain enterprises which are quite prosperous. From a rapid inspection of the books the appointed experts ascertained a deficit of about 100 million lei. It is true that should the leu improve this deficit would correspondingly diminish, so that there is still a chance that the creditors may come into their money.

Two of the principal managers of the bank, M. Stoian and M. Craciun, who have since resigned, are now being cross-examined by the Attorney General, to answer to the indictment of having negotiated foreign cheques without having the corresponding cover in lei. It is further stated that speculation on the part of the bank has largely contributed to the present depreciation of the leu on the Paris Bourse.

**Financial Crisis.**

The financial crisis is the principal topic of the day. What with the continuous drop of the leu and the Banca Natiunei affair, commercial and financial circles are alarmed, and something approaching a small panic took place during the middle of this week. The crisis was made worse by a large number of people withdrawing their deposits from various banks, not knowing how far the other banks are involved in the failure of the Banca Natiunei.

The different Chambers of Commerce of the country have again held a meeting in order to urge the Government to take immediate steps to solve the question of payments due in inflated foreign currencies. The representatives of the principal local banks, at the instance of the Banca Nationala, also met and drafted a memorial putting forward various remedies for the solution of the present economic and financial crisis. This memorial the representatives of the banks then handed to the King, who fully agreed with them and promised his support.

Among the proposals made by the banks are: the consolidation of the Treasury Bonds and floating debt abroad; the abolition of the tax on capital, which would enable Roumanian capital that has found its way abroad to return to the country; the reduction of imports to a minimum for a certain time, in other words, to allow only machinery and raw materials indispensable to the country to be imported; the removal of all export restrictions; and in order to obtain a large external loan that the Government should be less stringent with

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the concessions for the exploitation of the country's riches.

The banks have further demanded that the deposits in lei which foreigners possess at local banks should not be allowed to be used for speculation in exchange. Therefore, a Control Committee has already been appointed to investigate each case of transfer from one bank to another and to allow only such transfers which have as a basis a purely commercial transaction.

M. Titulescu's sudden departure for Paris is in connection with the measures to be taken for the improvement of the rate of exchange and the settlement of other financial questions, with a view to helping the country out of the present *impasse*.

**The Czecho-Slovak Exhibition Train.**

On November 5 the Czecho-Slovak "Sample" train arrived in Bucharest, and was quartered at Filaret Station. This is, for this part of the world, a novel and practical idea for the exhibition of Czecho-Slovak products. The train consists of 20 carriages, of which 15 are fitted out with samples of a very large variety, including agricultural machinery, cement presses, circular saws, brewing appliances, household and kitchen utensils, guns, sanitary installations, building material, glass and glassware, cutlery, fancy goods, optical instruments, products of sugar and chocolate factories, boots and shoes, textiles, motor-cycles etc.

The train has so far visited Oradia-Mare and Cluj, and orders aggregating 12 million Czecho-Slovak kronen have already been booked. From Bucharest the train will proceed to Bulgaria, and will return from there *via* Galatz, Jassy, Chernovitz and Poland to Prague.

**Miscellaneous.**

The Ministry of Communications has closed a contract with the German firm, Henschel and Son, of Cassel, for the purchase of thirty locomotives, Pacific type, at the price of 4,300,000 German marks each.

The Ministry of Finance has been authorized to dispose of the 2,800 kilograms of gold, which it has in stock in the Treasury vaults. Most likely this stock of gold will be bought by the Banca Nationala.

A mission headed by M. C. Teianu, Chief of the Public Debt Department, left last Friday for Berne to carry out the final formalities in connection with the Swiss loan recently concluded by M. Titulescu. This mission is accompanied by a delegate each of the War Office and of the Post Office Department for the purpose of purchasing the necessary material for their respective departments, in accordance with the stipulations of the Swiss Loan.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, November* 14.

**The Rate of the Leva.**

Although one cannot write encouragingly about the rate of the leva, there are at any rate some grounds for consolation in the fact that up to the present there have been no signs of a headlong downfall as has been the case with the German mark. At the time of writing the rate on London is 750 levas, and 70 levas equal 100 marks. The Government have not taken any steps to arrest the fall, because, as they point out, the artificial measures adopted in Greece and Roumania have not been productive of any efficacious results.

Almost every banker or business man has his own particular theory as to the depreciation of the leva, but all agree that the continued excess of imports over exports is one of the chief influences. Whether the new scale of import taxes that is at present under consideration will check this excess remains to be seen, but it would appear that a whole-hearted encouragement of exports is the means most calculated to make exports and imports equal each other. The export of cereals is free, but notwithstanding there are a certain amount of restrictions and obstructions put in the way of the grain merchant when he wants to export. The lack of railway waggons is one difficulty, the occasional stopping of export for a period of a week to ten days is another, and as a prominent wheat merchant said to me the other day, "By abolishing the Consortium, we have stepped out of the frying pan into the fire. With the Consortium in existence one at least knew the difficulties that one had to encounter, whilst now they spring up unexpectedly from all sides." This hindrance of the export trade, and particularly the grain trade, is always explained away by the argument that if too much export takes place, the price of bread will rise. On the assumption that this argument is correct, there is another side to the question, and that is, that the less export there is the more will the value of the leva fall, and the purchasing value will also diminish. Thus the cost of living is bound to become dearer, and nothing will have been gained by holding large stocks of grain in the country which will probably command a poorer price abroad next year.

**The Czecho-Slovak "Sample" Train.**

The Czecho-Slovakian "Sample" train has arrived at Varna from Roumania, and will shortly proceed to Sofia.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, November* 9.

**The Exchange.**

In spite of the strenuous efforts of the banks and Chambers of Commerce in Constantinople to "bear" it, the rate of exchange still hovers around Ps.750 for sterling, aad there are very few who do not believe that the rate will bound up another Ps.100 very shortly and fail to come down again. Importers have somewhat recovered from their despair now that prices of all commodities have increased correspondingly (and a little more of course) to the rise in the rate of exchange.

*Smyrna, November* 12.

**Embargo on Grain Removed.**

The Greek authorities have now removed the embargo on the transport of grain from Ouchak, and six waggons of barley have reached Smyrna.

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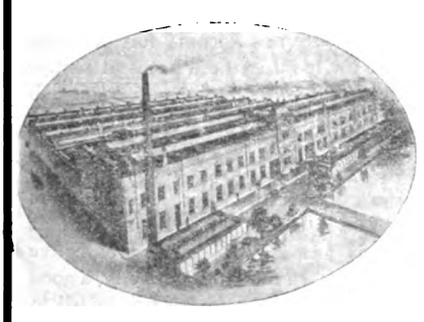
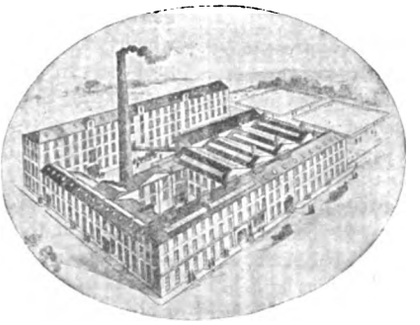
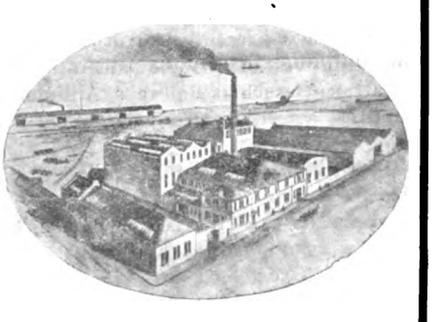

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## PALESTINE AS A TOURIST RESORT

### Provision of Facilities.

At a meeting of the Advisory Council of the High Commissioner of Palestine on November 1, a memorandum was read on the question of the development of the tourist traffic. We give the following extracts :—

In the days before the war, notwithstanding the difficulties of access and entry, the primitive methods of transportation, the scarcity of communications, the lack of hotels and inns, and the discomforts of those that existed, there was a constant influx of tourists into Palestine, the main season extending from February to April, and the numbers during the year often reached six thousand. In addition to tourists, there must be reckoned the mass of pilgrims, often no fewer than twenty thousand, drawn hither by the fervour of religious impulses and whose sojourn contributed appreciably to the prosperity of the inhabitants.

The war interposed a gap of almost five years during which no tourists visited the country. The devastation of a long campaign, culminating in the destructive retreat of the Turks, inflicted upon those who gained a livelihood from tourist traffic, crippling losses, recovery from which was, of necessity, a very slow process.

The first enterprises of the Civil Government tended towards the improvement of Palestine in aspects which would render it more inviting to the traveller, viz. : the remaking of old and construction of new roads, the extension of the railway system, the reorganisation of the Police Force, of Quarantine, of Customs control. Private initiative was also working to the same end, for example in the wide use of hired motor transport, the renovation of hotels, the opening of tea gardens and cinema-theatres ; and the work of the Pro-Jerusalem Society, which does in fact receive direct Government assistance, in preserving the picturesqueness of the Walled City, and in promoting native arts and crafts, deserves special commendation.

The operation of the Department of Antiquities, too, are of immense value, for archaeological museums and excavations, historical sites and monuments *in situ* are a source of inexhaustible interest to visitors. Individuals have been resuming, in so far as exceptional post-war conditions permitted, the conduct of the trade, manufacture or calling ancillary to the tourist traffic, in which they formerly engaged.

But a more direct stimulus needs to be applied if Palestine is to be equipped within and advertised without to the desired degree of completeness and efficacy. The difficulties in the way of rapid and efficient action are many, and the greatest of these is the world wide financial stringency, which has tied the hands of many who are anxious to establish new facilities for tourists and cater in more adequate manner for their tastes and requirements and purses, and has delayed the Government Loan by the help of which it was hoped to accomplish many public works of a nature calculated to make things smoother for tourists, their conductors, and their hosts. The situation has been further complicated by abnormal political conditions which have reacted adversely on the investment of outside capital in local undertakings, retarded the ordinary rehabilitation of the country from all aspects, and may have proved a deterrent and discouragement to the intending tourists.

Notwithstanding, the advance bookings through tourists offices and through the agencies of the Palestine Railways indicate that for the coming season as many as 4,000 tourists may be expected. The Administration desires to provide as many facilities as are possible in the immediate present both for the companies who organise the tours and for the tourists themselves.

A meeting was recently held in Jerusalem at which were present representatives of the Administration, particularly of those Departments, such as Railways, Antiquities, and Commerce and Industry, which are closely interested in the tourist question, and of the tourist agencies which are represented in Jerusalem. The figures furnished at this meeting made it clear that sufficient accommodation was available in all the main centres likely to be visited by tourists, viz. : Jerusalem, 650 beds ; Tiberias and environs 400 ; Nazareth, 65 ; Haifa, 60 ; Jaffa and Tel Aviv, 120 ; Nablus, 30 ; Safed, 30 ; while the larger Jewish Colonies have small but adequate hotels. It was agreed that the provision of more elaborate and more modern hotel accommodation in the future was entirely a matter for private enterprise.

The advertising of Palestine, as the Administration can at present effect it, is being done from the publicity department of the Railways, which has the opportunity of reaching the attention of would-be visitors through the medium of similar railways bureaus which work in co-operation with it. It was felt that, combined with the Railway Company, the wide advertising of Messrs. Cook and Co., and other tourist organisations was doing as much as was for the moment required to present to the public at large the appeal of Palestine.

With respect to direct simplification of travel and entry to Palestine, it has already been arranged that tourists will enjoy the benefit of the notification system of quarantine, which will be in operation in Palestine by January, 1922. By this system the daily reporting to the Public Health Offices will be unnecessary for the individual tourist, group reporting alone by the dragoman or agent being required, and it may be found possible also to allow first-class passengers at all times to report themselves by some form of proxy. Customs formalities will be operated in such a manner as to involve the minimum of inconvenience and delay, and this information has been circulated abroad with the object of acquainting all who might be interested with the method now adopted.

The difficulties of visas and the scrutiny of passports will be considerably lessened, and negotiations are in hand with the French and Syrian Authorities with a view to modifying and accelerating the procedure necessary to travel from Palestine to Syria and vice versa. The Public Works Department are paying particular attention to the repair of such roads which are of special importance as tourist travel routes. Landing charges in the ports have been abolished. The Wakf Committee has been approached with a request to throw open, in so far as is possible, to tourists, those places of interest which are under its control.

A discussion followed the reading of the memorandum. Mr. Eisenberg said the Government might be congratulated on the fine lead it had given in this matter. As an old resident of Palestine he knew how much life was introduced by the tourist movement. Besides the ordinary attractions for tourists, there was also the important health asset of the hot-springs in Tiberias, which are known all over the world, but it was not so generally known that there were also hot-springs in Judea, Galilee, and Trans-Jordania near the boundary. These springs had excellent health-giving properties, and there were few in any part of the world that could compete with them, but they were in such a neglected and abandoned state that not only could they not be expected to attract tourists from abroad, but they were not even used by Palestinians. If reconstruction was carried out, there was no reason why they should not become popular resorts. If the Government would grant facilities, funds might be secured from some of the banks, either by private individuals, or companies, to undertake the work of renovation and restoration.

Mr. Kalverisky said that the stories of insecurity deterred tourists from coming to Palestine. There were perhaps some people who, for political reasons, were interested in spreading such rumours. The truth was that security reigned in the country particularly in comparison with conditions prevailing in neighbouring countries. It would be wise for the Government, or individuals, to make the truth known in this respect through the medium of the Press.

Sir Wyndham Deedes remarked that the Director of Public Health had stated that the medicinal properties of the waters at Tiberias were as good as anywhere. Baths in this country could probably be run at a profit all the year round ; in the spring from the patronage of visitors from all over the world, and for the rest of the year from that of Palestinians and Syrians. He doubted whether the baths were being fully exploited to-day, which was a pity. If private enterprises came forward with proposals to the Government for making these baths attractive to tourists, the Government would meet them more than half way. He quite agreed that it was essential that public security in the country must be such as not to deter people from coming to Palestine. The Committee referred to in the memorandum, over which he presided, had considered this aspect of the question and had felt they were justified in causing it to be known that there was nothing under this heading to debar prospective tourists from coming to Palestine. In regard to publicity, a good deal had been carried out during this year, and it was hoped to do more in the next .

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# Engineering Topics.

## FURTHER EXHIBITS AT THE MOTOR SHOW.

Amongst the light cars one of the most interesting was the A.C., in chassis, all weather body, sports model, and coupé form, in the 11.8. h.p. size. The 15 h.p. was shown as a stripped chassis and also fitted with a 2-seater body.

Amongst the heavier propositions, the Metallurgique people were showing an 18 h.p., 4-cylinder chassis as well as their 14 h.p. in stripped chassis, with tourer and all weather bodies.

I find I have missed dealing fully with the Wolseley productions, and I am afraid a detailed description of these must be reserved for a future date. The 15 and 20 h.p. models are thoroughly sound pieces of work, but the chief interest at the stand of this firm was undoubtedly centred in the new 7 h.p. proposition, with 2-cylinder water-cooled engine. This was closely examined, and a large number of orders were booked.

Those in search of a good body builder must have found plenty to interest them in the work of the Cunard people who make a large number of Napier bodies. Their products represent a very high stage of the coach-builders' art.

Messrs. H. J. Mulliner and Co., of Chiswick, were also showing some striking examples of the highest class of body building. There was a fine coupé on a Napier chassis, a sports torpedo on a Delage, and a beautifully finished all weather cabriolet body as a 19.6 h.p. Crossley.

From my notes I see that I intended to say something nice about the products of the British Lighting and Ignition Co., Ltd. The Blic lighting, starting, and ignition equipments are not only British made but British designed.

The Moss Gear Co., another Birmingham firm, were showing spiral bevel driven back axles, light axles, gear boxes with various speeds, and a good deal of gearing, including differentials and bevels.

The Stanley steam car with a 23-inch vertical fire tube boiler, giving a Treasury rating of 16.5 horse-power, has a twin cylinder double acting engine with D-slide valves and Stephenson link motion. Many years ago I had some little experience with the White and also the Serpollet steam cars. I never tried the Stanley, and so cannot speak as to its performance on the road.

The Albert, with 4-cylinder engine rated at 11.9 horsepower, which was also shown, is a thoroughly sound proposition. I was struck by the smart appearance of the all weather body. I should imagine Messrs. Gwynnes Engineering Co. must be rather proud of this production which is on thoroughly sound engineering lines.

I was also struck with the 40-h.p. 8-cylinder Leyland car, which has a Treasury rating of 39.9. It was shown in sporting chassis, and in saloon and in 5-seater touring bodies by Vanden Plas. They are very fine productions and well finished, but in my opinion the price asked was rather too high.

The Ogston Motor Co. have quite a good thing in the Deemster. Some day I would like to go over the Ogston Works at Acton, and see the Deemster assembled. It is a good road car, and has also shown what it can do on the track.

The Singer and the Coventry Premier, which were shown in various models with 15, 10, and 8 h.p. engines respectively, are each thoroughly good little cars, and the man on the look out for a reliable car at a cheap price might do worse than spend a little time inspecting these productions.

Bentley and Bentley, Ltd., were showing the D.F.P., Treasury rating 12.1 h.p. The sporting 4-seater is a neat and really high class looking car, as also is the all-weather coupe. Every exhibit on this stand was quite up to what one has come to expect from the exhibitors.

Vandy's Ltd. were showing the S.P.A., of which I have had such good things to say at various times. The S.P.A. doesn't seem to have been heard of quite so much lately. It was at the White City, however, in chassis, and with all weather and touring bodies. There is a 4, and also a 6-cylindered engined S.P.A.

I was glad to see the Chenard-Walcker 15 h.p. at the White City. One of my earliest motoring recollections is connected with a Chenard Walcker car, an obnoxious bridge, and a very muddy stream, all weeds. There is no need to go into details. They put the bridge back all right. I was unable to examine the 4-seater torpedo model as I would have liked, but hope to have an opportunity of doing so at a later date.

The bodywork of the Regent Carriage Co., as shown on a 6-cylinder Napier and other chassis was of an extremely high order. The crimson Morocco leather on the first named was of the finest quality I have ever seen used even for such work, and the firm are to be congratulated on the excellence of their handycraft.

I was interested in the Jeavons spring gaiter shown by Messrs. Ramsdens (Halifax) Ltd., which is a patent cover, constant spring lubricator, and protector. It provides means for adequate and efficient lubrication, and, in the form of a gaiter, fits neatly and closely round the spring from the V-bolt to the shackle. The firm also supply a special lubricant for use with this device.

I think I have dealt with Road Guides, Ltd., in these columns some little time ago. The exhibit in the White City thoroughly demonstrated the elasticity of the tape service, and the standard mileometer on view came in for very favourable comments. I may have more to say regarding the practical utility of the Road Guides' productions.

R. D. Nicol and Co., Ltd. were showing their "Dragon-fly" oils which I have personally tested and found of excellent quality. In my opinion they are quiet suitable for the purposes for which they are offered.

### Cable Tyres.

The Michelin cover just placed on the market under the name of the Cable is certainly a very fine production, and one which, in my view, will enhance considerably the high reputation of the firm. It is larger in section than an ordinary canvas cover for a given air space, and must therefore be fitted on a rim of its own dimensions. In the building up of the cover an entirely new process is used. The warp consists of a number of stout threads of high grade cotton, which, after impregnation with dissolved india-rubber, are twisted together into cord, or small cable form. The woof is designed on rather different lines and there is no chafing of the warp and woof which is the real cause of the heat set up in tyres during fast running. This chafing by the way is more pronounced when the tyres run in an under-inflated condition. One of the things few motorists seem to understand is that the harder a tyre is pumped up the longer it will last.

OAKEY'S WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH.
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks 1d., 2d., and 4d. 1s. Boxes.
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d. 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers,
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in steady demand at unchanged rates. West Indian crystallized is the same at 38s. to 40s., while Czecho-Slovakian has gained 9d. at 20s. 6d. White Java is the same at 47s.

Coffee.—The market has been steady. Costa Rica and Indian are unchanged at 130s. and 112s. respectively, while Nairobi is quoted at 105s. Futures are :—December, 47s. 9d. ; March, 48s. 9d. ; May, 49s. ; July, 49s. ; and September, 49s.

Oilseeds.—A weak tone has prevailed. Indian linseed at 16s. 9d. has gained 3d., while La Plata has remained the same at 15s. Rapeseed is lower with Toria eighteenpence down at 16s. 9d., and brown Cawnpore 3d. lower at 17s. 6d. Cottonseed is unsteady. Indian at 9s. is unaltered, while Sakellaridis has shed 1s. 9d. at 11s., but Egyptian black has risen 3d. to 13s. 3d.

Seed Oils.—Prices are lower. Linseed has shed 1s. at 26s. 6d., while for November-December 25s. 6d. is quoted, and for January April 26s. Rape oil has been firm, the crude variety at 48s. and refined at 53s. both remaining unchanged. Cotton oil has been quiet, refined common edible being 1s. down at 50s. Egyptian crude at 38s., is 5s. lower and deodorised at 50s. has lost 2s. Turpentine is 3d. up at 68s. 9d.

Oilcakes—The market has been brisk. Linseed cake has shown an improvement of 10s. at 200s., and cottonseed cake has gained a like amount at 170s. Arachis cake at 230s. is 10s. up, as also palm kernal at 120s.

## OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows under date November 5 :—

Our last report was dated September 19, since when 193 cases changed hands at Ps.700 to Ps.1,050, per oke according to quality and morphia render. The equivalent in sterling per lb. of above piastre prices solely depends upon the exchange, which during the past seven to eight weeks fluctuated from Ps.550 per pound sterling to Ps. 575, then down again to Ps.550, then followed a continual rise for two weeks, which reached the unprecedented figure of Ps.895. Since a week ago, however, we have had a drop again down to Ps.700, and now it is about Ps.755 for first class cheque and 0.52 dollars for one Turkish pound. Our quotations stand to-day as follows :—Fine selected Carahissar, 8s. 9d. to 9s. 3d. per lb. C.I.F. ; current low grades, 7s. 6d. to 8s. per lb. C.I.F. ; fine selected Yerlis, 10s. to 12s. per lb. C.I.F. This season's crop it is presumed will not exceed 1,200 cases of 160 lb. per case. The arrivals are c/s 670 against c/s 597 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 1,349.

## TRADE DEPRESSION IN BULGARIA.

The Bulgarska Banka in its report dated November 1 states :—

Trade continues to be at a standstill. A very marked abstentim on the part of consumers because of the dearness of living is to be noted. The moratorium liabilities have not yet been regulated. The payment of English debts present great difficulties, and English merchants are very anxious that payment should be facilitated. The British Government is going to send a high official here to deal with the question.

Imports are more and more limited ; materials for construction, metals, machinery, and produce predominate. The taxes on exports, the lack of railway rolling stock, and the low prices on foreign markets constitute serious obstacles to the export trade. In general, exports are small : skins, attar of roses, and seeds cannot find a market. The export of cereals is not very large. Merchants buy in the interior market, and warehouse the grain waiting for better times. The Centrale des Devises has fixed the rate of levy for exporters as follows (in levas per kilo) :—Wheat 5, oats 5, rye 6, maize 6, beans 7, lentils 8, peas 5.

Tobacco.—Enquiries are again being made in Germany, Roumania, and Holland. In Greece and Turkey the crop is worse than that of the past year. This state of things and the depreciation of the exchange should facilitate exports.

Attar of Roses.—There have been scarcely any transactions. The price is round about 80 levas per *mouscale*. Orders from France and England at steady prices are reported, but at the moment there are no stocks ready for export.

## ROUMANIA'S GRAIN STOCKS.

The Bucharest newspaper, the *Orient* gives figures stated to have been procured from the Statistical Department of the Roumanian Ministry of Agriculture regarding the estimated surplus for export from this year's harvest of some of the principal grains. According to this estimate the surplus of wheat, rye, and barley, and oats is 1,400,000 tons. The surplus of maize available for export is not estimated as the time has not yet come for such estimates to be made with any prospect of even approximate accuracy. The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Bucharest in forwarding the above to the Department of Overseas Trade as an indication of the position draws attention to the fact that the export of wheat and rye is in the hands of the Government. It must also be remembered that these estimates do not take into consideration whatever surplus there may have been still available for export from the harvest of 1920.

The Watson and Youell Shipping Agency, of Constantza report as follows under date November 7 :—

No grain shipments for the United Kingdom and the Continent have so far been effected this season, but steamers for these destinations are expected this month from the Danube to complete loading at our port and occasionally there have been shipments to Constantinople and Smyrna. Exporters are however looking forward to doing a fair business this winter when navigation on the Danube is closed and the Cernavoda Bridge will have been repaired. The rails are now being laid across it, and it is stated on competent authority that it will be open for traffic by the end of this month.

At the end of October the visible stocks of grain at various towns in the Dobruja including Constantza, Baltchik, and Carvarna, were as follows (in tons) :—Barley, 20,290 ; oats, 1,050; maize, 950 ; milletseed, 250 ; beans, 12,800 ; rapeseed, 5.750 ; mustard seed, 190 ; wheat, 4,100 ; rye, 840 ; flour, 1,300 ; total, 47,520 tons.

In a later report dated November 10, the Agency state that the long drought has broken at last, and that during the previous 48 hours heavy rain had fallen, which as far as they could ascertained at the time of writing had been general all over the country They add that there was every indication of a further downfall. In any case they considered that it had been enough to moisten the soil sufficiently to permit of field work being continued.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 5 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 144,320 bags as compared with 79,925 for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 134,320 bags as against 69,925 bags for last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 10,000 bags as against the same amount for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 167,000 loads as compared with 154,000 loads last year. The total estimated sales amount to 165,000 loads as against 154,000 loads for 1920, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 2,000 loads as compared with 3,000 loads.

Shipments.—The s.s. Borodino for London and Hull has on board 78,934 boxes sultanas, 491 cases figs, 1,505 boxes figs, and 10,696 bags figs. The s.s. Gulf of Suez for Liverpool has on board 37,410 boxes sultanas, 235 cases figs, 220 boxes figs, and 3,686 bags figs. The s.s. City of Smyrna for London, the s.s. Luque for Bristol, Liverpool, and Glasgow are loading and sailing about November 15.

Markets.—Sultanas are firmer with upward tendency, dealers owing to uncertainties of exchange and the depreciation of Turkish currency, preferring to hold their stocks until outlook becomes clearer. Demand absorbed 500 tons over the week. Stocks of figs are practically exhausted. Last year at this time some 20 to 25,000 bags existed up country, and supplied all requirements into the spring months. Existencies this year are practically *nil*, and business may be considered at an end for the season. A few stocks in shippers' hands are held pending shipment against outstanding engagements. Exchanges are ruling at a lower level, having at one moment declined to 710 with a subsequent recovery to 740-745.

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## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon: (Continental), 127s. cwt.; (Canadian), 94s. cwt.; (American), 85s. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 261s. cwt.; (Australian), 160s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 192s. cwt.; cheese: (Canadian), 97s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 90s. cwt.; lard, 76s. 7½d. cwt.; eggs: (Danish), 37s. 6d. per 120; (Styrian), 24s. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 7¾d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee: (Costa Rica), 152s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha, longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 60s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs, (110's to 80's), 11d. lb.; pepper, (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 8d. lb.; pimento, 2¼d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 145s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 125s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 74s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 53s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 55s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 49s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 3d. cwt.; (West India crystallized), 40s. 6d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 10s. 3d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 17s. 3d. cwt.; rice: (Rangoon, No. 2); 18s. 9d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £6 7s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 2s. 9d.; (medium to good), 1s. 7d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8d. lb.; wheat (English white), 49s. 6d. qr.; (La Plata, ex ship), 82s. qr.; (Australian), 51s. 9d. qr.; barley (malting), 60s. 6d. qr.; barley (feeding), 39s. qr.; oats (English), 31s. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 25s. 4½d. qr.; (mixed American), 33s. qr.; maize (La Plata), 32s. qr.; flour, 46s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £37 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £66 11s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £75 ton; gold bars, 104s. 6d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 110s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 126s. 3d. ton; galvanized sheets (24G), £18 10s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 18s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 40s. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 382s. 6d. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £9 17s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 39s. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 1s. 3d. ton; tin (standard), £158 2s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 12s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 21s. 9d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 60s. cwt.; oxalic, 9d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 5d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £14 17s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £39 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 120s. cwt.; Potassium: Bi-chromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 6d. lb.; caustic, £31 10s. ton; nitrate, £40 ton; permanganate, 1s. 1d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2¼d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 10s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 10s. ton; bi-chromate, 6¾d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 15s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1,260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 4s. 0½d oz.; red lead, £38 5s. ton; white dry lead, £41 5s. ton; white ground lead, £50 17s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £29 15s. ton; sulphate of iron, 80s. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 8¼d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs. 7¾d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6¼d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7.1-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs. 7d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5¾d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6¼d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6¼d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5.5-8d. lb.; (second), 4¼d. lb.; Kips (first), 6¾d. lb.; (second), 5¼d. lb.; (third), 3¼d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows); Agras, 7 to 12; Durbhangas, 4.8 to 6; Patnas, 4.8 to 6.; Salted cows, 3 to 6.8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 5. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 250 to 280 per 100 pieces; Bombay Market:—Dressed buffs, 10 to 14 annas per lb.; dressed cows, 10 to 14 annas per lb.; goat and sheepskins, 1.4 to 1.12 rupees per lb.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton: (American), 11.29d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 19.52d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £14 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £17 7s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £17 15s. ton. Oils: Linseed, £27 12s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £78 10s. ton; palm, £36 17s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £48 10s. ton; soya, £34 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £43 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £42 10s. ton; ground nut, £49 ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 11¼d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11¼d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 2d. lb.

## AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

*ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.*

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

**118. Well known Sports Goods House with factory in India, wish to appoint Agents in Near and Middle East where not at present represented.**

## NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is anticipated that there will be an excellent almond crop this year in Morocco.

Experiments in Ceylon have shown that tractors are very useful on coconut plantations.

The Bombay and Baroda Railway are taking 50,000 tons of coal from Wales and 25,000 from Durham.

It is reported that a rich oil well has been struck at Egbell, in Slovakia, where a new boring produced a spurt 250ft. high.

The export of hops from Czecho-Slovakia has been entirely released as from November 11, no fee whatever being payable.

It is officially stated that the Customs duty on tea and coffee imported into Czecho-Slovakia will not be increased in the new tariff.

It is proposed to create a free zone near the port of Galatz for merchandise to be entered in bond to cover an area of about 100 hectares.

From January to September this year Algeria's imports from Great Britain included 194,290 tons of coal, 406 tons of tar, and 18,006 tons of general merchandise.

Exports from Yugoslavia during the first quarter of 1921 amounted to 569,000,000 dinars in value, against 228,000,000 in the first quarter of 1920.

The Bank of British West Africa Limited, announce an interim dividend to September 30, of three per cent., less income tax, payable December 1.

It is understood that the Anchor Line have instructed Messrs. Alex Stephen and Sons, Glasgow, to resume construction of the new vessel, California.

The Roumanian Electra Company is reported to have given large orders for transformers, high-tension plants, &c., to the Siemens-Schuckert works in Berlin.

Traffic at the port of Casablanca amounted to 50,387 tons in September, of which 34,070 tons represent exports, chiefly of cereals. In August the total was 41,372 tons.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields—Gemsah output for week ended November 11, 53 tons (previous week 58 tons). Hurghada—Week ended November 11, 3,629 tons (previous week 3,762 tons).

It is announced that from January 1, 1922, the maximum draught of water permitted for ships passing through the Suez Canal will be increased from 30 feet (the present maximum) to 31 feet.

A convention has been signed by the leading German, Czech, and Slovak textile associations, according to which the sale and payment for goods of the whole Czecho-Slovak textile industry will be unified, except in the case of carpets, rugs, and ladies' material.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that at a recent meeting of the Conseil du Gouvernement the Acting Director of Information announced that regulations governing transactions in land in zones where local tribal customs were acknowledged to prevail were under consideration, and that, pending their publication, Europeans would be unable to acquire such property in those zones.

The first indigo forecast for 1921-22 of the Indian Department of Statistics, shows that the total area sown is estimated at 237,300 acres, which is 31 per cent. above the estimate at the corresponding date of last year. The total yield of dye is at present estimated at 41,000 cwt. (excluding 1,500 cwt. reported by Bombay and Sind), as against 24,800 cwt., the revised estimate at this time last year.

Owing to the continued military activities by the Turkish Nationalists in Anatolia, and the attendant disturbed political conditions, the tobacco crop of Samsoun and Baffra will be smaller this year than ever before (says a recent American Consular Report). The normal crop in these districts is about 16,000,000 lb. The 1921 crop, however, will not exceed 4,000,000 lb. or a reduction of 75 per cent. as compared to normal years and 50 per cent. as compared with the crop of 1920.

H.M. Consul at Damascus recently furnished a list of articles in favourable demand in his district, and asked for copies of the catalogues issued by United Kingdom manufacturers of these goods. He now informs the Department of Overseas Trade that the response to his request was gratifying, and adds to the list of goods drapery, haberdashery, bed linen, etc., catalogues of which—*if possible with price indications*—will be useful to him in his efforts to stimulate a demand among local buyers. Such catalogues should be addressed direct to H.M. Consul, British Consulate, Damascus.

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# Cotton & Cotton Goods.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester, Saturday.*

The tone of the market during the past week has decidedly been the worst we have experienced since the slump in the cotton industry commenced. With the fluctuations in raw cotton rates prices have fallen away, and even some ridiculously low offers have not tempted buyers. There appears to be no bottom to quotations. More machinery is gradually being brought to a standstill, and there is now a greater possibility of short time working in the spinning section being adopted. With regard to the cloth demand for Egypt only a few small sales have resulted. The financial position out there is stated not to be all that could be desired. Buyers for the Levant and Constantinople have operated within very small limits, and the amount of orders booked have been practically unworkable. Quotations for Egyptian yarns on the week are distinctly easier. Weak sellers have predominated, and it has been possible to purchase requirements at much below the present market values. Only a small piece goods demand has been about for India with a few occasional sales chiefly in light cloths. Buyers for Java and Singapore have not been altogether idle. Discouraging advices have been received from China, and the tightness of money is stated to be very acute. Sales have been few and far between. South America has been extremely dull. In the American yarn section prices have been a great deal easier, and spinners are at their wits end as to how to meet the situation. Export numbers have been practically entirely neglected. With regard to the future course of events it cannot be stated that the market is in a very hopeful mood. No real movement towards freer buying is anticipated until after the new year. The outlook for the cotton operatives in Lancashire is very gloomy.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date November 16 :—

Yet another disappointing week has been experienced, and as we write the trade outlook is anything but cheerful. Prices again display a downward tendency, and seem to be entirely ruled by " futures," which, to-day, after a comparatively steady week, have shown a considerable decline. The small enquiry has been of a fairly general character, white cotton and Sudan again claiming their share of attention. A certain amount of re-cleaned cotton is finding its way on to our market, both Sakellaridis and Upper descriptions, and in some cases it is even being sold as, and entering into competition with, the ordinary " straight " cotton. It may interest shippers of this re-cleaned cotton to know that it has been decided that it is not tenderable against Liverpool contracts.

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Lack of confidence seems to be the keynote, and after to-day's market, one cannot wonder at it. Here and there an opinion is voiced that the market has touched bottom, but little business seems to follow. Yarns are dragging, and the basis continues to weaken. It was reported in Manchester a few days ago that a very large line of cloth had been booked for India—the first important business which has been done for a very long time with that much " agitated " country. This cloth, it was reported, is manufactured from Egyptian yarn. A " bonne bouch" also fell to Liverpool, one large firm of spinners buying a fair line of cotton to-day—for forward delivery. Apart from this c.i.f. business has ruled quiet. The Master Spinners' Federation, which met yesterday, decided to take a ballot of users of American, cotton, with the object of curtailing production by 50 per cent. to the end of the year. It is somewhat doubtful whether a sufficient majority will be obtained to sanction this measure. No action is to be taken with regard to the Egyptian section. It is an unfortunate fact, however, that a certain amount of machinery is already idle, and there is likely to be more still unless a speedy improvement in trade takes place. We can only repeat that at the moment the immediate outlook is not a cheerful one. Total sales 1,300 bales (includes 130 Sudan). Quotations on the week show a reduction of 75 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 21,00d.

## BRITISH COTTON EXPORTS.

### Comparative Figures.

The recently published official return relating to the trade of the United Kingdom shows that during October this year cotton yarns and manufactures shipped abroad amounted to £16,523,873 compared with £32,306,455 for October last year, and £11,315,806 in October 1913. For the ten months to the end of October the figures are: 1921, £145,584,445; 1920, £341,642,617; and 1913, £106,223,007. The total of £145,584,445 for the ten months ending October is made up as follows :—Cloth, £112,334,364 ; yarn, £18,619,754 ; finished thread etc., £14,630,327.

Owing to the wide fluctuations in values during the past few years the only real basis of comparison is that of quantities. The shipments of yarn during October were larger than these for any other month this year, the figure being 18,644,800 lb., against 10,376,500 lb. in October, 1920, and 19,959,100 lb. in 1913. For the period of ten months to the end of October however, the aggregate of 109,237,400 lb. is less than for the corresponding period of 1920, when the total was 128,824,200 lb. and much lower than the 1913 figure which was 174,720,800 lb. Sixteen markets show decreased takings so far this year compared with last year, and the more important of these are France 11,097,000 lb., United States, 6,383,000 lb., Netherlands, 5,049,000 lb., Belgium 4,767,000 lb., Sweden, 3,557,000 lb., Turkey, 3,412,000 lb., Denmark, 1,727,000 lb., Norway, 1,593,000 lb. and Canada, 1,183,000 lb. The following five markets took larger quantities, Roumania 5,829,000 lb., Germany 5,566,000 lb., Bombay, 3,349,000 lb., Bengal, 1,752,000 lb., and Bulgaria 1,499,000 lb.

The statistics concerning the export of cloth are less encouraging than those relating to yarn. Although in this case also the October shipments of 342,411,500 square yards were greater than those for any previous month this year, and in addition show an improvement on those for October last year when the figures were 304,911,900 square yards, the drop compared with the 1913 total of 630,937,100 yards is considerable. A clearer idea of the fall however, is obtained from a glance at the comparative figures for the period of ten months to the end of October In 1913, 5,981,216,000 square yards were shipped; for 1920 the total was 3,845,589,000 square yards. This year the figure is as low as 2,208,752,600 square yards. So far this year compared with last no less than forty-three outlets have reduced their consumption. The chief declines in square yards are Bombay 277,388,000, China 237,868,000, Turkey 184,303,000, Egypt 117,420,000, British West Africa 77,531,000, Straits Settlements 59,147,000, Argentine Republic 58,054,000, United States, 58,024,000, Sweden 53,343,000, Dutch East Indies 50,814,000, Burma 45,972,000, and Colombia and Panama 43,393,000. In a few instances increased takings are recorded and these are Roumania 14,773,000, Bengal 12,326,000, Morocco 12,001,000, Germany 3,725,000. and Mexico 1,839,000.

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## COMPANY MEETINGS.

### Bengal Nagpur Railway.

The sixty-third ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Ltd., was held on November 16 at Gresham House, Old Broad-street, E.C., Mr. Robert Miller (the Chairman) presiding.

Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., (Managing Director), read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the gross earnings for the year under review were Rs. 6,42,56,227 as compared with Rs. 6,57,56,972 for the previous year. The stockholders might consider it extremely fortunate that on the cessation of warlike operations the traffic of the railway had readjusted itself so well as to maintain and, indeed, slightly to improve on the immense stride in the volume of gross earnings which was reached during the war. From this point of view the break in progressive increase of gross earnings was not a matter of importance, especially when they bore in mind the existing world-wide disorganisation and slackness of trade, and also the fact that during a portion of the year there was a partial failure of the Indian monsoon, which resulted in conditions of considerable scarcity in the tracts affected, and especially in the normally very productive Central Provinces through which the railway ran.

The working expenses during the year were Rs.4,24,08,509, and absorbed 65 per cent. of the gross earnings, as compared with Rs. 3,84, 96, 350, absorbing 58.54 per cent. of gross earnings in the previous year. They were now making good, in larger annual instalments and at a greatly increased cost, the renewals of permanent way and rolling stock which were suspended during the war, and, in common with all other railways in India, they now disbursed in salaries and wages of staff considerably more than was formerly the case owing to the general revision of rates of pay throughout India on account of the increased cost of living. The full effect of that revision was only now being felt, and accounted mainly for the increase in the working expenses. The result of the increase in the working expenses, without a compensating rise in the gross earnings, was a falling off in net receipts of Rs.54,02,904, or nearly 20 per cent.

The decrease in net earnings, together with increased interest charges on capital expenditure, had reduced the surplus profits to Rs.56,56,969, of which the company's share was Rs.6,56,701. If they had been able to remit their share to this country at the same rate of exchange as that at which the remittance of last year's share was made—namely, 2s. 0⅜d.—they would have realised £66,920. Exchange, however, was then on the decline and at the time when their present share of surplus profits was paid it had reached the low point of 1s. 3¼d per rupee, making the sterling value of their share of profits £41,728. In these circumstances they had deferred remitting to this country, pending some measure of recovery in exchange, which it was hoped would be realised as a result of the plentiful rains received by India this year, and the good harvest secured therefrom.

Dealing with the general situation, he said he wished the stockholders to bear in mind that India was a very rich country, with money ready for industrial enterprise, and as soon as the world's trade began to improve, India would quickly respond to it. With the loyalty of India beyond question and with the effective establishment of representative Government assured, the period of agitation and disturbance must pass away, and would be followed by an era of political peace and domestic progress, in which full scope would exist for the exercise by the Indian of his natural instinct for trade, and during which the industrial and commercial prosperity of India would rise to a level higher and more stable than any thought in the past to be ever likely or even possible. In conclusion, the Chairman referred to the report of the committee appointed by the Secretary of State for India to inquire into the administration and working of Indian railways, and remarked that the Commission to India was not required to tell the world that Indian railways had not been provided with all the capital for extensions or for the equipment of existing lines which was necessary for efficiency. His comment on the report was that by direct omission and by indirect imputation the admitted and proven starvation of the railways was laid at the door of the Guaranteed Indian Railway Company.

Mr. Frederick Schooling seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

## OILFIELDS OF EGYPT.

The report of the Oilfields of Egypt for the thirteen months ended March 31, states that an important stage of development has been reached and the prospects are considered by expert advisers to be distinctly encouraging. On the completion of the preliminary work an active drilling programme was immediately put in hand on sites selected by Mr. Cunningham Craig, as a result of his visit to the field in January 1921. The Ras Dhib area was selected to be first developed, and although well boring was not sufficiently advanced at the date of the balance-sheet to form any definite opinion regarding it, yet considerable progress has since been made. Small shows of oil at shallow depth have been encountered, and other favourable indications, chiefly of geological character, have been met with. The rate of drilling at Ras Dhib has been somewhat slow owing to the extremely hard formation, consisting largely of limestone, anhydrite and gypsum. This type of formation, however, is considered to be an excellent geological feature, as in many fields it has been found to form an impervious cap to oil deposit immediately, or almost immediately below it. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C. November 28. noon.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest. Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £ ... | 25.22½ | 100–101 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 300–320 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 22.43 | 1,090–1,100 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4 –1.4⅛ |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4–1.4⅛ |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 58.47–58.52 |
| *Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | —— |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 710–740 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 42.86 2-3 | 3.97½–3.97¾ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 56.57–56.72 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 370–390 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 97⅛–97⅜ |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ .... | 25.22½ | 620-750 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 50 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 10,000–12,000 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 13,000–15,000 |

* No Quotations. In some cases quotations are nominal.


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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Stamboul, October 29.

The exchange crisis continues to overshadow the commercial market. The fall of sterling to 740—750, after being quoted at 830 and even higher, has improved the position of importers, but the exchange bought at higher prices in a moment of panic. as well as the uncertainty arising from the instability of the exchange are paralysing commerce. Consignments for Roumania have completely ceased.

Prices of manufactures are lower. Cabots have fallen from £T12½ to £T10. The arrivals are of very little importance.

*Produce.*—Sugar.—This article continues to be offered without takers. Some purchases of Java are to be noted for India. Czecho-Slovakia, Holland, Germany, and Belgium are continually making offers, but in view of the lack of buyers they are compelled to make new concessions in prices. Quotations are:—American, 8 dollars per 100 kilos ; Java, £20 per ton ; in Customs £T31—32 per 100 kilos. Stocks here are very large, and their disposal is most difficult for lack of outlets.

Coffee.—The market is quiet. Germany, which had purchased large quantities of Rio and Santos, is reselling at lower prices than those of Brazil.

Rice.—Prices are lower on the principal markets. Saigon No. 1 is quoted at Marseilles at 90 francs per 100 kilos. Rangoon, shipment Alexandria or Port Said, is £20 per ton. Here the price is 17-19 piastres per oke.

## INSECT PESTS OF RAW COCOA.

Most foodstuffs when stored are liable to be attacked by insects, and the damage thus caused amounts in the aggregate to millions of pounds every year. Perhaps the best known pest of this kind is the grain weevil, which destroys enormous quantities of wheat and other cereals, particularly in countries such as Australia and Canada, where vast stocks of grain are stored while awaiting shipment. The depredations of such insects extend even to raw cocoa, and it has been estimated that the proportion of "grubby" beans in the world's production of cocoa is on the average from one to two per cent. This subject was considered at the Rubber and Allied Industries Exhibition, held in London this year, when Mr. A. W. Knapp, of Messrs. Cadbury Bros., Ltd., read an interesting paper on Insect Pests in the Cocoa Store, which is printed in the current number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute. The most frequent pests are the caterpillars of small moths, particularly those of the Mediterranean flour moth, which are often found in mills and granaries ; minute beetles too are commonly present. Various methods have been tried for destroying the insects attacking the cocoa, including fumigation with chemicals and spraying with insecticides. The most effective method, however, appears to be the application of heat, since this kills the eggs as well as the larvae and adult insects, whilst provided the temperature of 160.F is not exceeded, the cocoa is not detrimentally affected.


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# Stock and Share Markets.

## SOMEWHAT IRREGULAR TENDENCY.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday Evening.

During the early part of the week the markets were rather dull as the result of uncertainty regarding the Irish negotiations, but later they showed a distinct improvement. The proposed naval reduction has strengthened the gilt-edged group, but has naturally had the opposite effect on armament shares. On the whole the outlook now seems more favourable, though it is to be feared that in several directions the position is not what it might be. But it would seem that the principal political and economic difficulties resulting from the war have already been passed, and that now we can look forward to brighter markets, though there are bound to be many fluctuations.

Gilt-edged securities have been firm. Consols are unchanged at 49,1-8, while War Loan Fives are 7-8 up at 88. Fundings have advanced sharply to 73,1-8, a rise of 5-8. The India 7 per cent. Loan has shed ¼ at 103¾, but the Sudan 5½ per cent. Loan is ¼ up at 94,5-8. In Near Eastern securities which rank among British funds, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. remain at 8¾. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are unchanged at 69, but Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are 6 down at 62.

A rather irregular tendency has been in evidence in the foreign market, as a result *inter alia* of the exchange fluctuations. French War Loan 5 per cent. at 36⅝ xd. are 1¼ down, but Italian Rentes are unchanged at 23. German 3 per cent. have fluctuated considerably, but close a shade harder at 2,5-16. Japanese securities have again been firm. The 4 per cent. 1899 issue is ¾ up at 62, while the 4 per cent. 1910 issue is 1 up at 62. Bulgarian 6 per cent. have been a firm spot rising to 36.

Greek securities have been fairly steady. The 5 per cent. 1884 Loan is the same at 34, while the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is unchanged at 34. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan remains at 32, but the 5 per cent. Funding Loan is 1 down at 33. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 2 lower at 34.

**Industrials Irregular.**

On the whole a rather irregular tone has ruled in the industrial group, but, as last week, business has been on a very small scale Textiles have been dull. Courtaulds are unchanged at 33s. 6d., but Bradford Dyers are 1-16 down at 1,17-32. Fine Cotton Spinners have declined to 31s. on the reduced dividend. In Iron, Steel, and Engineering Shares chief interest has naturally centred round the armament group. As was to be expected the American proposals had the effect of creating weakness in these shares, most of which are substantially lower on the week. It is maintained that the firms concerned will be able to find ample scope in peace time activities, and several of them have been engaged for some time in endeavouring to arrange contracts abroad for railway and other construction works. But to obtain sufficient outlets for their activities to compensate for the loss of work on armaments is bound to take a considerable time in present circumstances, and no doubt this view is responsible for the declines that have taken place. Armstrongs are 1s. 9d. down at 14s. 9d., while Vickers have shed 2s. 3d. at 9s. 6d. Guest Keens are 6d. down at 28s., while Cammell Lairds are 3s. lower at 11s.

The firmer tendency in Shipping Shares noted last week has continued. P. and O. Deferred are 3 up at 283, while Furness Withys have gained 6d. at 22s. 6d. Cunards are 1s. 6d. up at 18s. 6d., but Royal Mails are unchanged at 79.

**Oils Variable.**

Oils have been irregular, the proposal to obtain powers to pay Royal Dutch dividends in scrip are proving a bear point. Burmahs at 5¾ are 1-16 down on the week. Mexican Eagles are 1-32 up at 3,5-16. Anglo-Egyptians have been firm, and are 1-16 up at 1,3-8, while Oilfields of Egypt are 3s. 10½d In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consols are 3d. up at 8s., but Steaua Romana have shed 3d. at 8s. Phoenix are 9d. down at 7s., while Dacia Romanos are 1s. 3d. lower at 13s. 9d. The Trinidad group have again been fairly firm. Trinidad Centrals are 13-32 up at 3,7-16, but Trinidad Leaseholds are 1-16 lower at 1¼.

Mines have been a much brighter feature as a result of the settlement of the South African wages question and Kaffirs are higher on the week. Chartereds are unchanged at 11s. 9d.

**Banks Dull.**

Banks have been somewhat dull. Agricultural of Egypt 3½ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 54½, while the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds remain at 55½. Imperial Ottoman Banks are ¼ lower at 6¾, while National Bank of Egypt are 1-8 down at 18½. Bank of Athens remain at 2, but Ionian Banks are 1-8 down at 3,3-16. Chartered of India are unchanged at 15, while National of India are the same at 37½. P. and O. Banks are 1-16 up at 11,5-16, while Imperial of Persia are unchanged at 5,1-8. Bank of British West Africa are ¼ down at 4½.

Land shares have displayed weakness. Béhéras are ¼ down at 8¾, while Béhéra Prefs are unchanged at 3,1-8. Egyptian Delta Lands are 9d. lower at 6s. 9d., while New Egyptians are 6d. down at 22s. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s. Sidi Salems remain at 1, but Union Fonciéres are 1-16 down at 2,7-16. Sudan Plantations are 3-8 up at 3,1-8.

**Rubbers Steady.**

After a good week as the result of the rise in the price of the raw commodity following purchases for America, rubber shares have reacted somewhat, and are now somewhat below the levels reached a week ago. Still the tide has evidently turned, and from now we may anticipate a slow improvement in prices provided the companies are in no undue hurry to relax the restricteness on output.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 6,11-16, Egyptian Markets are 19s., and Egyptian Salt and Soda are 32s.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 14 :—

Season.—November 7 to 10—Rainfall limited to Burma. November 12 and 13—limited to Baluchistan. Condition of Crops.—November 5 to 10—Burma, Punjab and Bombay—unchanged. Central Provinces, November 11—cotton, sesamum and rice very good. Bengal, November 12—situation normal except in Western Bengal, where rice crops suffering from drought. Markets.—Bombay cotton market, November 10—weak. Firm M.G. Oomras, December January Rs. 308, March Rs. 356. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to November 4, 293,000 bales as compared with 117,000 bales in the same period of the last year. Bombay piece-goods market very dull. Local goods moving quietly. Calcutta jute and gunny markets, November 12—very quiet. At tea sale on November 8, exceptionally good Dooars with autumnal character offered. Quality from other districts also good. All grades up to 8 annas slightly dearer. Others firm, except high-priced Tippy Brokens, which declined. All markets interested. 347,862 packages sold to date at an average price of 9 annas 1 pie per lb. Crop returns show outurn during October about £7,000,000 less than October last year. November 8—Very steady with fair demand. T.N. Shellac, November, Rs.157; December, Rs. 155. November 11—Special Straits quality rice, Rs.615. Authorised capital of new companies registered in September 1921, Rs. 208 lakhs against Rs. 1,000 lakhs in September 1920. No change in bank rates.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on November 4 were as follows :—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4,5-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6,31-32; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £23-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56½x; Behera Ord., £E 9,3-8; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 90; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 24; Comptoir Fin. et. Com. d'Egypte, £1,1116 £1,11-16; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5¼; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 850; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 638; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 337; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 112; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 81½; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 104; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 31s.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4,1-8; Filature National d'Egypte, £11,3-16; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5,11-32; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi £4,27-32; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £27; Lots Turc., Fr., 31; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270; Nungovich Hotels, £6,23-32; Ramleh Railways, £2,15-16; Salt and Soda, 34s. 7½d.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr., 45; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 57½; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2,7-8; Egypt Hotels, £2 7-32; Urbaines et Rurales, £2,15-16.

It is understood that two Bulgarian merchants are to visit London to confer with British creditors of Bulgaria for the purpose of regulating accounts in consequence of the arrangements made by Mr. Grey, the Administrator of Bulgarian property sequestrated in Great Britain.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## THE DANUBE AND THE DROUGHT.

The Watson and Youell Shipping Agency Ltd., of Braila, report under date November 8 as follows:—We have had a long spell of very dry weather and the water in the Upper Danube is very low, preventing loaded lighters from arriving at overseas shipping centres. Although no rain has fallen in our district it has rained in the West of the country which has caused a slight increase in the depth of water. In the Lower Danube the depth of water at the 83rd. and 13½ mile-posts is 23 feet, and over Sulina Bar 24 feet. The average depth of water in Braila Dock is 11 to 12 feet.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Vitellia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 7).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London December 3) ; s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 3) ; s.s. Maidan for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 17) ; s.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, December 24) ; s.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 7).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 7).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Lord Hartington for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, November 30).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Liverpool, December 3) ; s.s. Tyria for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Liverpool, December 22).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Grodna for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania (Liverpool, December 1).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 30) ; s.s. City of Florence for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 8) ; s.s. City of Baghdad for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. Kathlamba for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, November 29) ; s.s. City of London for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, December 12).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenamoy for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 8) ; s.s. Glentara for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 22).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Burma for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 30) ; s.s. Mandala for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 14).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Ningchow for Port Said, Port Swettenham Singapore, etc. (Swansea, December 7).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 10).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Assiout for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, November 26).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Belgravian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, November 26).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Mirzapore for Bombay (London, November 26) ; s.s. Khyber for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 2).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Nerbudda for Colombo Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 26) ; s.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 3) ; s.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 10) ; s.s. Mudura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 16) ; s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta, (London, December 23).

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## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 30th September, 1921, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. |
|---|---|
| Share Capital (300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each.) | 2,925,000 |
| Reserve Fund : | |
| Statutory Reserve | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve | 585,000 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts | 11,405,248 |
| Egyptian Government | 409,904 |
| Mixed Tribunals | 1,739,742 |
| Bankers Accounts | 837,558 |
| Cheques and Bills payable | 216,432 |
| Accceptances, as per contra | 244,404 |
| Sundry other Accounts | 1,091,346 |
| | £E20,917,194 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government | | 3,015,923 |
| Sundry Securities | | 214,976 |
| Advances on Merchandise | | 1,654,560 |
| Advances on Securities | | 2,097,653 |
| Advances otherwise Secured | | 584,749 |
| Sundry other Advances | | 1,415,894 |
| Egyptian Government | | 4,870,941 |
| Sudan Government | | 27,961 |
| Clients Liability for Acceptances | | 244,404 |
| Bills of Exchange | | 1,224,599 |
| Local Bills Discounted | | 259,678 |
| Buildings and Furniture | | 282,779 |
| Money at call and at short notice | | 877,500 |
| Bankers Accounts | | 1,305,428 |
| Sundry other Accounts | | 502,293 |
| Cash : | | |
| Notes | 2,077,859 | |
| Gold | 31,249 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. | 228,748 | |
| | | 2,337,856 |
| | | £E20,917,194 |

### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Notes Issued | | 36,800,000 |
| Gold | 3,339,573 | |
| *British Treasury Bills | 15,060,427 | |
| | | 18,400,000 |
| Securities : | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government | 431,557 | |
| British Treasury Bills, Exchequer Bonds & National War Bonds | 17,968,443 | |
| | | 18,400,000 |
| | | £E36,800,000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government, these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30th, 1916.)

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 551—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *Princess Mary's Engagement.*

Britons overseas will share with their fellow countrymen at home the keen pleasure that has been caused by the announcement of the engagement of Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles, elder son of the Earl of Harewood. The ties between the Royal House of Windsor and the people these days are too close to have allowed the only daughter of the King and Queen to leave the country for a foreign throne without causing the nation a sense of personal loss. In its place there is the knowledge that in giving her hand to an Englishman Princess Mary has followed the dictates of her own heart, and over that the whole world can rejoice. May the union be blest with all the happiness that will be wished for it from every corner of the British Empire.

### *Allied Co-operation.*

In a review of foreign affairs it was inevitable that the Marquess Curzon should have devoted a considerable portion of his remarks to the position in the Near East. That in this connexion he should particularly emphasize the need for harmonious co-operation among the Entente can hardly be wondered at in view of the complications that have been caused by the Angora Treaty. If public opinion in France takes exception to the words used—"They (terms of settlement) will never be arrived at, if any Power, whether ourselves or any other, tries to steal a march on others and to conclude independent reforms on its own account. Such plans may flatter the pride, and may even benefit the interests of the parties conceived, but they do not lead us to a solution"—it must gauge from this unusual directness of speech the measure of British dissatisfaction with French action in Anatolia. But with the conclusion of the visit of M. Gounaris and the Greek Foreign Minister to London, there is no time to be wasted over recriminations between the British and French Governments. Whether the Angora Treaty is ratified or lapses, the need of the moment is to arrive at a settlement of the Turkish question, and this cannot be done until the Entente Powers as a whole are in official touch with Angora.

### *Greece and Turkey.*

Although Lord Curzon refrained from mentioning any concrete basis for peace in the Near East, it was not difficult to discover from his words that the British Government had definitely abandoned the policy underlying the Treaty of Sèvres. It is now recognized that British interests require a friendly Turkish power on the Empire's flank in relation to India, Mesopotamia, Palestine and Arabia. The terms of the Treaty of Sèvres were prompted by indifference to the future relations between Turkey and Great Britain; there was no deliberate intention to antagonize the Turks, but the British horizon as seen by the British representative on the Supreme Council did not stretch beyond Greece. Wiser counsels now prevail in Downing Street, and it devolves upon Great Britain to bring about peace between Greece and Turkey. There can be no doubt that, as Lord Curzon pointed out, the interests of both parties call for peace. For Greece the prolongation of the struggle places a still greater strain upon her resources, both in money and men; for Turkey it means further destruction for "the fairest and most productive part of her kingdom of the future." The visit of M. Gounaris and M. Baltazzi to London will have convinced the Greek Government that it can no longer challenge the new British reading of the situation, and that probably the most effective way of safeguarding minorities in Turkey is to remove from the Turks all fear of aggression from without or within. To satisfy Turkey the British Government must state its own case in Angora. If its representative for this mission be wisely chosen, we are confident that a satisfactory settlement of the Near Eastern question can yet be achieved.

### *Egypt Expectant.*

The news of the breaking-off of the negotiations between Adly Pasha and Lord Curzon naturally caused some disappointment and depression in Egypt, but upon the whole the Egyptians have taken it very well; and if left to themselves instead of being stirred up by mischief makers, they will probably continue to do so. The general feeling appears to be that, if the British explanatory Note proves to hold out any promise of a resumption of the negotiations in the near future, it will still be possible for the Moderates to carry on; but if no such hope be held out, a very serious situation will arise. Happily, the tendency at the present time seems to be towards strengthening the hands of Adly Pasha, rather than towards flying off to the extremists in a fit of rage. But until the various documents are published and time has been allowed for their consideration, it is obviously impossible to make any trustworthy forecast of the direction which Egyptian public opinion will take. In the meantime it is satisfactory to note that, contrary to certain rumours current last week, the British authorities in Egypt do not consider that any increase

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of our military force in that country is called for at present for the protection of British interests.

### *The Permanent Mandates Commission.*

The Permanent Mandates Commission provided for in the last paragraph of Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations held its first session at the beginning of October in Geneva, and the report of the proceedings submitted to the Council of the League has now been published. As a year had not elapsed since the first Mandates were confirmed, the Commission had no annual report before it to consider, but a number of reports on the proposed administration of some of the mandated territories had been submitted, and these were studied. Among them were the reports of Palestine and Mesopotamia, but the Commission were of opinion that the state of uncertainty still prevalent with regard to everything concerning Class A mandates rendered study of the two reports of little use at this juncture. Consequently the session was devoted to a consideration of mandates of the two other classes and some useful preliminary work was done in preparing *questionnaires* for the Mandatory Powers to adopt as a basis for their annual reports. The British representative on the Commission is the Hon. W. G. Ormsby-Gore, M.P.

### *Wahabite Activities?*

The news of fighting in Arabia between Sultan Abdul Bin Saud, of Nejd, and Ibn Rashid, the Shammar ruler, will not have caused any surprise among regular readers of *The Near East*. The feud between Riadh and Hail is one of very old standing, and ever since his return from exile and his recapture of Riadh it has been tolerably certain that the ruler of Nejd would endeavour to wipe off old scores, as he now seems to have done, by the capture of the Shammar capital. As a friend and ally of the British in the Great War, Ibn Saud—to give him the name by which he is probably best known to our readers—will be congratulated on his success, which is doubtless due as much to his own powers as a leader and organizer as to the fanatical courage of the modern Wahabites. Their armament may also have been superior to that of the Shammar, if it be true that much of Ibn Saud's allowance from the British Government has been invested in such things. In any case the victory is Nejd's, and as it appears to have been gained after a stiff and prolonged struggle its effects may be lasting.

### *An Interesting Situation.*

It is to be hoped that the Sultan of Nejd will not allow the keenness of his subjects to push him into any fresh scheme of conquest. He has accepted the new situation in Irak, and we may trust him to stand by his word; but it would be interesting to know whether he still cherishes any desire to secure a good port for the use of his subjects, free from customs dues and trans-shipment expenses. It will be remembered that about a year ago there was trouble between the Wahabites and the Sheikh of Koweit, and that what looked uncommonly like an attempt by the former to gain possession of the port by a surprise attack was frustrated only by the appearance of British warships and a British aeroplane at Koweit, in response to an urgent appeal for help from the Sheikh. That was not the first time that Koweit, proving a temptation to an expanding Power, was saved by the White Ensign. Our friendship with the Sheikh of Koweit, begun in M'barak's time, presumably holds good in these days of his successor; and that being so, it is to be hoped that our two friends will not bring about an awakward situation for us by falling out between themselves.

### *West Arabian Bickerings.*

As to Western Arabia, the situation appears to be still not quite satisfactory, and it is certain that it would not be improved by any renewal of the differences between King Hussein and Sultan Ibn Saud, or by any further bubbling over of the Wahabite spirit. The Idrissi, too, has been causing some little anxiety; and a special mission lately left Aden for Sanaa to present a motor-car as a present from the British Government to the Imam Yehia. The significant point about this mission is that the British envoy (the chief vizier of the Sultan of Lahej) was accompanied by a representative of the King of the Hejaz who had previously been on a mission to the Idrissi; so that it looks as if an attempt is to be made to compose the Sanaa—Asir dispute. In view of developments further East that certainly seems advisable.

### *The Prince in Western India.*

The visit of the Prince of Wales to Western India has been a conspicuous success, and we are not prepared to say that it was seriously marred by the disturbances which resulted in some parts of Bombay from the inflammatory language of the preachers of non-cooperation. The significance of these occurrences lies rather in the fact that the masses preferred the Prince to the preachers, and the rioting, deplorable as it was, was the work of more or less organised bands of youths, not of the population as a whole. The most puzzling feature of the disturbances is the dead set made against the Parsees. If ten centuries of domicile count for anything, Parsees are Indians, and they have not openly sided against Hindus in the racial agitation of the last year or so; yet the bands of which we have just spoken attacked Parsees as readily as Europeans, and we are glad to see that the Parsees, like Europeans, defended themselves with vigour and effect. It is possible that a change is in progress in the orientation of the lawless elements, and that as time goes on, their antagonism will be more and more directed against the rich, to whatever community they may belong; if that is so, the task of the police will tend to increase in magnitude, but there is no reason to suppose that they will prove unable to perform it.

### *The Shivaji Memorial.*

Of the numerous ceremonies in which the Prince took the leading part, that which appeals most strongly to the imagination is the inauguration of the memorial to Shivaji the Maratha leader. There are of course two Shivajis known to impartial historians. One of them is a myth of the last few decades, an inspired Hindu leader, created to be the rallying-point of anti-English sentiment, extolled as prophet, priest and king, if not as deity, and popularised by a mass of forged historical documents. The real Shivaji was a successful soldier of fortune, ruthless, and at times unscrupulous, as soldiers of fortune are apt to be, but a big figure in the troubled politics of the seventeenth century. The kingdom which he founded did not last, torn to pieces as it was by the intrigues of generals and ministers, but he accomplished something more important, for his activi-

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ties may be said to mark the beginning of the Hindu renascence, which has made such progress under British rule that if he could return to earth he would probably have the greatest difficulty in recognising his native country. The memorial is a fitting tribute, and its inauguration by the Prince should convince India that European sentiment respects the man, though it will continue to smile at the mythical demi-god.

*The Treaty with Afghanistan.*

Everyone is glad to know that Sir Henry Dobbs has surmounted the difficulties of his task, and brought back to India a treaty of friendship with the Ameer of Afghanistan. In essence the Treaty merely confirms the recognition of the Ameer's independence which had already been granted, and provides for normal relations between two sovereign States. But normal relations are just what India and the Empire want, and if their maintenance is assured, the absence of formal safeguards or any sort of concessions is not a matter for the least regret. It is well to remember, however, that the Treaty is a product of Asiatic diplomacy, which is the old European diplomacy multiplied a hundredfold. It cannot by itself remove anxiety for the safety of the Indian frontier and it certainly does not justify any immediate reduction in our military strength. Its value lies rather in the evidence it affords that the disposition of the Ameer is for the present friendly, and it will be the task of the new diplomatic representative at Kabul to strive for the confirmation of that attitude—or to give timely warning if unhappily it should show signs of changing.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening.*

**Semper Ireland.**

The Irish negotiations hang by a thread, and the feast of passionate unreason continues. Ulster will concede nothing; Sinn Fein will concede nothing. Sir James Craig, the Ulster Premier, said the other day that Ulster was not a cheese to be nibbled at; the trouble with Sinn Fein is that it wants to be the bread on which Ulster is toasted, but is afraid of getting done brown itself in the process. The result is that its delegates have adopted the absurd course of putting nothing into writing, so that they can repudiate the conference at any momen t Meanwhile both Ulster and Sinn Fein are organising, and each is frightened of the other.

Sinn Fein, too, admits in its heart that it cannot get independence, but it refuses to say the word with its lips; and in the name of a national unity which does not exist and which it cannot enforce, it still wants an All-Ireland Parliament with Ulster inside.

If the Irish negotiations were like any other political problem, one would say that the position was hopeless; but as a matter of fact, bluff plays a large part in this business, and, therefore, both sides are still searching for guarantees and formulae. Perhaps tha most important part of the situation is that the Die-Hards on both sides have been unable to attain a renewal of civil war. After all, peace is a habit that sometimes grows on people.

**Disarmament or Disagreement?**

The first week of the Washington Conference was roses, roses all the way. It was too idyllic to last, and the ingenuous Americans have now made the surprising discovery that roses, particularly French roses, have thorns. M. Briand says that France will not disarm, and that the naval figures must be revised. If, he says, Britain wants capital ships to fish for sardines, France must have submarines to examine the deep-sea flora. The joke—it was evidently nothing more—seems to have given more offence in America than England; but the French Premier was unwise in remarking that "the disarmament of Italy was brought about not by law, but by the moral disintegration of the Italian Army." The Italian papers are now saying what they think about French tact, and the prospects of a triple alliance of the three Powers seems a little remote.

Our own reaction has been a storm in a tea-cup by comparison. Mr. Balfour, following M. Briand at Washington, spoke in favour of the French sacrifice for the cause of freedom, and declared that Great Britain stood by her then, and will stand by her again, if need be. Whereupon Lord Curzon seized the opportunity of making a speech in the City of London, in which he lectured France on the folly of her ways. Admirable advice, no doubt, but directly contradictory to Mr. Balfour. The upshot of all this is that appeals from both sides of the Atlantic have redoubled, asking that Mr. Lloyd George should go over to Washington and save the Conference. Of course, only the cynical would suggest that our Prime Minister, utterly devoid of guile or strategy, foresaw the possibility of such a situation.

The immediate result of the Conference has, therefore, been to exacerbate international rivalries, and to make Americans more determined to have no European entanglements. It has also had something of the same effect in England, too, and one or two responsible writers are warning us that the Entente must now be regarded as at an end. "Tis true, 'tis pity; and pity 'tis, 'tis true."

**A Journalistic Bout.**

Washington has, incidentally, given us a very amusing squabble. Mr. Wells is there for the *Daily Mail*, recording his impressions, and the *Daily Mail* does not like his impressions. First, he attacked the British Empire, which is an old foible that nobody takes any notice of; but when he proceeded to attack France as well, the Editor thought it beyond a joke, and sent an angry cable to Mr. Wells, telling him to moderate his language, and to write more on Carmelite House lines. Other papers have taken up the quarrel; the *Westminster*, with some echo of its old pro-Germanism, sympathised with Mr. Wells for denouncing France; elsewhere opinions were divided between the desire to score off the Northcliffe Press and the wish to maintain the theory that editors are *ex officio* infallible. In this case the Editor of the *Daily Mail* was obviously not infallible, or he could easily have foreseen, from Mr. Wells' earlier writings, what would happen; and personally I doubt whether the articles are up to the usual level of Mr. Wells' journalism. They strike me as the tired effort of an able man who is really not cut out for politics.

**Liberals in Conference.**

As an impartial historian of the week I am bound to record the fact that the Liberals held a Conference at Newcastle. It adopted the Manchester programme of semi-State Socialism under protest, and Mr. Asquith pointedly ignored the subject. The Liberal papers assure us that this means the turn of the tide. I take leave to doubt it. It looks more like the beginning of a sea-fog.

**Faith-Healing.**

A distinguished French psychologist has been attracting large audiences in London this last week with some lectures on auto-suggestion. He declares that the best way to improve your health is to say to yourself every morning when you get up, "I am getting better," twenty times, and the thing happens. I fancy that Christian Scientists hold much the same doctrine; it is the proverbial "If I say a thing three times, it is true." No doubt it is excellent for imaginary ailments, but a friend of mine who has tried it for rheumatism assured me that the only result was that he got sciatica as well. But perhaps he only said it nineteen times, and it is the last trick that really counts.

**Princess Mary's Engagement.**

The announcement of Princess Mary's engagement to Lord Lascelles has given genuine pleasure to the public, first, because the King's daughter is very popular, and secondly, because it is not a dynastic alliance that means her practically permanent departure from this country.

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Lord Lascelles is a Yorkshireman of the sturdy West Riding variety—he comes from between Leeds and Harrogate—and he has inherited the lands of Lord Clanricarde.

The wedding is to take place in January or February, and ladies are already discussing at afternoon tea the problem of bridal costumes. Fortunately, it is no part of my functions to pretend a knowledge of these mysteries.

**Actors v. Critics.**

The recurrent battle of dramatic critics and theatre managers has broken out again. The failure of Mr. Bernard Shaw's play, "Heartbreak House," has been attributed to the critics, who have answered vigorously that the public did not like it and would not have it, because it was only brilliant in parts but not good as a whole. The retort reminds me of the aggrieved tourist who said to the hotel manager: "Sir, there are things in this pudding which should have made it a good pudding, but the pudding, considered as a pudding and not as an incongruous series of conglomerate ingredients, is a perfectly damnable pudding."

I have not seen Mr. Shaw's play, but I have read a good deal of the entertaining controversy about it, and I notice that a good many people have had the candour to say that they are getting tired of Mr. Shaw and his quips and cranks and calculated follies. What a pity he does not write a play, "Too clever to be wise," and cast himself for the title-role! It would fill the house.

**Service and Other Clubs.**

The daily papers are making an absurd fuss about the difficulties of the Service Clubs, which are suspending their entrance fees in order to get members. As a matter of fact, almost every club is faced with the same trouble; waiting lists have disappeared, and in some desperate cases the members are asked to tout for newcomers—quietly and discreetly, of course, but none the less effectively. There is talk of one or two amalgamations before long, but these things are always difficult, as every club makes it a point of honour to sneer at the membership list of another club. Everybody knows the story of the club which happened to have an unusual number of Semitic members; a visitor who one day consulted its list remarked, "Hullo, this can't be the roll of members—it must be the wine list."

**The Week's Books.**

I need do little more than mention "The Meeting of Extremes in Contemporary Philosophy" (Macmillan) by Bernard Bosanquet; it would be absurd to attempt to analyse so closely written a book in a few lines. So far as I have read it, it shows all the power of thought which has made the author's previous books famous.

"The Economics of Communism" (Macmillan), by Leo Pasvolsky, is an attempt to make an impartial examination of the ideas underlying this system, and to inquire into its practical working. As its conclusions are in the end adverse to the Communist theory, it will no doubt be denounced by those enthusiastic for Lenin and Trotsky, but I do not think the author can fairly be charged with prejudice one way or the other.

The first volume of a "Text Book of European Archaeology" (Cambridge University Press) by R. A. S. Macalister, has reached me. The author is an acknowledged authority, and although I have been unable at present to do more than dip into the book, it is evidently the stuff of which standard works are made. These preliminary pages cover only the palaeolithic period.

"Belief in God" (Murray) by Bishop Gore, is a noble and moving work which will be widely read and must inevitably exercise great influence. It will be remembered that Dr. Gore resigned the Bishopric of Oxford, in order to write a work on the Reconstruction of the Christian Belief, and the present is the first of three or four volumes on the subject. In an autobiographical preface he makes the surprising confession that he is by nature a pessimist and a free-thinker, who has been driven to examine the very foundation of his creed by an intellectual necessity, and always with a native tendency "to fear the worst." Each volume will be devoted to one Person in the Trinity; and although I dissent from many of his arguments and should not care to endorse all his conclusions, I can only say that if the two remaining volumes reach the level of this one, he will have added a great landmark to Anglican theological literature. Dr. Gore, of course, takes the High Church position, and he rejects the views of the Modernists.

"The Emperor Francis Joseph and His Times" (Hutchinson) is by Baron von Margutti, an old member of the Imperial Household. It gives a graphic picture of that aged monarch, a slave to routine. The description of the way in which he received the Serbian answer to the Austrian ultimatum is interesting: "He read it with shaking hands, then he put the note down, and sat silent for a long time, lost in thought. All at once, probably involuntarily, he raised his arm in a kind of defensive movement. In so doing the ring on his right hand caught a glass tray on which there were pins and pencils, and there was a harsh, discordant sound. The Emperor started. So did I. It may sound far-fetched, but that screech which broke the silence and sounded as if something had burst or been smashed will ring in my ears for ever." One more quotation. During a critical moment of the war, he was heard to say, "If only King Edward were alive now! He would know exactly what to do; with genius like his he'd never have let this terrible war break out, I'm certain of that! He ought to have lived a little longer to control this awful situation. I realise more and more every day that he is no longer with us." A pathetic figure, this old unhappy man.

"Bishop Percival" (Macmillan) by the Rev. W. Temple, the young Bishop of Manchester, had a troubled episcopate. Hereford, to which Lord Rosebery appointed him, was an intensely Conservative district, and Percival was an ardent Radical—the only real Radical on the bench. It was once called the "Dead See," but it more nearly resembled a boiling cauldron in Percival's time. He was a rather gritty person, with a genius for getting on the wrong side of quite excellent people who were as sincere as himself on the other side. The fact is that it was a bad appointment, for Percival was a better schoolmaster than bishop, and the Asquith Government were quite right in refusing to translate him to York, although their not doing so was a cruel disappointment to the old man. "Bishops," said a sarcastic rector once, "are visitations sent by Providence to try the faith of the clergy." It is not quite as bad as that, I hope, but Percival would have done better in a more Radical diocese.

"Unknown Kent" (John Lane) is a beautiful colour-book of the second most beautiful county in England; and the artist, who will be remembered as the author of "A Painter in Palestine," "A Dweller in Mesopottamia," and "The Last Crusade," can write as well as sketch.

OCELLUS.

## THE ANGLO-AFGHAN TREATY

An announcement to the following effect has been made by the Government of India:—Satisfactory written assurances that no Russian Consulates will be permitted in the Jalalabad, Ghasni and Kandahar areas, having been received from the Afghan Government, the treaty of friendship with Afghanistan was signed in Kabul on November 22.

"Under the treaty which, though subject to ratification, is immediately operative, Great Britain reaffirms her recognition of Afghanistan's complete independence, and there is to be an interchange of Ministers in London and Kabul, and of Consuls in India and Afghanistan. Afghanistan reaffirms her acceptance of the existing Anglo-Afghan frontier with a slight realignment of boundary demarcated by the British Commission in autumn of 1919, and misunderstanding between the two Governments over the tribes on either side of the border having been removed, each Government engages to apprise the other beforehand of any major operation it may find it necessary to institute for the maintenance of order near the frontier. Subject to the continuance of friendliness and the provisions of any general Arms Traffic Convention that may hereafter come into force, the privilege formerly enjoyed by the Afghan Government of importing munitions of war through India is restored, and customs duty is remitted under the usual conditions regarding goods in transit on goods that pass through India from ports into Afghanistan. Provision is made in the treaty for the conclusion of separate Trade and Postal Conventions.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, November 11.*

**Armistice Day.**

It is Armistice Day. The British communities in Cairo and Alexandria have not forgotten. They have honoured the memory of those who fell in defence of those who have remained behind, to carry on the work that needs to be done, if the efforts of those who fell are not to be wasted. There were touching Church Services in the two chief cities this morning, and later there were pilgrimages to the British cemeteries and the offering of wreaths to mark the graves of fallen loved ones. It is pleasing to be able to record that the number of wreaths sent in was far too great for all the graves that could be identified, revealing that those whose fallen are buried abroad desired to pay, quietly and humbly, their tribute to those buried here, as a reflection of the spirit of remembrance. And during the last few days there have been unostentatious visits of families to the graveyards. British mothers have taken their small children to the graves, and, in that solemn atmosphere, taught them the lesson inherent in Armistice Day. It is a wholesome practice.

**The Prince of Wales's Tour.**

H.M.S. Renown arrived at Suez on Monday, and after lunch the Prince led a numerous cavalcade a merry gallop over the sands of the desert, clearing the sand-bank, bush-fence and triple bar in excellent style, returning to clear them again. He had tea with the Indian officers at the Transit Camp and lunched with them the next day. Those who were fortunate enough to be able to be at Suez, says a writer in *The Sphinx*, were astounded at the manner in which the Indians, officers and men alike, idolised the Prince. The Sepoys, on Tuesday morning, trudged miles through the heavy sand lining the Canal to cheer His Royal Highness into Suez, and when later in the afternoon he moved amongst them, talking to them all genially and tactfully, their usually inscrutable faces were lit by a look akin to loving reverence. He struck exactly the right note with them.

They waited for him to make the first advance, but once they understood him they literally worshipped him. They would then, and they would now, go through anything for him. It was a happy augury for the success of his mission to India. If he can capture their compatriots in India in the same way he will equal the success of his Colonial tour last year. And the British community in Egypt were not unmoved by the visit, albeit few of them saw him. General regret was expressed that the community did not have an opportunity to show their affection for the Prince, but the hope is everywhere felt that on his return conditions will be different and that he will be able to make a brief official visit to the Valley of the Nile to enable his father's subjects to accord him the demonstration they wish to give.

**The Negotiations in London.**

Politically, we are still on the brink of the unknown. Everyone is still waiting for news from London. But the week has been remarkable for one or two not entirely insignificant local developments. Last Friday the Council of the British Union in Egypt met and sent a telegram to London to the effect that the contemplated withdrawal of the British troops from Egypt would be a mistake, as it would be tantamount to abandonment of the Sultanate and would open the door for the return of the ex-Khedive, the avowed enemy of Great Britain. The supporters of Adly Pasha were quick to seize the opportunity to issue an appeal to the foreign communities in Egypt to dissociate themselves from this protest and declare their confidence in the fraternal feelings of the Egyptians, thus r[illegible]utting the British militarists' theories that the foreign communities demanded the protection of the British troops. To date there have been no official replies, though the French papers have stated that the French community is sympathetic towards the ideals of the Egyptians, while desiring that there shall be no further manifestations of xenophobia. It was an exceedingly tactful reply.

**The Winter Season.**

The winter season is being ushered in under many portents, some positively bright, others potentially gloomy. The political uncertainty is still acute, and the cotton market, which to a large extent reflects the state of the business community, is depressed. There is, however, a very strong connection between the business depression and the political uncertainty—a connection that is becoming more visible daily. It is useless to attempt a forecast until there is some tangible basis to build upon. Meanwhile, social activity is increasing. The races at Gezira and Heliopolis have commenced, with, incidentally, a new totalisator system at both courses. The first race of the season at Heliopolis last Saturday, with this new system, saw the winner, a horse with something of a reputation, returning the nice price of 117 to one. The opera season begins in the first week of next month. Dancing is already strongly in vogue. The first Nile dahabia went up the river a few days ago. It is understood that the latter part of the season at least will be extraordinarily bright, as many tourists who are going to India for the celebrations there during the Prince's visit are returning to Egypt for the last month of the winter.

**At the Residency.**

The High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, accompanied by Mr. Keown-Boyd, Oriental Secretary to the Residency, and Captain Hindley, A.D.C., returned to-day. The party came out on H.M.S. Caradoc, landed at Alexandria this morning, and the High Commissioner had an immediate audience with the Sultan. The special train left Alexandria at 11 a.m. and came straight through to Cairo, arriving here at 3 o'clock. There was a large and representative gathering on the station to welcome the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby back to Cairo. Rumours of an immediate transfer of Lord Allenby have been rife, but as far as I can gather the truth is that, if Egypt secures her independence, the position of the British representative in Egypt will not need a man of the status of Lord Allenby. Upon that assumption rumours have been built up; but there can be no truth in them, because there is no certainty as to the future.

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*Cairo, November 19.*

**A Week of Rumours.**

The last week has been one of many thrills. Cables from different sources in London inspired a general belief that the meeting on Tuesday last between Lord Curzon and Adly Pasha, the head of the Egyptian Official Delegation, was to be the final interview, and that, in all probability, an announcement would follow to the effect that the negotiations had been ruptured. On the next morning—Wednesday—a Reuter cable

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stated "it is reported that the Egyptian negotiations have broken down." A few hours later the same agency cabled that Lord Curzon and Adly Pasha were to meet on the following Saturday. The next morning—Thursday—an Egyptian correspondent in London, intimately connected with the Official Delegation, cabled: "We do not attach any importance to the meeting between Lord Curzon and Adly Pasha on Saturday. The Delegation is remaining firm. God save Egypt independent." Almost on the heels of this pessimistic message came the Reuter announcement that Adly Pasha was to meet Mr. Lloyd George early the following week.

Then yesterday there came an urgent Havas agency message, quoting *The Times* as forecasting the possibility of an agreement. We have had to rely on London for news, and from the inconclusive and contradictory messages we have been unable to determine what the position has been. Naturally, local opinion has fluctuated with each succeeding message. Now many are wondering whether these pessimistic reports from the Egyptian correspondents in London have not had an ulterior motive: whether they have not been designed to create a certain misgiving which, if the negotiations should end satisfactorily, would, if properly handled, cause a reaction in favour of the terms offered to the Official Delegation by the British Government. I have no substantial foundation for this inference. It might be entirely wrong. It is merely an inference drawn by certain sections of the community from the general confusion. But if the inference is right, the procedure is wrong. The tendency towards pessimism has helped the extremists.

**Independence Day.**

Last Sunday was "Independence Day." On November 13, 1918, four prominent Egyptians called at the Residency and requested the High Commissioner to advise them of the British Government's intentions towards Egypt. It was two days after the Armistice, and the date has since been cherished by the Egyptians as the beginning of the country's latest and most vigorous Nationalist movement. It was celebrated in Cairo on Sunday last by small demonstrations by truant schoolboys and two large meetings in the afternoon. The "Egypt Independent Party," which is the chief organisation behind the Adly Cabinet, held a mass meeting at the Continental-Savoy Hotel. It was remarkable for two things: first, that the various speakers were careful never to mention the name of Zaghloul Pasha, and, secondly, for the passing of a resolution that, if the present Anglo-Egyptian negotiations broke down, the Egyptians would not consent to resume pourparlers while one British soldier remained in the country. Zaghloul Pasha at his meeting spoke for two and a half hours—150 minutes of invective against the present Cabinet. Otherwise the day passed off quietly enough.

**Two Alarmist Reports.**

During the last two days sensational cables quoting extracts from the *Morning Post* and the *Daily Express* have been received. The first message epitomised an article in the *Morning Post* to the effect that through the laxity of the authorities some of the extremists had been able to possess themselves of several thousands of rounds of British ammunition. I have since learned, from a reliable source, that the figures quoted were, to say the least, grossly exaggerated. Some few rounds were inadvertently sold, but the matter was soon discovered, and prompt action resulted in the recovery of practically all the cartridges. With regard to the story of the Rome correspondent of the *Daily Express*, I understand that some Egyptians in Italy have attempted to devise means to smuggle arms into Egypt by shipping the rifles from Turin to Tripoli and having them conveyed across the Western Desert, but the Cairo civil police learned of the scheme, and in co-operation with the Frontiers Districts Administration, soon made arrangements to capture the contraband and force the business into involuntary liquidation.

**The Inaction of Suspense.**

Until there has been some definite news from London it is improbable that there will be anything stirring in Egypt. The Government is simply acting as an administration. The commercial community is inactive, waiting to get a glimpse into the future before making plans. The economic situation remains about the same. Social life is becoming slightly more active, but all plans for the season are contingent upon the outcome of the official discussions between the respective plenipotentiaries in London. Briefly, the whole life of the country is stagnant. And until the political horizon clears, no developments are likely in any phase of existence here.

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*Port Said, November 19.*

**An Eventful Week.**

We have had rather an exciting week. On November 16 General Joffre arrived on the Porthos on his way to the Far East. He was met on the wharf by some of the leading French residents, and received a great ovation from the French Colony. Children from the French schools sang the "*Marseillaise*," and then the General drove with the French Consul to the Governorate to

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call on His Excellency the Governor; thence to the French Consulate, and finally to the Casino Palace Hotel, where he received the French residents. In the afternoon he went by the Canal to Ismailia, and held a reception there, returning to Port Said by the Canal Company's fast motor-boat in time to board the Porthos before she left.

On the 15th inst. there was a most enjoyable "At Home" and dance given by the Captain and Officers of H.M.S. Centurion, which has been in port for some weeks. She left the following morning, but it is understood that she will return in a week or two and stay over Christmas.

**Fifty-Two Years Ago.**

The anniversary of the opening of the Canal fifty-two years ago passed without notice in the place. On November 16, 1869, there was an inauguration ceremony in Port Said, and next day there started the first convoy down the Canal headed by the "Aigle," with the Empress Eugènie aboard. She cut a silken cord stretched across the Canal near Lake Timsah, where the present Canal Company's hospital is situated. The ships of this convoy arrived in Suez on the third day after they left Port Said. Ships now frequently transit in twelve hours.

**The French "Foreign Legion."**

Last week a large French steamer passed through the Canal bound for Saigon. She had on board several hundred of the men of the French "Foreign Legion." A very large proportion of them were Germans, with a few Englishmen, and the rest—anything. German songs were sung, and it is said that the officers, who of course are French, are obliged to be able to speak German. When men enlist, the only question asked are name and age (for they are only accepted between 18 and 60), and needless to say the answers given are even more mendacious than such answers usually are. The men during the passage through the Canal, were wearing full marching kit with accoutrements; it is said that this was to increase their chance of being drowned if they attempted to desert by jumping overboard. This sort of thing used to happen in Turkish transports before the war. In fact on occasion the pilot has been obliged to inform the Captain that it was against the Canal Company's regulations to shoot at a man who had jumped over board.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, November* 16.

**The Belgrade Race-Course.**

Belgrade has the advantage of a very pretty little race-course, where charming meetings are held, and, often enough, some quite sporting events are witnessed. The course is the property of the Danube Racing Club, and extends over some 42 hectares. The club has decided to improve the course and bring it quite up to date, the plans are ready, and work will be begun in the spring.

**A Remarkable Article.**

A writer in the *Nova Europa* is going to get himself disliked. He has written a suggestive article, the burden of which is that the young State is suffering from a scarcity of trained and first-rate statesmen at this period in its career, which would test the quality of the politicians of the old States of Europe. Serbia could only contribute a small proportion, as so large a proportion of her intelligentsia fell in the war. The former Austro-Hungarian provinces cannot contribute a full proportion, for in the bad old days, Vienna and Budapest took care that only Germans and Magyars held the highest posts, and so there was an insufficiency of properly experienced Croats. Bosnia and Herzegovina were ruled almost entirely by foreigners, that is, by Austrians and Hungarians. But the sting comes after this. Serbia, the writer maintains, is suffering from a surfeit of "elder statesmen," who are, by reason of their age, excessively conservative and quite unable to adapt themselves to modern and unfamiliar conditions. The suggestion is that all old politicians should be pensioned and make way for the younger generation that is knocking at the door. But in Croatia, the trouble is more than that. It is true that many of the political leaders are too old, and too deeply imbued with ideas of a pre-war generation; but besides that, the cult of the grape is too much developed, so that the politicians tend to an excess of flowery rhetoric, to the detriment of constructive action.

*Zagreb, November* 23.

**Coalition Rumours.**

There has been an underground crisis going on for a long time, owing to the permanent difficulty of Democrats and Radicals working together in one Cabinet. The instinct of self-preservation has kept them together so far, but the independent action of M. Stoyan Protitch has upset everybody. The Radicals want the portfolio of the Interior, but as this is considered the key of the political situation out here, the Democrats refuse. It will be remembered that a coalition broke down two years ago on similar grounds, when M. Protitch was Prime Minister and could not get on with M. Pribitchevitch. M. Pashitch and the Democrats have been trying to come to an understanding for a long time, but now M. Pashitch says that, unless they come to terms by Thursday next, he will tender his resignation to the King. What would happen is difficult to say. The Belgrade *Pravda*, a Democrat paper, comes out with the startling news that M. Pashitch and his old ally M. Protitch have come to an understanding, and that the latter will bring in the Croatian Narodny Club, and, wonder of wonders, Raditch and his party, and so form a Government which would exclude the Democrats. Dr. Koroshets denies that his Slovene Clericals will have anything to do with the business. M. Pashitch is a very subtle politician, bred in the Byzantine tradition of politics, but it would test even his elasticity to exchange the Raditch party for the Democrats.

**Frontier Delimitation.**

After the unpleasant incidents connected with the Allied Mission in the Baranya, it is cheerful to read an account of the popularity of the frontier commission on the Yugoslav-Hungarian border in the north. The Frontier Commission held a kind of small plebiscite in order to ascertain the views of the inhabitants. Across the Mur, in the district known as Prekomurje, where the population is very mixed, all had not proceeded quite smoothly for the Yugoslav interest and the result in Mur Island, Medjumurje, that is the land between the Drava and the Mur, was awaited with some anxiety. But Medjumurje spoke out with no uncertain voice, and the people's delegates declared that not more than one per cent. of the population were Magyars, and that even the Lutherans, of whom there are plenty, are Croats and speak Croat in their own homes. It is gratifying to find that Magyar propaganda had not met with its usual success on this soil, and that after a stay of over two months in Varazhdin, the Inter-Allied Commission parted on the most cordial terms with the inhabitants. A farewell dinner was given by the local authorities to Colonel Cree, head of the Mission, at which cordial speeches were made.

**Golf at Belgrade.**

The amenities of Belgrade have been increased by the formation of a golf club. The links are on the flats across the Save, and the strange behaviour of the players provokes considerable curiosity on the part of the native population, which in the immediate neighbourhood consists chiefly of pigs and neatherds. The elegant public of Belgrade gaze from afar from the promenade of the Kalemegdan, from the spot where the Emperor William is said to have sat and dreamed of dominion, while gazing over the expanse of the Save and the Danube. There are fifteen holes, with characteristic names, most of which will convey more to those with local knowledge, though most are fairly expressive. They are, in order, the Jungle, Vimy Ridge (with trenches), Topchider (facing that pretty park), the Valley, Overland, the Shanty, the Meadows, the Ruins

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(a war souvenir again), the Piggeries (with succulent roots), Land's End, the Bog, Hell (all bunkers), the Kalemegdan (facing that park), the Devil's Corner, and the last hole is appropriately called "Laku noch," the Serb for Good Night. The Serbs have keenly taken up tennis and, especially, football. Now they have a fine chance of learning and supporting the Royal and Ancient Game. As the Danube is the home of the grisly superstition, perhaps instead of Colonel Bogey they will have Colonel Vampire.

## ALBANIA.

*Paris, November 22.*

### Albania and the League of Nations.

I came to Paris in order to follow the Albanian debates before the Council of the League of Nations. The sitting was held in a fine drawing-room of the "Petit Luxembourg," and on the 16th inst., Mr. Fisher, the delegate of Great Britain asked—quite justly—that the meeting should be public. On the first day nothing of importance was said. On the following afternoon Mr. Fisher made an eloquent speech, throwing into prominence the Serbian attacks on Albania, citing passages from a report of the British Consul in Albania, Mr. Eyres, in which are described the vast regions laid waste by the Serbs in September and October of last year. Mr. Fisher spoke calmly and with conviction, and concluded with an affirmation of Great Britain's goodwill towards Albania in her difficulties with Serbia. Whereupon M. Boshkovitch, the Serbian delegate, asked that his reply might be deferred until the following day, to give him time to receive documents due to arrive from Belgrade. He contented himself with merely protesting against the procedure adopted by Great Britain in regard to Serbia by the convening of the Council, and by expressing a desire to see applied the sanctions mentioned in Article 16 of the Covenant. He afterwards added certain observations on the famous Line of Demarcation, and denied that the Serbian Army had entered Albanian territory; he declared that the fighting in Albania originated with the Mirdites, who were unwilling to submit to the Tirana Government.

In reply to this, M. Midhat Frasheri, the Albanian delegate, proved that Serbian attacks had taken place well beyond the Armistice line, and pointed out that the Catholic chiefs of Albania, the notables of Mirdita, and all the Catholic deputies had come out spontaneously on the side of Albanian unity, as against the actions of Marco Gjoni, who was only a Serbian agent.

On November 18 a third session was held in which both M. Boshkovitch and M. Midhat Frasheri again spoke.

The last session was held on November 19. M. Hymans, the President read the resolution in which was made known to the Council M. Pashitch's despatch promising the retirement of Serbian troops from Albanian territory. The Council decided to empower the Mission which had already been sent by the League of Nations to Albania to supervise the evacuation of the Serbian troops.

It may, therefore, be said that an effective peace between Albania and Serbia dates from November 19 1921, at a quarter past twelve p.m. It may be recalled that this war has lasted for the Albanians eleven years,—since 1910, when they revolted against the Turks.

### Two Ominous Signs.

In M. Pashitch's Note to the Council of Ambassadors there were several protestations against the alteration of the frontiers of Albania without Serbia's being consulted, and he said distinctly that trouble would continue until it was shown that Serbia was right.

Similarly Greece has presented a Note to the Conference of the Ambassadors and to the League of Nations protesting against the decision upon the Albanian frontiers, and saying she would not recognise this decision because it does not bear the signature of the United States of America. But it must not be forgotten that the same Greek Delegates protested at Geneva last July that they could not submit to the decision of the Council of the League of Nations, the Conference of Ambassadors alone being competent to determine the Greco-Albanian frontier.

### Albanian Demands.

Albania has demanded, in a Note sent to the Conference of Ambassadors, the complete evacuation of Albanian territory comprised in such southern frontiers as have been defined in the protocol of Florence and in the session of August 8, 1913, of the London Conference, and incorporated in paragraph No. 2. Also the Albanian delegate stated that his Government reserved to itself the right of calculating the amount of damage done by the Serbs—irrespective of the 7,000,000 francs due to military mobilisation—and of claiming payment by Serbia.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, November 7.*

### The Political Situation.

Despite the fact that Parliament is expected to re-open in about one week's time, the internal political situation is to-day still as unsettled as it was three months ago when Parliament was closed and the entire Opposition withdrew. But it cannot be said that the different political parties have been idle during the recess; on the contrary, meeting has followed meeting, negotiations between the different political parties have been succeeded by audiences of the King; and yet so far no visible result has materialised.

The present Government's situation is far from enviable, and might be regarded as unstable; for it has become rather unpopular owing to the present financial crisis, and to its wavering economic policy, not to mention its new Fiscal Reforms, which are not to the people's liking. Yet its lease of life continues for the simple reason that so far other political parties have not succeeded in forming a coalition which would enable them to take over the reins of office. Nevertheless, a sudden change is not out of the question, in view of the fact that the King may use his privilege of changing the Government of his own accord. This in fact is more probable since the expressed desire of the King is that the future Government should comprise the leaders of the various parties, in order to extricate the country out of the present *impasse*. The main difficulty in the realization of this scheme lies in inducing the opposing leaders to collaborate. Efforts in this direction have so far proved unsuccessful.

Should the above plan fail, the next possible combination would be a coalition between the Liberals on the one hand and the Transylvanian National Party and the groups under MM. Jorga, Nistor and Inculetz on the other. It is true that the negotiations between these parties have been broken off for the second time, but as the discrepancy is more of a formal character than one arising from difference of principle, there is still the possibility that an understanding may ultimately be reached. And yet, in spite of all this, the Government, banking on the disagreement existing between the Opposition parties, feigns to be sure of its ground, and is imperturbably proceeding with the preliminaries for the opening of Parliament on November 28.

It would not be fair to omit mention of the Tzaranist Party, who have lately been strengthened by the peasant Parties of Transylvania and Bessarabia, and are keeping aloof from these different combinations by devoting their entire energies to their internal organisation.

### Russo-Roumanian Relations.

M. Filality, the Roumanian Delegate at the Russo-Roumanian conference recently held at Warsaw, has now returned to Bucharest, and in the course of an interview made the following statements. He said that the negotiations remained fruitless because the Soviet

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delegates started the discussion with the Bessarabian question, which he at once dismissed. M. Filality further gained the conviction from the elusive answers of the Soviet Delegates that the Roumanian Treasure at Moscow does not exist any more. They proposed, however, that in exchange for the recognition of Bessarabia as a Roumanian province, the Roumanians should waive their claim for the restitution of the Treasure, and of any other outstanding accounts. The Russians further demanded that a special Convention should be made between the two States with reference to the Russian minority in Roumania, independent of similar treaties now in force.

M. Filality understood from the outset that the chief aim of the Soviet Government was to open diplomatic relations with Roumania in order to establish one of their Missions in this country.

**Magyar State Officials in Transylvania.**

When Transylvania joined Roumania the entire staff of the former Civil Service were allowed to retain their old positions on condition that the officials took the oath of allegiance to Roumania. A large number have complied with the order, while the more chauvinistic preferred to resign, but there are still a certain number of them who did neither, still hoping that the old *régime* will return. The Roumanians have been lenient enough when it is considered that this state of things has been dragging on for almost three years. The Roumanian Government has now decided to give these officials a last chance of thirty days, and if, within this period, they still refuse to take the oath of allegiance, they will be made to resign.

**Roumanian Students Abroad.**

In order to curtail expenses in inflated foreign currencies, owing to the present further depreciation of the leu, the Government has decided to reduce the subsidy granted to Roumanian students studying abroad from 385,000 to 220,000 French francs per month. For this purpose Legations have been provided with funds, as follows: for France 120,000 frs., Great Britain 40,000 frs., and for Italy, Switzerland, and Belgium each 20,000 frs. Each student will get 400 frs. in exchange for 600 lei, and this subsidy will be granted only to students who are in their last years of study. Out of the 950 students residing in Paris only 300 will be subsidized.

**The Weather and Grain Sowings.**

This week the weather has undergone a sudden change. After a spell of over three months of dry weather, during the last seven days we have been having intermittent copious rains throughout the country. Should no frost set in for a few weeks, farmers would have a good chance to make up for lost time and resume autumn sowings under most propitious conditions. In this connection the Government is doing its best to encourage the farmers, especially in wheat cultivation, by the official announcement that next year's wheat crop will be exempted from export restrictions, requisitioning and maximum prices, but only for such qualities weighing 76 kilograms to the hectolitre, and containing only one per cent. admixture. Thanks to the last rains the water level of the Danube has risen to its normal height, and navigation has been made easier.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, November 21.*

**Bulgaria and the Angora Agreement.**

Bulgaria is interested, if not directly, at least very considerably indirectly in the agreement made by France with Mustapha Kemal Pasha. Next year should see a settlement of the Anatolian war, and the activities of the Turks are then bound to be turned towards the question of the ownership of Constantinople and Eastern Thrace. Several prominent Kemalists have already declared that they will never rest content as long as Eastern Thrace is under the Greeks, and the latter's hold on this slice of territory cannot fail to be affected by the friendship which the Turks will now enjoy at the hands of the French. Although the policy of the present Bulgarian Government is one of absolute neutrality in the Greco-Turkish war, the sympathies of Bulgaria are very naturally with the Turks. In these circumstances an early recrudescence of mixed Turko-Bulgarian *Komitaji* activity in Eastern Thrace is greatly to be feared. The Kemalists do not receive support from M. Stambolisky's Government, but they try nevertheless their utmost to intrigue in Bulgaria. Jevad Abbas, one of their principal agents, was expelled from the country only a few months ago, and Fuad Bey, another well-known Kemalist, was recently at Sofia, and is now believed to be at Monastir. The signing of the Franco-Kemalist Agreement has been the signal for an increase in the quiet propaganda carried on by and amongst the dissatisfied factions in Bulgaria, and it is pointed out that Turkey, by means of armed resistance appears to have every chance of securing the revision of the first Treaty of Sèvres. The propaganda goes on to point out that Bulgaria should do the same thing, *i.e.* show armed resistance, and at the same time obtain the aid of one of the Great Powers. She would thus, it is argued, be able to create a situation parallel to that which Kemal has succeeded in creating in Asia Minor. This kind of propaganda is, of course, highly mischievous, but is too clumsy to give rise to any serious apprehension.

The relative positions of Bulgaria and Turkey are quite dissimilar, and any outbreak by Bulgaria would at once draw two, if not three, of her neighbours down on her. In addition the intervention on Bulgaria's side of any one of the Great Powers is unlikely in the extreme, as the gains involved thereby are trifling in comparison with the interests at stake in Asia Minor. Nevertheless the Franco-Kemalist Agreement has had a disturbing effect in Bulgaria, and it behoves the Allies to see that no untoward consequences result.

This can only be achieved by doing justice where justice is due, first by incorporating in the revised Treaty of Sèvres provision for an economic outlet to the Aegean Sea for Bulgaria at Dedeagatch, and secondly by insisting that the rights of the Bulgarian minorities are more strictly safeguarded.

The Allies will only have themselves to thank if any trouble breaks out on Bulgaria's frontiers, as by insisting on the establishment of a voluntary army at the expense of a conscript one, they have taken away almost all executive power from the Government. In addition they expect Bulgaria loyally to carry out the terms of the Peace Treaty, but do not fulfil their own part of the compact.

Continued on page 694.


# Cunard Line

**MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST**

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**LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME**

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**Radoslavoff's Cabinet on Trial.**

After over a month devoted to questions of procedure and other matters of detail, the trial of the Radoslavoff Cabinet has begun in earnest. It will be remembered that the members are on trial for having caused Bulgaria to participate in the world war. Last week M.M. Popoff, Pecheff, and Toncheff, Ministers of Interior, Public Instruction, and Finance respectively, were cross-examined. M.M. Popoff and Pecheff both expressed ignorance of the existence of an arrangement with Germany, whereby Bulgaria would enter the war on the side of the Central Powers. They declared that M. Radoslavoff, the then Prime Minister, did not inform them of what was going on, and that the first information they had of approaching hostilities was when the Prime Minister read out at a Cabinet Council a telegram, stating that Serbian troops had invaded Bulgaria. On learning this, the two Ministers in question both signed a declaration, which provided for military action being taken against the Serbian troops who were in Bulgarian territory. M. Popoff only became Minister of the Interior four days before the above declaration was signed, and his line of defence was that he was ignorant of what had previously transpired in the Cabinet. M. Pecheff also pleaded ignorance. In the course of his evidence he stated that the real cause of Bulgaria's being forced into the war on the side of the Central Powers, was that the latter offered her certain definite advantages, if she cast in her lot with them. On the other hand, the Entente only made her vague promises, which contained no guarantees that they would ever be fulfilled. Besides this, it was known in Bulgaria, that at least one of the Allies, *i.e.* Serbia, did not approve of the Allies' promises, and it was considered highly problematical whether these promises would mature when the war came to an end. M. Pecheff also referred to the part played by Sir Henry Bax-Ironsides, who was at that time British Minister at Sofia. He stated that the British Minister handed a Note from his Government to M. Radoslavoff, which contained the promises of help referred to above; after M. Radoslavoff had read the Note, Sir Henry Bax-Ironsides whispered in the Bulgarian Premier's ear that it would be advisable not to accept the advice contained therein, but instead to remain neutral. This statement, it is hardly necessary to point out, lacks corroboration. M. Toncheff, ex-Minister of Finance, is at present being interrogated, and his case promises to be the most interesting of all. When asked why, shortly before the war, he accepted a 500 million leva loan from Germany and not from France, M. Toncheff stated that France insisted on certain political concessions before advancing a loan, but that Germany gave the loan without any conditions. The cross-examination will continue, and it is estimated that the trial will run well on into the New Year.

**General News.**

The special train in which ex-King Ferdinand fled from Bulgaria in October, 1918, has arrived back in Sofia. It is in a deplorable condition.

Serbian and Czecho-Slovakian representatives of the "Green" Peasant International, have arrived in Sofia.

## GREECE.

*Athens, November* 19.

**Meeting of the Cabinet Council.**

A meeting of the Ministers was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last Monday evening. M. Tsaldaris, Minister of Communications, communicated the demands of the Railway employees, and it was decided that the Minister should invite the Committee which these had appointed, and advise them that the Government agreed to pay the half of the monthly salary for a thirteenth month as well as an additional indemnity of 50 per cent. and not 80 per cent. as demanded by them. The Council also discussed the question of Thrace and decided to apply to that Province the Rents Moratorium Act, as applied in Athens. Finally the Council of Ministers decided to send three boats to Mersina for the purpose of removing from that town the Christian population of Cilicia. These refugees were originally intended for Cyprus, but, as it appears certain objections were raised by the British Government, the Greek Government is now arranging with M. Stergiadis for their conveyance to Smyrna.

**British Club "At Home."**

A very enjoyable evening was passed on Saturday, November 12, when the members of the British Club here gave an "At Home," the guests of the evening being the Earl and Countess Granville. As usual, the rooms were decorated with much taste, and over two hundred persons attended. Shortly after dancing had commenced, an interesting ceremony took place, in the presentation to Lord and Lady Granville of a large silver rose bowl, from the members of the British Club, on the occasion of their departure from Athens.

The presentation was made by Mr. G. Calphoglu, Chairman of the British Club and the Chamber of Commerce, who, in a short speech, said:—

The members of this club wish to express to you and Lady Granville their deep regret at your departure from Athens This club, which was founded at your suggestion, owes its success chiefly to you, and we all feel that if it has fulfilled, and continues to fulfil the object for which it was founded, this is largely due to the lively interest you have always taken in its affairs, and to your kind and effective assistance on several occasions. As a mark of our appreciation for all you have done for this Association and of our gratitude for your many kindnesses to us, its members, we beg you and Lady Granville to accept this souvenir, with our best wishes for your happiness and success in your future career."

Lord Granville in replying appeared to be deeply touched; he was acclaimed with loud cheers, and a full-hearted rendering of "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow."

A great hit was made by the introduction of a Jazz Band, ably led and conducted by Mr. R. G. Knox, with Mr. W. E. Goodhall doing prodigious deeds on various instruments, including the kettle drum.

**Anniversary of the 14th of November.**

The anniversary of the electoral victory of November 14th, 1920, was celebrated on Sunday last by the

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various political Syllogues and their members. At 9.30 in the morning the groups paraded in Omonoia Square with their banners flying. A large crowd awaited their arrival and then formed up and marched to the Cathedral where a special Service was held by the Metropolitan.

The Ministers who were present at the Service were loudly acclaimed both on arrival at and on departure from the Cathedral. Subsequently the organising committee proceeded to Old Phaleron where the statue of King Constantine was crowned. In the afternoon a further demonstration took place in Omonoia Square, and the crowd subsequently paraded the principal streets. In the evening a large political banquet was held at the Café de Paris, where the toasts of the King, the Army, and the Royal Family were drunk.

No incident occurred either in Athens or Piraeus.

**General News.**

The ex-Chief of the Army Recruiting Department, Colonel Spyropoulos, who, over a month ago, had been placed by the Government on the retired list for publishing an open letter accusing the Commandant of the Military region of Athens of arbitrarily arresting persons whose military status had been satisfactorily established, and sending them to the Asia Minor front, has, by decision of the Minister of War, been recalled and replaced on the active list.

A commission has just been formed by the Minister of National Economy, to take delivery of the new one and two drachmae notes which have been received from London.

The Chief of the British Naval Mission to Greece, Rear-Admiral Aubrey Smith accompanied by the Minister of Marine, M. Mavromihali, left Athens for Constantinople in order to inspect the Greek Fleet there. From Constantinople the Admiral and the Minister will probably proceed to Broussa, Afion Karahissar, and Smyrna to inspect the Naval aerodromes.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, November 17.*

**No Compromise.**

The most notable development in the political arena during the last week or so has been the struggle in Angora between the partisans of a policy based upon the strict letter of the National Pact with the exaction of an indemnity into the bargain, and the courageous minority who believe that nothing more is to be gained by fighting. Unfortunately for all concerned, and particularly for Turkey, the advocates of an uncompromising policy seem to be getting the upper hand, if indeed they have not already triumphed completely. The Great National Assembly in a recent debate decided that one of the peace conditions should be the payment by Greece of an indemnity totalling £Tqs.290,000,000. The Assembly made the calculation upon an estimate of £Tqs.200,000,000 for the damage done by the Greek army, and £Tqs.90,000,000 incurred by the Angora Government itself for the transport of refugees from the occupied areas. Whether the latter figure includes the amount expended for the transfer of Christians also is not known. The upshot of the struggle has been the withdrawal from the Angora Administration of Hamdullah Subhi and Omer Lutfi Beys, Commissioners for Education and Public Works respectively.

It is perhaps of some significance that the balance should have been turned soon after the arrival in Angora of the Turkish prisoners who have recently been released from Malta. One of them, Ahmed Emin Bey, is expected to succeed Hamdullah Subhi Bey as Commissioner for Education. Readers of *The Near East* will require little information with regard to the political sentiments of Ahmed Emin Bey, since they were evinced in a manner that rendered comment superfluous in a letter published in *The Near East* a month or so ago. It is possible, however, that the report is without foundation, since Ahmed Emin Bey has resumed his journalistic activities in connection with the well-known Constantinople newspaper, *Vakit*, of which he is the principal director.

In another case, however, there is no room whatever for doubt as to the nature of the influence that is being exerted in Angora by a returned prisoner. Ali Ihsan Pasha, who is held by the British to have broken his parole in escaping from Malta, has been publishing in the Angora press the foulest abuse imaginable against British officers personally, as well as against the British nation in general. This gallant soldier denies: (a) that he gave his parole, and (b) that a promise given to rascals is binding. In order to defend himself still further, he maintained that he had only followed the example of such famous soldiers as Lord Methuen who, he stated, made three efforts to escape after having been captured by the Boers during the South African War, and was finally branded by his captors in order that he should make no further attempts! Ali Ihsan's remarks with regard to other officers whom he mentions by name are equally fantastic and as grossly libellous, but unhappily such are the oracles in which the Turks believe to-day. The law of criminal libel in Turkey is particularly severe, and Ali Ihsan would do well to keep away from Constantinople until he has made his peace.

**Mustapha and Enver.**

Another interesting item in the latest budget from Angora is the news of another campaign against the partisans of Enver. Yonus Nadi, the editor of the *Yeni Gun*, who accompanied Bekir Sami Bey to London last March, and who has distinguished himself as one of the most rabid politicians in Turkey, has apparently made himself insufferable even in Angora. At all events he has been arrested with some thirty others who no longer find favour in the eyes of the Anatolian dictator, and has been marched off to Sivas. The *Yeni Gun* has been closed down, and it is stated that the Angora Government is resolved never to allow it to see the light of a new day. R.I.P.

**The Kurds.**

The situation in Kurdistan appears still to be serious, in spite of Nationalist assurances to the contrary. Mustapha Pasha, who was president of the Court martial under Damad Ferid Pasha's administration, and who did his best to exterminate the Unionist-Kemalist clique in the capital, went to Kurdistan some months ago, and is now at the head of the insurrection, which is causing considerable anxiety in Angora. The Kurds are demanding autonomy under the auspices of the Khalifat, but refuse absolutely to recognise the Angora Government. In spite of the utmost endeavours of the Kemalists, who have tried brutality on the one hand and propaganda on the other, the revolt is spreading, and several of the most powerful Kurdish tribes are now on the war path. Although it is reported that the dismissal of Nureddin Pasha, the Commander of the Central Army at Sivas, and of Nihad Pasha, commanding the Irak army, was due to their being suspected of partisanship for Enver, it is more probable that their disgrace was due rather to their failure to stamp out the rebellion, as it is called. (It should be remembered, however, that the famous *fetvas* by which the Kemalists were outlawed last year have never been annulled, and the Kurds are, therefore, acting strictly in accordance with the injunctions of their religion). It is possible that this failure has been attributed to a deep-laid plot; for ever since the last attempt of the Enverists to overthrow the Kemalist Government, the Angora authorities have had plots on the brain. The official explanation of the Kurdish rising, however, according to the Angora Government, is that the Emir Faisal has suborned the Kurds, and stirred them up against the saviours of Islam.

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### The Franco-Kemalist Agreement.

Whilst General Pellé has been at some pains to explain the purely local nature of the Franco-Kemalist Treaty, the Turks persist in regarding it as a definite treaty of peace between Turkey and France. Just as the Italians at a not very distant date were always hailed in the Anatolian Press as "our very dear friends" so the French have become "our old friends." The scene would of course be incomplete without Pierre Loti, and neither the Angora Government nor its agents in Constantinople have forgotten the tribute which is due to Art. Whilst Ferid Bey is speeding to Marseilles with a magnificent Anatolian carpet and an address of gratitude to the author of "Les Désenchantées," the Constantinople Municipality has decided to name two streets in the capital after Claude Farère and Pierre Loti. Incidentally the Municipality will meet on the 19th to celebrate officially the conclusion of peace with France.

In the meanwhile the evacuation of Cilicia by the French Army is proceeding apace, and according to Hamid Bey, the Kemalist representative on the spot, will be completed on December 20—according to plan. The Christians of Cilicia, mostly Armenians, seem to have considerable doubts whether it would be wise to spend Christmas in that country, in spite of the "guarantees" securing the rights of minorities which the French thoughtfully exacted from the Angora Government, before agreeing to accept the concessions which were offered. The Christians are doubtless unreasonable to distrust the intentions of those who claim to be in the forefront of civilisation, but it is interesting to note that General Dufieux in a recent proclamation announcing that the evacuation would shortly be completed, added that the Christians were free to emigrate. It would have been still more interesting if General Dufieux had stated how and whither the two hundred thousand odd non-Moslem inhabitants of Cilicia should emigrate. The Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, at the request of the Catholics of Adana, has approached the British with a view to obtaining assistance, and permission for the unhappy inhabitants to emigrate to Mesopotamia or Cyprus. But it is impossible now for any considerable proportion to leave the country, and one can only echo the pious hope of General Pellé that the Kemalists will refrain from ill-treating the Christians who are shortly to be once again at their mercy.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, November 7.*

### "All-Greek" Meeting.

The all-Greek meeting convened by the Archbishop took place on October 23, at Nicosia in the Papadopoulos theatre. It included the 28 members of the "Central Committee," 12 editors of newspapers, and about 480 representatives of towns and villages. The Mayor of Nicosia was unable to attend, owing to indisposition. There were two questions before the assembly: first, whether qualified Greek electors should abstain altogether from elections to the Legislative Council, and second, whether they should proceed to propose and elect representatives who would engage neither to sit in the Council nor to co-operate in any way with the Government. The Archbishop, after offering a prayer, was the first to address the meeting. Loud shouts were raised for "union with Greece," and it became at once manifest that the vast majority of the 521 representatives were in favour of boycotting the elections altogether. No speeches were in reality needed, but the meeting was next addressed by a large number of orators. The first was Dr. Zannétos, late member for Larnaca and mayor of that town, who was in favour of proceeding to elections, but of declining to sit in the Council. The numerous speakers who followed either took the other view or agreed to adopt it and swim with the stream. One ex-member stated that they were up against a situation in which they were slaves of the English and underslaves of the Turks. It was a humiliation for Councillors to attend a Council which was "a counterfeit coin devised by infernal diplomacy." Finally a resolution was passed to the following effect:—

This meeting proclaims before God and man the unalterable claim of the (Greek) Cypriot people to union with Hellas, and their irreconcilable feeling towards any alien régime: it condemns and abolishes in its conscience the Legislative Council as unworthy of the Greek Cypriot people; and it decides that the Greeks shall neither nominate candidates nor take any part in elections to the Council.

In compliance with the resolution, no nominations by Greeks have taken place. All who were intending to stand have withdrawn in all the three electoral divisions. In the Nicosia-Kyrenia division two Maronite priests were proposed by a Maronite and seconded by Canon F. Newham, but on a scrutiny it was found that the name of the latter did not appear in the list of qualified electors, and the candidates were consequently disqualified. There will, therefore, be no non-Mohammedan members. As regards Moslems, there are three candidates in the Nicosia-Kyrenia division, three in that of Larnaca-Famagusta, and two in that of Limassol-Papho. The polling will be on November 10. A copy of the resolution, in triplicate as required, has been taken to Government House, for transmission to the Secretary of State. A Sub-Committee of seven members, including the Archbishop, has been appointed to draft organic rules by which the local committees are to be guided in their new campaign. The idea is taking shape that the work is to be two-fold, first, local, and second, abroad, especially in England. The proposal finds favour that there should be a newspaper in London, either in English or in English and Greek, and that lectures should be given in different parts of the United Kingdom in order to enlighten the British public. There have been many references to the Ionian islands. One leading paper writes:—

"From the beginning of the war every Englishman boasted that he was a Gladstone, and—surpassing all—were the Great Premier of England, Lloyd George, and the wise statesman and ex-Premier Asquith. Gladstones and Super-Gladstones, they proclaimed to the world the principles of national rights and the freedom of peoples. But as regards Cyprus they remain Gladstones in words only. Will they remain such to the end, that is not true Gladstones?"

It was also resolved, amidst thunders of applause, that greetings should be sent from the meeting to M. N. Katalanos, who was expelled from Cyprus, and is now at Athens. He is about to publish there a new paper, under the title *The Hellenic East*, which will appear next January. Greetings were also sent to the Cypriot Cavalry-Major in the Hellenic Army, who is now being fêted throughout Cyprus, and is the hero of the hour.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, November 16.*

### A Greek Appeal.

The Greek Archbishop of Smyrna has issued an urgent appeal to all clergy, elders, directors of philanthropic institutions, clubs, guilds, and all employers and employees, asking for subscriptions to purchase warm clothing for the Asia Minor army. Numerous committees have been formed, and the plan is to induce all employees to give one quarter of a day's wages; scholars to give Ps.5 each; clergy to give up four days' fees; cinemas to give one-fourth of their Sunday receipts; and all other businesses to subscribe one quarter of a day's receipts.

### Naval Movement.

H.M.S. Torch (Commander Butler) has taken the berth of H.M.S. Tumult, which has sailed for Constantinople.

## SYRIA.

*Beyrout, November 11.*

### Rivalries in Syria.

A good deal of ink has lately been spilt by the local Press over the question of the autonomous municipal régime with which it was proposed to endow the towns of Beyrout and Tripoli, the Christians of the Grand Lebanon fearing that the scheme was an attempt on the sovereign rights of their new State. The discussion reached an acute stage after it was known that the High Commissioner had granted an audience of several hours to a delegation of Moslem notables, all declared advo-

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cates of the unity of Syria. The Moslems of Beyrout and Syria are, in fact, unanimously opposed to the idea of the Greater Lebanon, inasmuch as it means their absorption in a State which was the only Christian Province of the late Ottoman Empire, and which, after the extension of its frontiers, is still likely to retain its Christian preponderance. When later it became known that the Moslems in Beyrout were to be allowed to describe themselves in the new census forms as "Beyroutines" instead of "Lebanese," the fears of the Christian leaders who looked on the Greater Lebanon as their proudest achievement became still more acute, and the subsequent publication by the Press Bureau of the following *communiqué* was not of a nature to allay these fears:—

"On the solemn proclamation of the State of the Greater Lebanon the General High Commissioner declared that the towns of Beyrout and Tripoli would be endowed with a wide municipal autonomy. This promise could not be fulfilled until now, owing to the prolonged absence of General Gouraud, and to the tours that he has been making for the last two months in the territories under the Mandate. Moreover, the municipal organisation for these two towns was a subject for careful consideration, and it is only now that the General High Commissioner has been able to sign the two *arretes* conferring on Beyrout and Tripoli an autonomous administrative status."

At the beginning of the occupation the Haut Commissariat here openly championed the militant Christian party. After the fall of King Faisal, however, they initiated a pro-Moslem policy. It looks as though France is now committed to the rôle of a coquette dallying between two discontented lovers. The recent treaty with the Kemalists has lent a sort of consecration to her pro-Moslem policy, and to-day there was a small demonstration with a display of Ottoman flags. Another larger one is said to be contemplated for Sunday.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE ANGLO-AFGHAN TREATY.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—After waiting ten long months—during which time the prospects of an Anglo-Afghan Treaty swayed from success to failure—Sir Henry Dobbs has been able to have a treaty signed between Great Britain and Afghanistan. Few would know the difficulties cast in the way of the progress of the British Mission at Kabul, for although as a son of Islam, one thing has ever been clear to me that the men of my faith, whether Turks, Persians, Afghans or Indians, will never cheerfully accept the absurd doctrines of Lenin, nevertheless it was obvious that much diplomatic skill was required to oust the Bolshevist influence from Afghanistan. Sir Henry Dobbs has proved equal to the task, for, to have a treaty prepared despite the presence of that remarkable journalist politician, M. Suritz, is no small achievement, and deserves the highest praise.

Another matter should also be noted; it is that without the active support of the Home Government, the members of the British Mission would have been able to do little, if anything at all. And as in many other concerns, Mr. Montagu has shown statesmanlike sagacity in this respect also. From my way of thinking the people of Afghanistan and the Uzbeks of Bokhara ought to be thankful to him, as I have good reason to believe that it was entirely through his exertions that facilities were granted in Anglo-Afghan negotiations, and now I have hopes that the unfortunate people of the Khanates may have a chance of being dragged from under the teeth of the Bolshevist Colossus.

With the signing of the Treaty with Great Britain a new era has dawned upon Afghanistan. An Afghan Minister will now be in London, and a British representative at Kabul; thus a point which Amir Abdur Rahman Khan fought for many years ago has at last been won. The door to India has been opened too, and through this the Afghans will find a great deal of help in putting their new territories in order. It may be news to most of your readers that the provinces of Roshan, Durwaz and Shignan, for which I put in a claim in my article in the *Edinburgh Review* some years ago, now belong to Afghanistan. Also the district of Yulatun, in the north of Herat, is in possession of the Afghans, and is likely to remain so. In this regard I recollect a pleasant conversation which I had now some time ago with my respected friend Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, when he was good enough to remark that it would be advisable for the Afghans to possess the Yulatun region. Fully one year after that conversation I was glad to hear that the whole of the Murghab valley was in the hand of the Amir's troops. Thus the old Afghan possessions beginning from Old Sarkh in the West to Yulatun, thence to Khoja Salar, are again forming Afghan provinces. That remarkable foresight of my friend shows so well that cultured Englishmen who have made early associations with Afghanistan always look kindly to the interests of the Amir's dominions.

Lastly I am hopeful that some thing might now be done for Syed Mir Alim—the exiled Khan of Bokhara—on whose behalf the Afghan Government is said to have made representations to the Soviets of Central Asia. It is both cruel and unjust that a system of government which is not suited to the East, should be forced upon the poor Uzbeks. The unfortunate Bokharans, however, must bear with their troubles until such time as outside help is given to them or another Abdullah Khan is born.

I am etc.,

Ikbal Ali Shah.

### "RIOTS IN JERUSALEM."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—In the Notes of the Week in your issue of November 7, there are two passages on which I trust you will, with your customary fairness, permit me to comment.

In dealing with the rioting in Jerusalem on November 2, you remark that the local Jews were unwise in engaging, at this particular moment, in "formal celebrations of the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration."

There were, in fact, no such celebrations. The Jews, at the instance of the Zionist Commission authorities, deliberately abstained from them. The Jewish demonstration to which you refer is purely imaginary, and there is not a word of it in the official report. The Government of Palestine expressly states, what is the fact, that nothing untoward occurred until the appearance in the streets of "a crowd of Arab roughs." These were the first and only demonstrators of the day. They have since, it is gratifying to learn, been publicly disavowed by the heads of the Moslem and Christian communities.

Your note on Transjordania appears also to call for comment. If there is, unfortunately, disorder in Transjordania, it has nothing whatever to do with "the clash between Zionist and Arab views." There is no Jewish settlement in Transjordania and there is no Zionist problem there. It is not for me to analyse the causes of the anarchy towards which Transjordania is drifting. They are not unfamiliar to those who have been in close contact with that troubled area, and they have not the smallest connection with Zionism.

I am, etc.,

The Zionist Organization, Leonard Stein.
77, Great Russell Street, W.C.

### THE STATE OF SALONIKA.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—Concerning a letter which appeared on page 340 of your issue of September 22, 1921, I beg to advise "A Wanderer" to wander round the slums of any large town in England, London included. He will then find material for his reforming zeal nearer home than Salonika. I would also advise "A Wanderer" to remember that Greece has not seen a single year's peace since 1912; and last *but not least* to study a certain proverb concerning motes and beams.

I am, etc.,

Adrianople, Nov. 5. Th. Stephanides,

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## MUSICAL NOTES.

### Modern Music.

Eugene Goossens has now raised his orchestra to so high a pitch of excellence that it seems almost a pity that their efforts should be chiefly expended on such works as the conductor believes to be most representative of modern thought. Some of these rarely performed or new works are, without doubt, what Goossens claims them to be—neglected masterpieces; but with others, the chances of their being known fifty years hence are remote. It was unhappily to this impermanent class that the majority of the things done at the Queen's Hall on November 23 belonged. First of all, however, came the sparkling and now well-known "Fugue in C Minor," of Bach-Elgar, its dazzling brilliance being demonstrated with almost incredible perfection. It was the most fascinating and exhilarating cocktail preparatory to a repast imaginable. But after this, the rot, if one may so call it, set in. It began with Holbrooke's "The Wild Sea-Fowl," which, though it contains traces of genius in its representation of a lonely, gull-guarded strand, would inevitably, had it been written by a younger man, have been damned as "promising." Then came "Prometheus," a Symphonic Poem by the most highly-endowed impostor in all music, Liszt, in which the really dramatic and powerful passages of the composer are obscured by the ranting and the frothy eloquence of the wizard. One's hopes were low indeed after this, but another wicket fell for nothing when Cyril Scott's "Aubade" was performed. Cyril Scott is an amazing disappointment, for he has created in this morning song, by stock-in-trade devices if you insist, the clear, fresh and potent atmosphere of morning, and, instead of thereupon saying something vital, has continued to the end his barometric tricks, with never a hint of personality coming through! However, some sort of stand was made when Goossens proceeded to play three numbers of Manuel de Falla's "El Amor Brujo," the Introduction and Dance of Fear, the Pantomime, and the Fire-dance, to drive away evil spirits. This music is very exciting and insidious; it is written and it was performed with extraordinary and effective brilliance, but I felt, except in the second number, which is made with beautiful and original simplicity, that these seductive Spanish ways were either like a passion or a drug, their fascination could not last, or if it did, it was not good for one's musical self-respect. Still, I admit that the power of intoxication in this stuff was great; and it would have been greater had the composer selected some other instrument of percussion than a pianoforte, the tone of which fitted ill with the rest of the instruments. The concert ended with a glorious performance of Rimsky Korsakoff's Symphony "Antar." It is an unequal work, for although the first two movements are supremely excellent, there is a decline of interest in the last two. Not that they are in any way dull, but the exquisite gorgeousness of the "Largo" and "Allegro" is but inconsistently sustained. This symphony, with its profuse wealth of colours, the unceasing originality of its orchestration, and the spacious certainty of its themes, gave Goossens' orchestra the fullest opportunities for showing their worth; and they were indeed magnificent, strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion alike.

### Jelly d'Aranyi.

Mlle. Jelly d'Aranyi, who I believe is one of Joachim's nieces, is a very great violinist. At her recital at the Wigmore Hall on November 24, she proved, in addition to those qualities which one already knew she possessed, —romantic glow, impetuous rhythm, surpassing technique and so on—such command of pure line and such dignity in the statement of melody has made her for me the finest woman fiddler I have ever heard. This recital, in which she was supported by Mrs. Ethel Hobday, was a triumph for her from beginning to end. It is true that in Mozart's "Andante, Menuet, and Rondo," from Haffner's Serenade she had not quite the purity and delicate finish of a Thibaud, and that she took the "Rondo" at so fast a speed as to outpace Mrs. Hobday, but hers was nevertheless a real interpretation, reasoned and beautiful. Vivaldi-Nachez's Concerto in A minor was played perfectly, and the "Largo" especially was done with a mature richness that conquered through its very inevitability. In Schubert's Sonatina in G minor (Op. 137) there was not great interest, and the pianoforte part, excellently enough played, seemed rather to emphasize its thinness. Probably for sheer fiddling and for poetic insight the *pièce de résistance* of the evening was Szymanovski's "La Fontaine d'Arethuse;" it is full of extraordinary difficulties, and had any of them not been overcome it would have sounded futile. But as it was, the bubbling trills of its double-thirds and the double-stopped *glissandi* in its liquid rise and fall, made it marvellously effective. No playing of this could possibly have been finer than Mlle. Jelly d'Aranyi's. And in another piece of the same Polish composer, "Tarantelle," she proved anew how wonderful a thing is her sense of rhythm, and how real and natural her abandon. The little "Cherubins" of Couperin-Salmond is perhaps not quite the kind of piece that suits her best, but her delightfully fresh outlook was again shown in Kreisler's arrangement of the Ballet Music from Schubert's "Fair Rosamond." Altogether she showed herself as one of the most captivating artists now in this country.

### Mr. Leonard Borwick.

There were two unwelcome factors in Mr. Leonard Borwick's pianoforte recital at the Æolian Hall on November 23: he himself was not in good form, and the instrument he was using was a very poor one. In the beginning of Bach's Partita in C minor he made mistakes, and there were times in his Beethoven, Schumann, and Ravel alike when his tone was unusually hard and dry. It says much, therefore, for the purity and diversity of his musical abilities when one confesses that throughout his recital he maintained interest. By the time he had arrived at the "Rondeau" of the Bach he had struck something like his true form, and both this and the final "Gigue" romped home with the most merry elasticity. In Beethoven's "Les Adieux" sonata his architectural sense, which, though founded on the best and classical authority, is very personal, seemed to me arbitrary in the way it made him depart from customary phrasing, and his use of *rubato* overstepped the region of individuality and became, particularly in the first movement, almost wilful. But in his Schumann group he was nearly his old, perfect self; the "Bird as Prophet" and the "Canon in B minor for Pedal Piano," were done with very delicate and persuasive chastity.

**Andante.**

## MUSIC IN PALESTINE.

M. Benno Moiseiwitsch has founded two scholarships for proficiency in pianoforte playing at the Jerusalem and Jaffa School of Music respectively. The Scholarships are of the annual value of £25 each, and they have just been awarded for the first time. M. Moiseiwitsch is also organising a concert in aid of the Jerusalem School of Music, which will take place, by kind permission of Sir Oswald Stoll, at the London Coliseum, and will be under the patronage of the Colonial Secretary and the High Commissioner for Palestine. Messrs. Chappell and Co., are presenting to the Jerusalem School a grand piano which is being specially constructed to suit the climatic conditions of Palestine.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## A HISTORY OF SINAI.

**"A HISTORY OF SINAI." By Lina Eckenstein. With Maps and Illustrations. (London: S.P.C.K. 8s. 6d. net.)**

The triangular peninsula of Sinai, lying between the much visited lands of Egypt and Palestine, is comparatively little known. Yet all through the ages it has played no small part in the religion of mankind. Before the days of Moses the moon-goddess was worshipped in the sacred caves of Serabit. According to the Old Testament the Hebrews here received their law and much of their religious training; during some sixteen Christian centuries it was the abode first of many hermits, and later the Holy Shrine of the legendary Saint and Martyr St. Katherine gave it a new sacredness.

The land presents three well-defined regions. First, the sandy coastal region through which but yesterday the Egyptian Expeditionary Force fought their way to Palestine along what was a military highway in the earliest historic periods. Secondly, a great central plateau, rising to 4,000 feet, the traditional "Plain of the Wandering." This is largely drained by the Wady-el-Arish, known in the Bible as the 'River of Egypt.' This district is traversed by the very ancient Darb-esh-Shur, the great commercial route in Egypt in the days of the Patriarchs. A broad belt of sand separates this plateau from the third and most interesting mountainous region of Southern Sinai. In this are we learn, in the northerly past the site of the ancient turquoise and copper mines of early Egypt together with the sacred shrine of Serabit, and further south the majestic mountain group of Gebal Serbal (6,734 feet), Gebal Musa (7,357 feet), Gebal Katrin (8,727 feet), and Ras Safsaf (6,540 feet). At the foot of Gebal Musa lies the convent, originally the site of "The Bush," later the shrine of St. Katherine.

There is plenty of evidence that in earlier times—even down to the Middle Ages—the 'Desert of Sinai' was cultivated in many places and supported far more wild vegetable and animal life than at present.

Our earliest knowledge of Sinai is derived from somewhat obscure references in the early Babylonian inscriptions. When however we come to the results of the researches of Professor Flinders Petrie at the temple ruins of Serabit, in the neighbourhood of the disused turquoise and copper mines of ancient Egypt, we are upon solid historical ground. At the mines were a number of rock cut tablets high up on the cliffs of the Wady Maghara; they date from the first Egyptian dynasty onwards. An interesting, illustrated account of these is given in this volume. The temple of Serabit shows the remains of successive additions covering many centuries, commencing with the very primitive, Semitic pre-Egyptian caves, sacred to the worship of the moon-god. It is a fascinating suggestion of the authoress that the Mount of God (Exodus XVIII., 5), at which the Israelites camped was at this same spot; that indeed it was at this venerable shrine that Moses stayed and communed with the Deity. The theory is discussed in a very interesting chapter on "The Israelites in Sinai." The next chapter summarizes all that is known of the Nebataeans in Sinai.

During the Christian era Sinai has an almost continuous history for the 4th Century. Here the hermits lived a strange and weird existence, utterly alien to our modern ideas, delighting in hardships, dying not infrequently of famine or thirst, with an inner life enriched by visions and by strange fables and fancies. It is in the writing of some of these recluses that we first read of 'The Bush,' from which the Lord spoke to Moses at the foot of the high mountain when the Law was given. In the reign of Justinian the Monastery was founded, in the neighbourhood of The Bush, and Roman slaves, with their wives and families, were brought there to form a community for the protection of the monks. The Cult of St. Katherine, destined to be its predominant claim for sanctity did not begin till the 10th Century. The body of this martyred Saint was supposed to have been deposited upon the mountain top—probably Gebel Musa—though later it was transferred to the Monastery—and from it exuded the priceless and potent oil which wrought many miracles in far-off cities in Europe. During the 11th and 12th Centuries St. Katherine was far more famous in Europe than at her local shrine.

The history of the Convent in succeeding centuries has been full of vicissitudes. In more recent years manuscripts of priceless worth have been discovered in the library and scholars have gathered there for study. The age-long succession of monks still continues, in numbers much reduced, to live their isolated lives within the ancient semi-fortified walls.

This volume gives us a vast amount of interesting information on every aspect of Sinai's history, and is a distinct contribution to our knowledge of a land but seldom visited and but little described.

E,W.G.M.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Sisters of the Spinning Wheel." By Puran Singh. (London: J. M. Dent and Son. Ltd. 6s. net.)

"The Eclipse of the Abbasid Caliphate." Original Chronicles of the Fourth Islamic Century. Edited, Translated and Elucidated by H. F. Amedroz, Barrister-at-Law, and D. S. Margoliouth, D.Litt., F.B.A. In seven volumes. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, £7 7s. net.).

"Sweet Waters." By Harold Nicolson. (London: Constable and Co., 7s. 6d. net.)

"Music and Life." By W. J. Turner. (London: Methuen and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"East is East." By T. D. Pilcher. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)

## CUNEIFORM LITERATURE.

The library of the late Rev. C. H. W. Johns, Master of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, and a distinguished Assyriologist, has, at his special request, been given to his old college—Queens', Cambridge. It contains practically all books of value to students of cuneiform literature, and, what is probably most valuable of all, a collection of Dr. Johns's MS. notes. Access to this library will be readily granted, and it is hoped that it will be used by students interested in Assyriology.

## "BRITISH PRISONERS IN ANATOLIA."

We much regret that, owing to a printer's error, the sub-title of the above article, published last week, appeared as:—"The Release of British War Criminals" instead of "The Release of Turkish War Criminals." The mistake was such a glaring one that it cannot have given rise to any misconception, but we are extremely sorry that it should have occurred.

## OUR LADIES' COMPETITION.

We have received a number of entries for the above competition, but in order to give readers in the most out-of-the-way parts every chance, we are keeping the competition open a fortnight longer. We hope to announce the prizewinners in our issue of December 22, and to publish the winning papers at the earliest possible opportunity.

Maintenant prête.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-day.**
December 1 (New Style).
November 18 (Old Style).
Rabia II, 2, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshvan 30, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Elizabeth Babington Smith gave birth to a daughter at Saffron Walden on November 17.

Dr. Ariel Benson is leaving shortly for Aden, India and Mesopotamia in the interests of the Palestine Foundation Fund.

Sir Alexander McRobert, who recently underwent a serious operation, left for India by the s.s. China, on November 25.

Mrs. Hamilton Stephenson has arrived in Egypt for the winter. Her address will be 7, Rue Boutros Pacha Ghali, Heliopolis, Cairo, until April.

THE VISCOUNT LASCELLES

Mr. W. A. Fox-Strangways, late British Vice-Consul at Suez, who is now at Tetuan, Morocco, has been relieved by Mr. A. A. Monckmason.

Miss Phyllis Bedells, the famous ballet dancer, has joined her husband, Major Macbean, in Egypt, where she intends to stay for some months.

A satisfactory Anglo-Afghan treaty having been signed, Sir Henry Dobbs, Chief of the British Mission, has left Kabul. He had just been created a K.C.S.I.

M. Gounaris, Greek Prime Minister, and M. Baltazzi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, expect to leave London next week for Paris. After a short stay there they will proceed to Rome.

The Hon. Lady Lloyd Mostyn, the Hon. Mrs. C. R. Hoare, and Vice-Admiral Sir L. E. Power were among the passengers for India in the P. and O. steamship **Plassy**.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 25 entertained at luncheon, at 2, Sussex Square, the president, vice-president, hon. secretary, and members of the Palestine Arab Delegation.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Major Robert John Wingfield Heale, Indian Political Department, son of the Rev. J. N. and Mrs. Heale, and Ethel, only daughter of Mr. David Scott, of Burnside, Alyth, Perthshire.

The marriage was celebrated on November 23 at the Brompton Oratory between the Duca del Monte and Miss Ballard Smith, daughter of Mrs. Ballard Smith, of Le Vieux Colombier, Dinard. Part of the honeymoon is being spent in Vienna and in Bucharest.

The marriage arranged between Richard F. Pinder, of Sierra Leone, son of Mr. F. Pinder, Blackburn, and Dorothea L. H. Mayne, younger daughter of Mr. R. J. M. Mayne (Indian Police, retired) and Mrs. Mayne, will take place at Richmond Parish Church on December 21.

*Central News*

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS MARY.

A Correspondent writes :—On November 15 (under the auspices of the Dodecanesian Delegation in Great Britain), Mr. A. T. Callinicos gave a lecture on the Islands of the Dodecanese, with lantern slides at St. James' Schools, Manchester. Canon J. Perry, Manchester Cathedral, was in the chair.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Bombay in March, between Richard George Mills, of Karachi, only son of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Mills, of 37, Greville Road, St. John's Wood, and Esmé Frew, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Sommerville, of Ruishton House, near Taunton.

Reuter's Athens correspondent writes (November 23): Earl Granville, the British Minister here, who has been transferred to Copenhagen, and Countess Granville, left to-day for London on their way to the Danish capital. Mr. C. H. Bentinck will act as Chargé d'Affaires pending the arrival of Earl Granville's successor.

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The King has granted unrestricted permission to the Rev. Reginald Michael French, of the Hostel of St. Sava and St. George, Oxford, to wear the Cross of Officer of the Order of the Crown of Roumania conferred upon him by the King of Roumania, in recognition of his services to the Roumanian sick and wounded in the late war.

The marriage was celebrated on November 22, at Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth, by Rev. Preb. H. L. Maynard, Vicar of Milverton, and Rev. F. Dyson, Vicar of the parish, between Hugh Vivian Collingridge, Captain 6th Gurkha Rifles son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Collingridge, and Muriel Patricia, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Basden, of Moorlands, Exmouth.

The marriage took place on November 16, at the Garrison Church, Lucknow, between Major E. S. Harcourt, M.C., 7th Gurkha Rifles, son of the late Colonel G. J. Harcourt, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and Mrs. Harcourt, and Nancy, eldest daughter of Major-General Sir Edwin Atkinson, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., and Lady Atkinson, Hythe, Kent. The Bishop of Lahore officiated assisted by the Chaplain of Lucknow.

The marriage was celebrated on November 16, at St. Stephen's, Bath, by Canon Charles Digges La Touche and the Archdeacon of Bath, between Owen Cecil Kirkpatrick Corrie, M.C., Vice-President of the Palestine Court of Appeal, only son of Mr. J. O. Corrie, F.R.A.S., of Lincoln's Inn, and 95, Church-road, Upper Norwood, and Ivy Isabel, youngest daughter of the late Henry Digges La Touche, M.I.C.E., Chief Engineer, P.W.D., Madras, India, and Mrs. Henry Digges La Touche, of Lansdown, Bath.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes (November 14) :— Lady Kennard has arrived in Smyrna to visit her mother Mrs. de Candolle, wife of Major-General Raymond de Candolle, C.B., C.E. Lady Kennard hopes to get some good shooting in Anatolia besides visiting places of archaeological interest.

The Crown Prince and Princess of Greece arrived in Smyrna on Sunday last, and have taken up their residence in the Villa Cotzia at Cordelio, which adjoins the Villa Alliotti, recently occupied by King Constantine.

General Haddad has arrived in Baghdad after his tour of the Arab provinces, which included the Hejaz, where he spent some three months conferring with King Hussein, Palestine, where he stayed as Sir H. Samuel's guest, and Transjordania. On his arrival at the Baghdad aerodrome, he was met by Sir Percy Cox, the King's A.D.C., various Ministers, and other high officials. General Haddad is staying at the Palace, and on the evening of his arrival King Faisal gave in his honour a dinner of fifty covers, at which Sir Percy Cox, the Ministers and other high officials were present.

Haddad Pasha is stated to be optimistic about the future of Transjordania now that the administration in that province has been reorganised. His arrival in Baghdad has excited much popular interest, for Haddad Pasha is looked upon as the ablest and most experienced Arab in public life to-day.

The marriage took place on November 25 in Paris at the Church of St. Augustin and the Russian Church, Rue Daru, of M. Milivoye B. Gavrilovitch, Attaché at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in London, son of Dr. Bogdan Gavrilovitch, rector of the University of Belgrade, and Mme. Gavrilovitch (*née* Markovitch), with Mlle. Suzanne Chartier, daughter of Mme. Hannonet de La Grange, Director of the French Reparations Commission, and Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. Owing to family mourning the ceremony was strictly private. M. V. Milanovitch, Secretary of the Legation in London, was best man. The witnesses for the bridegroom were Dr. Vova Marinkovitch (ex-Minister) and M. Gavrilovitch, Minister in London (represented by M. M. Mikajlovitch, Chargé d' Affaires in Paris). Those for the bride were M. Hannonet de la Grange and M. A. Tirman, Conseiller d'Etat and Commander of the Legion of Honour.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

With the approval of the King, Mr. Alfred Edward Martineau has been appointed a Judge of the Lahore High Court, in succession to Mr. Justice Samuel Wilberforce, and Mr. Benjamin Lindsay has become a Judge of the High Court of Allahabad, in place of Sir George Edward Knox.

## A NATURAL FORTRESS OF CENTRAL ASIA.

Lecturing before the Central Asian Society at 74 Grosvenor Street, London, on November 10, Major L. W. S. Blacker, of the Corps of Guides, gave an account of a series of extraordinary journeys, amounting to about 9,000 miles through wild country, sometimes unexplored, in Central Asia, performed by himself and a small party in connection with a British mission in the years 1918-19-20. In the course of these journeys he at one time visited a most extraordinary natural fortress. Khorassan, he said, was walled in by a natural line of ramparts; but the most remarkable part of this natural wall was an outwork called Kalat-i-Nadiri. In the circumstances of the time the Persians could not refuse him admission, but usually they kept this place shrouded in the greatest mystery; largely because Nadir Shah had hidden therein £17,000 worth of loot that he had got from the sack of Delhi.

Major Blacker described the fortress as being about fifteen or sixteen miles long, about four or five miles across, and as containing half-a-dozen villages. All round it was vertical scarped cliff impassable to any but trained cragsmen. He said that since the time of Queen Elizabeth the place had been held as a fief from the Shah by a tribe of Turks, who held it in return for defending that part of the frontier against raiding Turcomans. There was a little attempt at cultivation. It had been visited by very few Europeans in the last 150 years.

Colonel A. C. Yate, who followed, said that he was one of the few Europeans who had visited Kalat-i-Nadiri. It was a singular formation of great interest as associated with the great conqueror Nadiri Khan. He had got an introduction from the then British Agent in Meshed, and upon presenting this had been politely invited into the fortress, where he had spent three days. He remembered being taken to the northern slopes and looking down on the plains of Central Asia. Almost immediately after his visit the Persians made up their minds that they did not want any more Europeans there, at any rate for the present; and when so great and distinguished a traveller as Lord Curzon arrived towards the end of 1886 he had to go away again without being admitted.

Hail, the capital of the Central Arabian Emirate of the Jebel Shammar, has passed into the hands of the Emir Abd el Aziz, the ruler of Nejd, by his defeat, after a long struggle, of the son of the late Emir.

Work on the Tata hydro-electric scheme near Poona has again been postponed, owing to the continuance of the passive resistance tactics of the inhabitants.

A railway line between Kazanlik and Tulovo was opened last week by the King of Bulgaria.

Trustworthy information which has reached the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's Fund), of 95, Victoria-street, S.W., shows that the whole population of the Republic of Erivan is threatened with famine. At the present time, 130,000 children and 120,000 adults are in urgent need of help.


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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1921.


## GREECE, TURKEY, AND THE POWERS.

When they conclude their visit to London M. Gounaris, Greek Prime Minister, and M. Baltazzi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will leave for Paris *en route* for Rome, where a short stay will be made before their return to Greece. A solution of the Near Eastern question was not to be looked for in their negotiations with the British and the French Governments, for in existing circumstances this goal can be reached only in agreement with Nationalist Turkey. But there is reason for supposing that some useful ground has been covered towards a final settlement. In the first place credit must be given to the Greek Ministers for the manner in which they have carried out a difficult mission. The Greek case, which the Allies have been accustomed to hear so eloquently urged in the past when facts were not against it, lost nothing in their hands; and in showing some consideration for the hard logic of events they certainly enhanced their own reputation and served their country well. If the British Government heard once more the Greek point of view well propounded, the Greek representatives had the British case in the light of the last two years' experience submitted to them, and probably for the first time they realized that they were confronted with a far more formidable argument than any that they had encountered in Paris. Twice during the present year Greece has refused to place herself in the hands of the Allies; she now finds, when no alternative is open to her, that she stands to obtain a worse bargain than she might have secured in March or in June. The position is an unfortunate one for any Government; but the wiser course is to accept it with the best grace. There can be no practical settlement, unless the Turks are a party to it, and it is now left to the Allies once more to bring Turks and Greeks into line. The task has been complicated by the action of the French in concluding a separate treaty with the Turkish Nationalists; but any self-complacency engendered at Angora on this account should not remain proof against winter conditions and other arguments that the Allies can bring to bear upon Mustapha Kemal Pasha. In this matter Great Britain, France and Italy must once more act together; and as the only possible basis of a solution coincides with the main aspiration of the moderate Nationalists, no separate understandings between France or Italy and Angora should prove an obstacle to co-operation. To remove all possible misconception, the British Government should also be in direct touch with the Kemalists, before a conference is held. The bogey of Anglophobia in Turkey need worry no one; for the Kemalists will not be slow to realize that the British come seeking no concessions in Anatolia, but actually bringing terms which pave the way for a lasting peace.

Little is known of political conditions in Angora, but it is safe to assume that Mustapha Kemal Pasha feels himself more secure in this respect than the present Greek Government. Public opinion in Greece must be the sole judge as to whether a Ministry has served the country well or ill. Too often, however, there is a tendency to decide the point by the arbitrary test of the attainment or non-attainment of the popular aspirations. In the present instance a good case would seem to be made out for allowing the Government that carried out the advance into Anatolia, that withdrew the Army and then entered into negotiations with the Allies to take charge of the Greek cause at the Conference that will be called to settle the Near Eastern question. In the interval that will elapse before the Conference can meet there will be time for a more careful examination of the Greek position. Greece stands to gain little, if anything, by changing horses in the middle of the stream. The terms to which she will be asked to signify her assent are not the result of any weakness in the advocacy of the Greek cause on the part of her present representatives. They will be imposed on her from without, and the harder they may seem to bear, the more necessary for the nation to close its ranks and to meet misfortune as a united people. Many visions have been dissipated in Asia Minor. It is by no means certain, however, that Greece will be ultimately the loser. The realization of some hopes may prove a more onerous burden than a country which cherishes them is able at the time to support. This promised to be Greece's experience in Asia Minor. The original conception of Smyrna as a valuable asset to the Greek Exchequer was soon abandoned when it was found that the Smyrniots had no intention of allowing themselves to be governed by Athens for the benefit of Greek politicians. A Greek Smyrna without a considerable Greek hinterland was proved to be an unworkable proposition; but to satisfy the economic requirements of the port the extent of territory to be incorporated would entail a permanently hostile Turkey, with a corresponding financial burden imposed on Greece. There is no reason why the Greek public should not be brought to see the situation in this light. It has already had some inkling of the strain put upon the nation's finances by, and of the military demands arising from, an Asia Minor policy. A state of unstable equilibrium between Greece and a hostile Turkey must inevitably weaken the Greek position in South-Eastern Europe, and might oppose an insuperable barrier to Greece's becoming a member of the Little Entente. On the other hand, if the Gounaris Government can obtain a loan at once from the Allies and is promised reasonable compensation in connexion with the occupation of Smyrna and the earlier operations against the Turks, the Greek public will have the satisfaction of knowing that the country has not done badly in extricating itself from a false position for which all parties and all classes were in some measure responsible.

The present intention is to summon in January a further conference on the Turkish question. But, if that gathering is to be on the lines of the London Conference last March, when the Turks and the Greeks were invited to state their cases and the Allies were not disposed to enforce acceptance of the terms that they themselves proposed, no settlement is likely to result. The sole purpose of the Conference should be to ratify decisions previously reached. If the discussions should last until the end of January, and then under one pretext or another a month or more be allowed, as before, for the terms tentatively agreed upon to be endorsed in Angora or Athens, the melting time for the Anatolian snows will be approaching, and once again one belligerent or the other may decide that an advantage is to be gained by a sudden resumption of hostilities. The mistake made by the Allies in the Treaty of Sèvres lay in the supposition that there was room in Asia Minor for both Greek and Turkish jurisdiction. There is not. If the Turks can be convinced that they are to have Asia Minor intact, other outstanding points should not prove difficult of adjustment. But the general items of the settlement should be agreed upon before the Conference meets. An essential condition of any settlement, as has been urged before in these columns, is that it should leave Turkey at peace with herself, as well as with the outside world. The relations between the Sultan, the Constantinople Government and Mustapha Kemal Pasha must be satisfactorily adjusted, particularly if there is any question of the Allied troops being withdrawn from Constantinople. This task will have to be accomplished in Turkey, and much, if not everything, will depend upon a wise choice being made in the appointment of the British representative charged with the task of establishing touch with the Angora Government.

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## ALBANIA AS HOLIDAY RESORT.

*By Major J. S. Barnes.*

From the dark barriers of that rugged clime,
Ev'n to the centre of Illyria's vales,
Childe Harold pass'd o'er many a mount sublime.
Through lands scarce noticed in historic tales;
Yet in famed Attica such lovely dales
Are rarely seen; nor can fair Tempe boast
A charm they know not; loved Parnassus fails,
To match some spots that lurk within this lowering coast.
(*Childe Harold*).

Probably no more fascinating holiday could be devised than a journey to Albania. Over a century ago Gibbon spoke of Albania as a country within sight of Italy, but less known than the interior of America. The remark is as true to-day as it was then. Yet Albania is not now very inaccessible, and no one need be under any apprehension of any danger to his person or property in going there. The Albanians are anxious to welcome tourists and to extend to them their wonderful hospitality, for which they have an unrivalled and deserved reputation.

The charms of Albania are very well summed up in the following quotation from a little-known book "Journals of a Landscape Painter," published in 1852, by Edward Lear, famous for his nonsense rhymes, but also a very talented landscape painter and an enthusiastic tourist:—

> The general and most striking character of Albanian landscape is its display of objects, in themselves beautiful and interesting—rarely to be met with in combination. You have the simple and exquisite mountain-forms of Greece, so perfect in outline and proportion—the lake, the river, and the wild plain; and withal you have the charm of architecture, the picturesque mosque, the minaret, the fort, and the sarai,—which you have not in modern Greece, for war and change have deprived her of them; you have that which is found neither in Greece nor in Italy, a profusion everywhere of the most magnificent clustering plane and chestnut, growth abundant of forest oak and beech, and dark tracts of pine. You have majestic cliff-girt shores; castle-crowned heights, and gloomy fortresses; palaces glittering with gilding and paint; mountain passes such as you encounter in the snowy regions of Switzerland; deep bays, and blue seas with bright, calm isles resting on the horizon; meadows and grassy knolls; convents and villages; olive-clothed slopes, and snow-capped mountain peaks;—and with all this a crowded variety of costume and pictorial incident such as bewilders and delights an artist at each step he takes.

To these delights, as yet quite unspoilt, must be added those of the sportsman. Woodcock and wild boar shooting are particularly famous; but many varieties of duck, the snipe, the quail, the partridge, the hare, and the wild goat also abound, and even heavier game, such as the bear and the wolf. Trout fishing, too, in Lake Ochrida, and the upper reaches of the Drin, is reputed to be excellent.

As the country has not yet been opened up for tourist traffic, the traveller must be prepared to do without luxuries in Albania. It is possible to find clean but very simple quarters in most of the towns; and where there are no good hotels (by good is meant clean), the traveller may be pretty certain of securing a tolerable room, by applying to the mayor or the prefect, as the case may be. The native cooks know how to make some very savoury dishes, and some of the dainties peculiar to the country are not by any means to be despised. Personally I am very fond of *kos* (compare the German *dicke Milch*), which is served usually at every meal, though most of the sweetmeats I find rather sickly. Care should be taken to insist on each hot dish ordered being brought up separately; for it is the unaccountable custom of the country to serve all the dishes at once, with disastrous results to those who like to eat their food hot. Fruit and the Turkish coffee are delicious.

Apart from having to rough it, there is the matter of expense to be reckoned with. A trip to Albania is not cheap. You can reach the country by the Dalmatian coast from Trieste and return by Brindisi and Rome, and this programme makes a very pleasant five weeks' trip. Leaving London on a Friday, it is possible to reach Venice by the Orient Express before dinner time on Saturday. Cross from Venice to Trieste on the following Tuesday, and take the Lloyd-Triestino boat which sails from Trieste for the Dalmatian coast every Wednesday morning. Pola, Sebenico, Spalato, Gravosa, Cattaro, and Antivari, are passed in the daytime, with time to land and to visit the sights. Durazzo is reached on the following Saturday. The journey is a magnificent one, the scenery of the Dalmatian coast being unsurpassably beautiful with its deep blue water, its high mountains, its woody gulfs, its countless islands, all studded with towns and villages of historical interest and containing beautiful specimens of Venetian and Roman architecture. If the traveller wishes to see Ragusa, the most interesting of all Dalmatian towns, it is necessary to quit the ship at Gravosa and to continue the trip into Albania by motor car through Cattaro, Cettigne and Virbazar, whence a steamer on Lake Scutari may be taken to Scutari itself. Allowing for three weeks in Albania, the return journey may be made from Durazzo and Valona to Brindisi, where the ship arrives on a Monday morning, enabling the traveller to reach Rome on Monday night. Two nights in Rome and one in Paris will bring the traveller back to London on the following Friday.

The cost of this trip will, of course, vary with the requirements of the tourist. For those who wish to travel by train de luxe, with sleepers and single berth cabins, but who are content to stay at small hotels en route, and in Albania to do a lot of walking with a rucksack and to dispense with the luxury of an interpreter (with French or Italian you can get on famously in Albania), £150 will cover all expenses comfortably, including the hire of a horse in Albania in those parts where riding affords

A STREET in DURAZZO.

MARKET DAY AT SHUJAK, NEAR DURAZZO

AT TIRANA.

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good sport. Those who are prepared to rough it to a greater degree might manage the journey for a £100 and if anyone is in the happy position of being able to take a three months' holiday in the summer months with the idea of camping in the Albanian mountains, the relative cost of the trip would be much diminished.

The chief town in Albania is Scutari, where the market days afford an extraordinarily picturesque sight and opportunities of picking up some very pretty things (charmingly coloured silks and cottons, embroidery, and fascinating slippers made of coarse knitted wool embroidered with silver and gold). The costumes of the peasants here are the finest in Albania. Scutari moreover is the capital of the highlands *par excellence* and on market days magnificent specimens of humanity from the mountains throng the streets. Many of the women are extremely beautiful, and what is particularly pleasing, they are not ashamed to show their faces, for the majority of them are Christians.

There is a road (bad) from Scutari to Kruja, Tirana and Durazzo. Motor cars may be hired. Kruja is the old capital of Skanderbeg, perched 2,000 feet above the plain among olive groves, exceedingly picturesque and commanding incomparable views. Tirana, the present capital, lies in a narrow plain between high mountains and low wooded hills of rare loveliness. Durazzo is the chief port, but as yet a poor little town, stricken by malaria in summer. But it is finely situated and is dominated by some interesting Venetian ruins.

South and east of these points the journey has to be continued over tracks not passable by motor car. But in many ways it is a joy to get away from the bad roads. The best way of travelling is on horse-back, for the distances are long. From Tirana to Elbasan it is 20 miles of rough going over a high mountain pass without a vestige of habitation. From Elbasan you can proceed either to Lake Ochrida and Koritza—a good three days' journey—or else to Valona *via* either Berat or Lyushna. Valona and Koritza are united by a road which passes through Argyrocastro, and there is a magnificent road built by the Italians running between Valona and Santi-Quaranta through the Acroceraunian mountains, than which no more astonishing scenery is to be seen anywhere. Lear's description of it makes the flesh creep. But a journey through Albania means something different every day. Each town has its special features, each district its special costumes. As for the scenery, it is always changing. That above Argyrocastro, for instance, has a peaceful, lyric beauty which fascinated Byron. Lake Ochrida many say is the most beautiful lake in Europe. It is of crystalline clearness and has all the sweetness and charm of the Italian Lakes. The little hills near Tirana, and in a different way, near Elbasan are divinely pretty; while the great plain of the Musakia has the same grandeur and fascination as the Maremma in Italy, with the same characteristics of swamp, lagoon, and lone, melancholy hills. Up in the North and in the interior, however, the wild scenery predominates, some of the mountains reaching a height of over 7,000 feet, virgin peaks many of them, and not even roughly surveyed.

In going off the beaten track the traveller should go with the guide, and if he is determined to enter the territory of any of the mountain clans he should be furnished with proper letters of introduction. But with this single precaution, no one with decent manner and ordinary commonsense need have any fear that he will bring back from Albania anything but pleasant memories and robust health. The plains should be avoided in July and August on account of the heat and the malaria, while the highlands are practically impassable in midwinter. The rainy month is November, and except in midsummer and midwinter you cannot be certain of continuous fine weather. September-October is perhaps the month when the weather may be best depended on to be both fine and pleasant. March to May, though subject to heavy downpours, are, however, the months to be chiefly recommended.

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According to a Constantinople report, the Angora Assembly is considering the proposal that Sultan Mohamed VI, should be invited to leave Constantinople and take up his residence in Angora.

About 200 Nationalists have been arrested in Azerbaijan by the Bolshevists for having conspired against the Soviet Government.

News received by Georgian circles in London reports the arrest by the Bolshevist Government of a deputation of Tiflis workmen who went to complain about increased economic burdens.


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# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

## Lord Curzon and the Near East.

Speaking at the Cannon Street Hotel on November 24, Lord Curzon appeared to urge international co-operation as the only way to secure the peace of the world. In dealing particularly with the Near Eastern situation he complained that it was useless for "one Power to steal a march on the others and conclude independent arrangements on its own account." In commenting upon this speech the *Manchester Guardian* of November 24, says :—

There can be no real settlement of the difficult and dangerous questions of Greece and Turkey and the Straits except by the common action of the Powers, and the most fatal blow to the prospects of a stable settlement in the Near East was struck when France entered on separate negotiations with the Turks and made a settlement with them all to herself. Lord Curzon touched lightly on this aspect of the matter, but the drift of his argument was plain enough. Greece herself is of course deeply to blame for refusing repeated offers of mediation, and seeking to force an issue by arms. She has failed, but the need of common action by the Powers remains,if worse is not to follow. If France is the chief offender, this country is not without blame, for Greece believed, not, we fear, without reason, that her attack had the approval of the Government of this country, and Lord Curzon would have added to the strength of his case if he had admitted that we also have something to regret. It is not too late for both sides to redress their error. The whole matter is one which urgently calls for a new approach and a real settlement. Greece can probably hold her own for some time in her present position, but only at an expense which she can ill afford and with no certainty that at any time she may not be compelled to withdraw. Meanwhile the unhappy villagers, whether Greeks or Turks, are called upon to suffer, and the miserable remnant of the Armenian nation, abandoned by France, which had undertaken to protect them, stands in danger of extermination. Never was there a clearer case, on grounds alike of humanity and of policy, for common action by the Allied and friendly Powers. The vital question of the freedom of the Straits, one of the greatest international questions of the world, can never be settled by any other means.

The *Morning Post* of the same date was, on the other hand, by no means so laudatory, for it begins an article called "An Unfortunate Speech" thus :—

Lord Curzon took it upon himself to rate France in the City of London yesterday afternoon. His indictment was twofold. In the first place, he more than hinted that France had embarked or was about to embark upon an isolated policy at Washington, relying on her own armaments to protect her cause instead of submitting to the bulwarks profferred by the conscience and the combined physical forces of the world. In the second place, he suggested that France was stealing a march on this country by concluding a separate agreement with the Kemalist leaders at Angora. Lord Curzon, in thus venting his spleen on an ally, really lays himself open to some dangerous retorts, for if we compare his foreign policy with that of the Quai d'Orsay we gravely doubt if the comparison redounds to his advantage, despite the fact that, as Lord Curzon will be the first to admit, he has at his service perhaps the most efficient department of the State. For after all, France succeeded in preventing the Bolsheviks from overrunning Poland, and thus starting a movement in Germany which might have again plunged Europe into war. On that occasion Lord Curzon apparently trusted to the conscience of the world, which, as the French, the Belgians, and the Poles know, is well-intentioned, but somewhat slow. The French, in their turn, trusted to General Weygand, who is never slow. Then France had the acumen to see that King Constantine was going to be no match for Kemal, and had been guilty of the crime—always considered odious by the obtuse—of profiting from her superior intelligence. French foreign policy may be isolated, but it is certainly intelligible and, on the whole, successful. But Lord Curzon's foreign policy is neither intelligible nor successful. He is too trusted a servant of the Prime Minister ever to be guilty of the indiscretion of thinking and acting for himself. A good butler serves the wine, and under the new dispensation a good Foreign Secretary reads the despatches, but both are expected to be and are obedient. Lord Curzon, when he surveys the sorry spectacle of Europe at the moment, has at any rate the melancholy satisfaction of knowing that in all things he has faithfully obeyed his master.

It proceeds to develop the argument that "France is acting alone because her friend has deserted her," and concludes :—

As for the Middle East, the simple truth is that Lord Curzon backed the wrong horse, and now that the race is practically over he wishes his more discriminating partner to share his losses. By all means let us have united action in the Middle East, but the Foreign Secretary ought to have thought of that admirable axiom in the days when he allowed M. Veniselos and King Constantine to believe that they had behind them in their hazardous adventures the support of Great Britain. Lord Curzon's speech indeed, is a cry of distress. Our foreign policy, directed by Mr. Lloyd George, driven by the ebb and flow of party politics, and thinking only of to-day and never of to-morrow, is being tried in the balance and found wanting. We have drifted into a mess in the Middle East; to-morrow we may be stranded hopelessly on the reparations shoal. The cause of all this trouble is, as we have repeatedly insisted, our failure to come to a complete understanding with France, on which in time we could have built up a durable alliance. We ought to have given her guarantees against a renewal of the German menace, guarantees which we once offered her and then withdrew, guarantees which would save not only Paris but London. Then we could have framed a common policy in regard to Russia and the Middle East which by this time might have brought peace to those distracted regions.

And *The Times* pleads for more light :—

Lord Curzon made a guarded reference to the troubled situation in the Near East. He recognized the urgent need for peace in Anatolia, and pointed out that it was particularly important for us to have peace, since "we are the greatest Mohammedan Power in the world, and it is our interest, not only in relation to England, but in relation to India, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Arabia, to have a friendly Turkish power on our flank." That is unexceptionable, and the reminder that France also has important Mohammedan interests is opportune. The warning to the Greeks to restrain their ambitions will no doubt have due weight as coming from the representative of a Government that at one time gave special encouragement to the Greeks to undertake military operations in Asia Minor. On the question of the territorial arrangements that might form the subject of negotiations Lord Curzon was perhaps purposely vague. He suggested that there is room for both Turks and Greeks in the Near East. That is indubitable; but the troublesome question is whether there is room for both Turks and Greeks in Asia Minor. We entirely agree that we shall never get out of the present *cul de sac* in the Near East "unless the Great Powers come together and with perfect loyalty and absolute sincerity bend their shoulders to the common task." And for that reason we wish that Lord Curzon could have spoken yesterday in a more hopeful and confident tone which would have been re-echoed in other Allied countries and would have stimulated closer co-operation. The difficulties are not insuperable, though it is as well that from time to time they should be plainly pointed out.

## The Salvaging of Turkey.

In the *Pall Mall and Globe* of November 22 an appeal to England to save Turkey was made by Ahmed Riza Bey, formerly President of the Turkish Parliament. The article begins with a recognition of Turkey's culpability in entering the war, and then shows how, in a bitter anti-British spirit, religion and politics have been confounded by the Mohammedans—a confusion which, however, must be taken into account by Great Britain. After suggesting that if England were to proclaim the independence of Turkey there would be a great change of feeling among the Mohammedans of Turkey, it continues :—

Last January, in order to bring about an understanding between the Powers—England, France and Italy—and the Angora leaders, I proposed to act as an intermediary. My plan received encouragement from the French Foreign Office. I was in fact, on the point of starting for Rome when I heard from Angora that an invitation from England had been accepted, and that Bekir Sami Bey was being sent to London. The whole question, as far as I was concerned, was adjourned. The Franklin-Bouillon Agreement is open to criticism on the ground that it is loaded with commercial concessions. It should have been limited to the settlement of frontier questions and to the provision of guarantees for the security of minorities. It is three years since the armistice, and yet the world is still seething with troubles resulting from the war. In Turkey the condition of affairs savours of anarchy. There cannot be two governments in one country. I see nothing in Angora except a very good army of National Defence. Angora has no other *raison d' etre*. The Angora leaders have shown a high spirit of patriotism and have done admirably, from a military standpoint only. The Angora troops are much encouraged. The semi-circle of *ententes*, with Persia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Russia, support and simulate effort. The Army of National Defence will secure the necessary resources to continue the campaign until the Greeks evacuate Smyrna itself. It is actually in the interests of the Greeks that they should evacute Smyrna. The fact that Russia is at present in the hands of the Bolsheviks should not affect the Turkish people. It is hoped that the anti-Turkish policy of England will be modified. It is, after all, no unheard-of condidition of affairs for countries that have been at war on different occasions to forget their past grievances and fight together as brothers-in-arms. England and France form an example.

And the article, after saying that "it is for England to save Turkey now," concludes :—

My country has erred, I admit. I submit to the loss of territory within reasonable limits. But we must have our independence restored. The Greeks must leave Asia Minor. Our frontier should be extended to the Enos-Midia line. Adrianople, which, I contend, is a Mohammedan city, should be restored to us, even if the frontier is less generous than I suggest. The disturbances in India on the Caliphate question would cease, I feel sure, if England now recognised Turkey's right to a free existence.

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## PALESTINE: THE ARAB CASE.

We have received a copy of a pamphlet entitled "The Holy Land: The Moslem-Christian Case Against Zionist Aggression," an official statement of the Palestine Arab Delegation's point of view. It refers first to pledges given to the Arabs by the British Government during the war, and to statements made in 1919 and 1921 by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill, admitting Great Britain's indebtedness to the Arabs. It then quotes Mr. Balfour's famous Declaration of November 2, 1917, on which it comments:—"This Declaration, when news of it first came during the war through the Turks, was utterly disbelieved; later, when it was found to be true, it fell as a thunderbolt from the blue on the Arab population of Palestine, who saw in it death to their political and economic existence. Besides it was in direct contradiction to previous British declarations."

Next, the pamphlet recalls Lord Allenby's proclamation in October, 1918, when he "solemnly assured the people of Palestine that nothing would be decided about their future status without their wishes being first consulted." Arab confidence was restored, we are told, but this confidence "had another shock when the Military Administration in Palestine was replaced by a civil Administration and a Jew and Zionist in the person of Sir Herbert Samuel was sent out as High Commissioner. The Arabs now lost faith in the sincerity of British promises. Nothing would now restore their faith in the British except a strict carrying out of promises made to them in an open and manly manner." Nor were the Arabs' fears allayed (the pamphlet reports) when "they learnt from Zionist sources that, in its first inception, the Balfour declaration was drawn up by Zionists, and that the High Commissioner, who is supposed to be His Majesty's representative, had in fact been nominated by Zionists, and was working for their ends." In support of this a reference is made to the Zionists' Political Report No. 1, and to Zionist declarations at the Carlsbad Conference. In order to show that the Arabs have good grounds for their fears, quotations are given of statements by Dr. Weizmann and Dr. Eder (acting chairman of the Zionist Commission in Jerusalem). Dr. Weizmann's own words as found in the Political Report No. 1 of the Carlsbad Congress were: "I declare that by a Jewish National Home we meant the creation in Palestine of such conditions as should enable us to establish between 50,000 and 60,000 Jews per annum there, and to settle them on the land. Further that the conditions should be such that we should be allowed to develop our institutions, our schools, and the Hebrew language—that there should ultimately be such conditions that Palestine should be just as Jewish as America is American and England is English. In the opinion of Dr. Eder, as mentioned in the reports of the Commission of Inquiry on the disturbance in May, 1921, there can only be one National Home in Palestine, and that a Jewish one, and no equality in the partnership between Jews and Arabs, but a Jewish predominance as soon as the numbers of that race are sufficiently increased." And Mr. Sidebotham is quoted as saying: "It is desired to encourage Jewish immigration by every means, and at the same time to discourage the immigration of Arabs." The Arab faith in the word of an Englishman was shaken, but hope still lived. The Delegation was "duly elected by the Congress of 96 members, who in their turn had been elected by the Moslem and Christian Leagues all over the country. The League, consisting of men who enjoy the confidence of all classes of the population whom they represent, raised funds to meet the Delegation's expenses. It is thus seen that the Delegation is truly representative of all the Arab inhabitants of the country, who compose 93 per cent. of the total population. The nation's hopes are centred in this Delegation, and in the message of goodwill, which, it was believed, it could send out to its people from the British Government and from the British public. Unfortunately, however, up to the present, this word is not forthcoming..... matters to-day are still where they were months ago." An official interpretation of the Balfour Declaration has been asked for, but it is not forthcoming. Mr. Balfour himself declines to be drawn on the subject; and the Arabs are driven to believe that the Zionist representatives are right. The Arab used to live at peace with his Jewish neighbours before the war; and the existence of the Jewish colonies "is incontrovertible evidence of the toleration of Arabs towards their Jewish guests..... Never were there any riots in Palestine before the war; never was there any hatred shown to the Jew. Things might have gone on in this fashion and all would have been well." But the Balfour Declaration has led the Zionists to aim at the political and economic domination of the Arab, and as he can bear no political domination by the foreigner, trouble began. The pamphlet reminds us that Mr. Churchill, in the House of Commons, stated it as his opinion that "the only cause of unrest in Palestine arose from the Zionist movement, and from our promises and pledges in regard to it." The Arab is not so bad as he is painted by the Zionists; had he been a brute he would have attacked the Jews when they were less numerous in the country. "The Arabs of Palestine are not Anti-Semitic. As a matter of fact they are more tolerant of the Jew than the Christian peoples of the West have been. What the Arab will not tolerate is the political Zionist, the Zionist who has come into his country with the idea of dominating him and becoming his master." The concluding paragraphs of the pamphlet give the Arab demands.—"The Arab people of Palestine ask: First, that a National Government be created that shall be responsible to a Parliament elected by those inhabitants of Palestine who lived there before the war, namely, Moslems, Christians, and Jews. Second, the abolition of the present policy in Palestine; and the regulation of immigration to be controlled by this National Government, which is the best judge of the capacity of the country to support newcomers. Third, the Holy Places for all religions to be left to the entire control of their present guardians, and that neither the National Parliament nor any other authority be allowed to effect any changes therein. Four, that a local Gendarmerie be created for policing purposes, the expenses of this body to be met by the Palestine Government. This would save the British taxpayer the huge amounts he is now spending on the country. "Let Parliament send out a Commission to Palestine to examine into the question and report. The Arab is a friend of England and has ever been loyal to, and trustful of, her. Why should England now lose this friendship and gain the dislike of the whole Arab world, both Moslem and Christian, by this unwise and unjust policy? Why should the British politician allow seeds of trouble and contention to be sown in a country that has always been peaceful and quiet? This should never be allowed. The Arabs call upon every true Englishman to use his influence and power to stop it."

## NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

The light cruiser Cardiff, Captain L. F. Maitland-Kirwan, flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt, which recently conveyed ex-King Charles of Hapsburg and his consort from Galatz to Madeira, has returned to Gibraltar, and is to be taken into dockyard hands there for a refit on December 1 (to-day).

The battleship King George V., Captain B. S. Thesiger, C.B., C.M.G., and the light cruiser Centaur, Captain W. F. French, C.M.G., have arrived at Malta from Constantinople.

The hospital ship Berbice, A. H. Hardy, master, which arrived at Devonport from the Mediterranean on November 14, is ordered to leave again on Monday for her station. She will call at Gibraltar, and arrive at Malta on December 7.

On November 13, a number of political associations in Athens celebrated the first anniversary of the downfall of M. Venizelos and the restoration of King Constantine to the Throne.

Ten policemen and four rioters were injured in a riot which occurred last week in consequence of an attempt to run tramcars in Calcutta, where there is a strike of tramway employees.

The Hanoi newspaper *France-Indo-Chine* announces the death of Mingoon Ming, the former Crown Prince of Burmah, at Saigon, whither he fled on the overthrow of King Thebaw by the British in 1885.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square.
E.C. 2.

### Sir Adam Block's Report.

The special report of Sir Adam Block on the Ottoman Public Debt, a summary of which will be found in another column, is naturally a far from encouraging document, as for many months past conditions in Turkey have gone from bad to worse. The Treaty of Sèvres has still to be ratified, and Sir Adam warns bondholders that, until that takes place, they should not count on any permanent improvement in the revenues assigned to the loans. He further points out that as long as the Greco-Turkish conflict continues there is little hope of the encashment of any revenues in Anatolia, and, commenting on the effects of its prolongation, says that "the damage done is incalculable."

### Arrears of Bond Interest.

The Council in March last, it will be remembered, made a payment on account out of its funds in Europe of 1s. 3d. per coupon up to March, 1920, a similar percentage in francs being paid on the premiums and redemption value of Lottery Bonds drawn for redemption between December 1, 1914, and February 1, 1920. After deduction of these payments the balance due amounted £T7,524,183.18. At July 31, last the Council held for the service of the Debt £3,456,435, including amounts deposited in German and Austrian Banks, representing at the rate of exchange on September 1, £513,006. The payment of the arrears is dependent on the result of legal proceedings which have been instituted to obtain repayment in gold of the sums deposited in Germany during the war. If they are repaid in gold there will be more than sufficient to pay the arrears, but if not "the bond holders will have to be consulted with regard to some scheme for the funding of the unpaid balance of the coupons, after utilising the remaining funds in hand."

### Turkey's Financial Straits.

A little over a year ago the members of the Council of the Debt were invited to undertake the control of the finances of the Turkish Government. It was a thankless task, and made more difficult as the Provisional Financial Commission has strictly limited powers, and can only suggest and advise. The nature of the problem to be solved may be gathered from the fact that the ratio of receipts to expenditure is as 1 to 2½. Even granted that certain taxes are raised, Sir Adam states there is little prospect of receipts and expenditure balancing, unless a policy of economy in general is adopted so long as Constantinople is cut off from Anatolia. He expresses the hope that as soon as a sound and intelligent control over expenditure is established on the lines of the financial clauses of the Treaty of Sèvres the Allied Powers will recognise the necessity for granting Turkey a greater measure of fiscal independence.

### Bulgarian Reparations.

The postponement of the payment of reparations which is being so strongly urged in Bulgaria is likely to meet with much more sympathetic treatment on the part of the Allies now than would have been the case six months or a year ago when opinion had not yet inclined to the view that the relief from the burdens entailed by the war was an essential to economic recovery. Bulgaria's case is admittedly good, but the question of the length of postponement is one on which views are apparently likely to differ. A period of ten years was first advocated, but this, of course, would be far too long, and it seems probable that, if the Allies decide to meet Bulgaria's wishes, the duration of the postponement will be from three to five years.

### Sudan Plantations.

In his speech at the general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate Mr. F. Eckstein pointed out that besides the effect of the fall in the price of cotton the company had suffered from considerable mishaps to its crop. At Zeidab there was a bad attack of bollworm; at Tayiba abnormal rains necessitated repeated resowing, while at Barakat there would have been a very fine crop but for a shortage of water due to a breakdown in the pumping station at the critical time. For the present season it is satisfactory to learn that the reports from all three stations are very promising. At the company's new station, Hosh, 6,040 feddans are under cotton, which Mr. Eckstein described as record work, and of this crop too the reports are very good, so that, given a reasonable price for cotton, the outlook for the company would appear to be excellent.

### The P. and O. Report.

Though no bonus is to be paid this year on the Deferred Stock of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company the report shows that there was only a comparatively slight decrease in the net earnings for the twelve months ended September 30. The net profit amounted to £571,466 as compared with £657,377, and with the carry forward the total is £683,405 as against £772,607. Of this total dividends absorb £583,100, and the carry forward is £100,305 as compared with £111,938. It is stated that during the first half year the steamers were able to do something more than cover expenses, but recent voyages have resulted in serious losses, hence the decision of the directors not to recommend a bonus. When operating costs fall to something approaching the normal and there is a revival of trade, "it is hoped that there may again be a fair margin of profit for the company."

**Commentator.**


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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## GREECE.

*Athens, November 12.*

**Commercial Convention with Austria.**

Despite the interchange of views which has been taking place since October of last year between Greece and Austria with a view to the conclusion of a commercial treaty the question is still in suspense, the work of preparing the clauses of the treaty not having yet been determined. According to information received from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Austrian Government has again approached the Greek Legation at Vienna with a view to expediting the signing of the convention. It is understood that documents have already been exchanged between the two competent Ministries, discussing details of a provisional understanding pending the ratification of the convention. The determination of the clauses of a convention which would remain in force for some years has been considered impossible until the new Greek Customs duties have been definitely fixed.

**Decreased Imports.**

From statistics received at the Ministry of Finance regarding the proceeds of the new additional import duties, as well as from the reports of the various Customs authorities, it appears that imports for the past three months have shown a considerable decline as compared with those of the corresponding period in 1920. In consequence the increased import duties imposed for the quarter in accordance with the new tariff have been without effect.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, November 21.*

**External Loans.**

In the course of an interview which M. Tourlakoff, the Minister of Finance, accorded me on November 15, the Minister stated that Bulgaria would not definitely accept any foreign loan offers until the internal 6 per cent. loan was floated. This internal loan was to have been floated last month, but was postponed for three months at the request of the banks, who pointed out that it would be almost impossible to raise a loan under the existing conditions. M. Tourlakoff went on to state that in addition to the loans offered to Bulgaria by the Franco-Belgian group and by Messrs. Balfour, Beatty and Co., there were two offers from America, but he lacked details of their proposals. The 200 million francs loan of the Franco-Belgian group is now divided up into four equal parts, the proposal being that 50 million francs should come from France, Belgium, Italy, and England respectively.

Messrs. Balfour, Beatty have been requested by the Bulgarian Government to increase their loan from two to four million pounds, but no reply has yet been received. Although there is as yet no positive news to this effect, it would appear very probable that the Franco-Belgian group and Messrs. Balfour, Beatty may come to some joint arrangement. As the former's loan is now apparently to be drawn from four countries, the question of rivalry will not enter so much into the matter. The object of both loans is the same, namely to enable the Bulgarian Government to construct new railways. It is understood that negotiations are now taking place in London regarding the matter, and some kind of combination is considered likely to take place.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, November 16.*

**Loan Rumours.**

People are sceptical of the rumoured success of Dr. Kumanudi's negotiations for a large loan in London, and the reported conditions are regarded as being so onerous, that it is hoped the rumours are unfounded. It is said that much better terms are forthcoming from Belgium, but only extreme optimists believe that.

**The Dinar.**

The depreciation of the dinar continues to cause anxiety. After coming down to half the value that it had stood at for about a year, it has started a series of violent fluctuations, which are, if possible, more disconcerting than the regular fall. The causes, of course, are varied and complex. One report states that the Government sent delegates to Zurich to buy up all the dinars on the market, for the key of the situation is held to be in that city; they succeeded in finding only a million, which they absorbed, but still the slump continued. So speculation at Zurich was obviously not the only cause. Other and deeper causes are at work. The main factors are the Budget deficit, the flooding of the country with uncovered paper money, the small export trade and lack of confidence in the political stability of the country. The estimated Budget deficit for 1922 is put at about two milliards; to reduce this means rigid economy ine xpenditure, a consummation more to be wished than expected. As to the note circulation, there are about four and a half milliards of dinars in circulation, of which about four and a quarter millions are directly on the State account,and uncovered. As a result of the last deficit the treasury was depleted, so the Government called upon the National Bank, which promptly printed off more notes, of course without cover. This explains the appearance in circulation of a large number of brand new specimens of the pretty blue pre-war Serbian 100 dinar notes, which are infinitely superior in appearance to the dinar-kroner paper. As to exports, there can be no question about the natural resources of the country, which produces far more than it can consume, but what with the transport difficulties and the strangling regulations and interference, exporters never know whether they are on their heads or their heels. The trouble is the vicious circle. The authorities cannot afford to be economical; they are compelled to be penny wise and pound foolish by force of circumstances; they cannot improve communications without great expenditure, and this they cannot do without a loan abroad. They cannot raise a loan until confidence in the solidity of the state is increased in western Europe and America. However in the apotheosis of Karl the main cause of political anxiety is removed, allowing demobilisation to take place, so that everybody is pleased. Perhaps this is the reason that the dinar has improved by almost fifty per cent. in a week.

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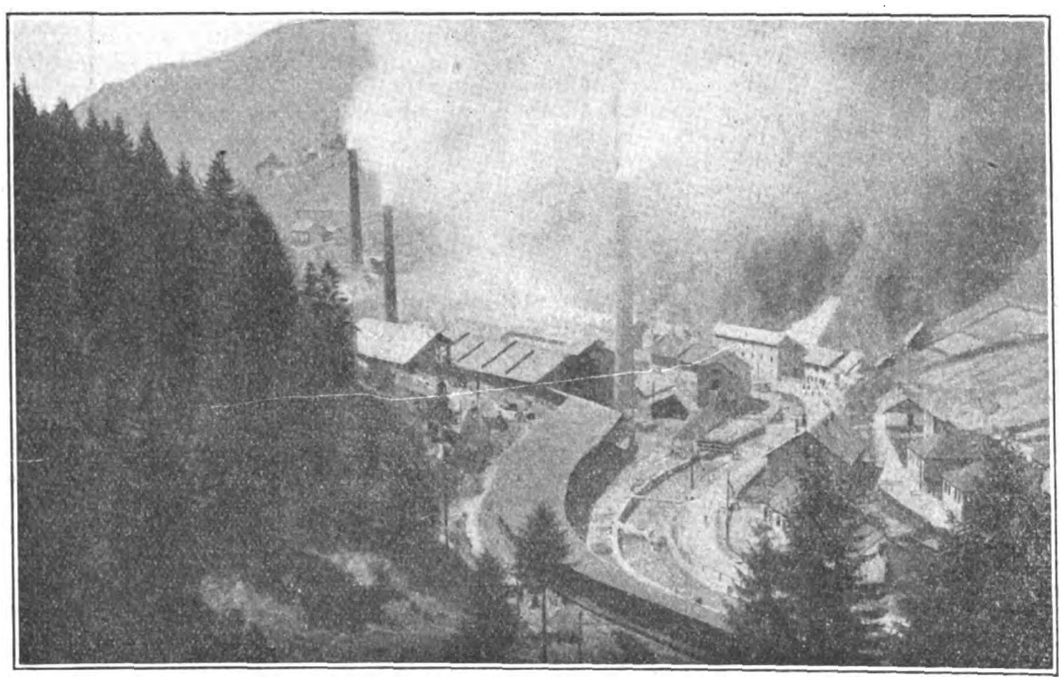
## YUGOSLAVIA'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

### Extensive coal deposits.

Very little has hitherto been published with regard to the mineral deposits of Yugoslavia, but that deficiency has now been good by the comprehensive survey of Mr. D. Alexander Wray, of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, who visited the country as a member of the British Economic Mission, which was despatched in 1919 to investigate the position there with a view to rendering assistance through British industrial and commercial sources, and whose report has recently been issued by the Department of Overseas Trade. The report, which is a model of its kind, and reflects the greatest credit on its author, will surprise those who have until now had only a limited knowledge of the mineral resources of the Near East. It makes it clear that there are great potentialities in Yugoslavia, given favourable conditions for development, the most important of which is undoubtedly the provision of adequate capital.

The report is divided into three sections. The first and introductory part deals with the development of the mining industry in the states now included in Yugoslavia, its organisation, the position during the war, these years, however, being quite exceptional.

It is obvious that the development of Yugoslavia's mining industry must depend very largely on the facilities for trade. On this subject the view is expressed by Mr. Wray that "the difficult external communications of the State must act to the detriment of the future development of the mineral and natural wealth of the country." The industry has been handicapped especially in Serbia, Serbian Macedonia, and Montenegro, he points out, by inadequate means of internal communication. Slovenia, Croatia, and Slavonia, have excellent railways and main roads, to say nothing of river transport, but Bosnia and Herzegovina have only narrow gauge railways. The construction of the projected railways in Serbia and Serbian Macedonia would naturally make an enormous difference to the position. "Of these," says Mr. Wray, "the Valyevo-Zavlaka-Loznitsa branch should lead to the development of an important mining region round Zavlaka and Krupanj, while the projected Nish-Prishtina-Adriatic railway, together with the proposed Kralyevo-Raska branch, should lead to the reopening of the mining districts in the Kapaonik Mountains. In Serbian Macedonia the projected Kumanovo-Stratsin-Kriva Palanka line passes close by the formerly large mining districts round Kratovo, Sultan Teperi and the Osogov Mountains."



Iron works and foundry, Krapuli near Vares, Central Bosnia.

the prospects for development as regards communications, the establishment of power stations, and generally the prospects for enterprise. In the second section geological conditions are dealt with, while the third comprises a detailed survey of the minerals.

It was only in the last century that the mining industry in Yugoslavia, with the exception of Slovenia and Croatia, assumed any great importance, though Mr. Wray points out that there are numerous traces in Serbia and Bosnia of extensive old workings belonging to Roman times and the Middle Ages. Considering the conditions, its development has been fairly rapid, judging by the statistics available for Serbia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. Thus the output of coal and lignite in Serbia rose from 159,692 metric tons in 1900 to 313,001 in 1912, that of black copper from 250 metric tons in 1900 to 7,355 tons in 1912, and that of cement from 1,625 metric tons in 1900 to 24,948 in 1912. In the latter year the output of iron pyrites amounted to 46,189 metric tons. The rapid progress in the output of copper, it is pointed cut, was due to the growth of the Bor copper mines. In Bosnia and Herzegovina the output of coal and lignite rose from 394,576 metric tons to 841,140 in 1913, and to 973,215 in 1917. In 1900 the output of iron ore was 133,454 metric tons. It rose to 270,131 for 1912, and to 406,437 for 1917, both

The question of power is another problem to be faced. Mr. Wray is of the opinion that central hydro-electric power stations, similar to those established in Slovenia and Dalmatia, might be installed in connection with the mining industry to great advantage, and suggests that the extensive lignite deposits of Slovenia, Bosnia, Croatia, and Northern Serbia, may prove a factor that will assist in the solution of this and other allied problems. "These fuels, though low grade, and containing, when first raised, 50 per cent. of moisture, have a heating power of 2,500 calories; freight rates, however, are excessively high, and, moreover, they do not stand transport well. Central power stations may here be considered with advantage, as the deposits are large, and the seams frequently very thick. They can also be very cheaply worked out, as no deep mining is required, and no pumping."

The third section of the report commences with a survey of the coal resources of Yugoslavia. Mr. Wray points out that true stone coal does not exist in any large quantity, and that practically the whole of the coals mined are either brown coals of Mesozoic or lignites of Tertiary age.

Of the constituent parts of the new State Bosnia and Herzegovina have the greatest coal reserves, it being estimated that the probable reserves amount to

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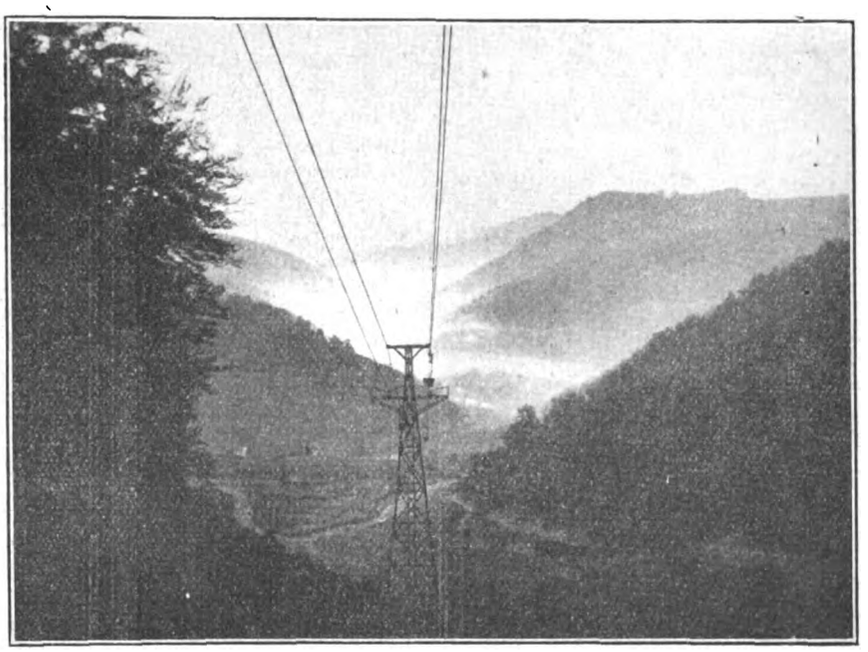
1,700,000,000 metric tons, and the possible reserves in fields not yet completely surveyed to 1,976,300,000 metric tons. Next comes Slovenia with 123,600,000 and 91,300,000 metric tons, while Serbia itself has probable reserves amounting to 59,700,000 metric tons and possible reserves estimated at 192,550,000 metric tons. The total probable coal reserves of the state are put at 1,900,000,000 metric tons, to which has to be added possible reserves of approximately 2,364,000,000 metric tons.

As regards the quality of the coals Mr. Wray says that they "answer sufficiently well for the railways and ordinary industrial purposes." For many factories higher grade coal is essential, and it is recorded that many works were at a standstill for lack of it. The bulk of the imported coal came from Austria and Germany before the war, and in view of conditions in this country it is to be presumed that supplies will probably be drawn from the same direction in the future.

The pre-war output of coal in Yugoslavia amounted to approximately three million metric tons, and as for 1919 the returns show an output of 2,500,000 metric tons it will be realised that despite the war it should not be difficult to place the industry on a much firmer footing than it has previously occupied. Almost the whole of the pre-war output was utilised locally, and this will no doubt continue to be the case in view of the gradual expansion of industries and the consequently increased demand for fuel.

The iron ore deposits of Yugoslavia are centred principally in Bosnia in the districts of Vares and Ljubia. Estimates of the reserves in Bosnia have differed considerably. Dr. F. Katzer, the Government Geologist, basing his estimate on the deposits that have been worked, put the total reserves at twenty-two million metric tons, three and a half being siderites, fifteen limonites, three hematites, and a half magnetites. On the other hand Dr. Nottmeyer in 1910 estimated the potential reserves to amount to almost five times that total in the district of Vares alone. "While this estimate" says Mr. Wray "may be unduly optimistic it is probable that if the total untouched ores of Bosnia are included in Dr. Katzer's estimate, the total reserve tonnage may safely be computed at thirty to forty million metric tons." Outside Bosnia mining has been carried out on a small scale in Slovenia and Croatia. Iron ore occurs in Serbia, Serbian Macedonia, and Montenegro, in many regions, but with the exception of the Majdanpek mines in Serbia are of small importance. In Serbian Macedonia chief hopes would appear to centre round the Babuna mines, between Veles and Prilep, which were largely worked by the enemy, and of which little has been hitherto known.

(To be concluded.)



**Aerial ropeway; and Majdanpek Valley, Northern Serbia.**

The receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended October 31, amounted to £E15,248.

*The Photographs on this and the next page are reproduced from "The Geology and Mineral Resources of the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, being the report of the Geologist attached to the British Economic Mission to Serbia," by kind permission of the Controller of H. M. Stationery Office*

## THE SILK INDUSTRY IN CYPRUS.

(*From A Correspondent.*)

There has been some talk of a revival, or expansion, of the silk industry, and native opinion in parts of the island has been stimulated by the praiseworthy efforts of the Agricultural Department in late years to encourage it, and to explain the great opportunities that are being lost. Sericulture might be largely and profitably developed with no very great effort within a few years were it not for the cloud which hangs over every branch of agriculture, and which is often attributed to apathy and ignorance of the peasantry. It is not, however, so much that Cypriots are to be accused of idleness, for they work industriously enough, in spite of the climate and often of a trying lack of water. But it is always along old grooves, and much more might be done if there were more of a driving force backed by a modicum of financial aid from the powers that be. Much might have been done since, about 26 years ago, Mr. P. Gennadius, the first Director of Agriculture, clearly explained what was needed. It was to Mr. Gennadius that was due the revival of the silk industry in Broussa, after the havoc wrought by the disease *pebrine*, which attacked the silk-worm in France in 1845, and then spread through Europe to Asia. It was M. Pasteur who found the remedy. All acquainted with the Near East have known the beautiful silk fabrics of Broussa, that "important centre of the silk trade of the East," which find their way to Cairo, Smyrna, and many other bazaars. Had fortune favoured the island instead of yielding it a prey to succeeding periods of maladministration, sericulture would have speedily progressed and rivalled that of some other countries. It has been long established in the island. When in the 6th Century A.D. the silk-worm was introduced from China into the Byzantine Empire, it soon found its way through Asia Minor to Cyprus, where climatic and other conditions are highly favourable. It is easily acclimatised, and in process of time a Cypriot species was developed. The Cyprus cocoon, which ranges in colour from white to bright golden orange, acquired a reputation of its own. Very pretty silk goods, some of very pleasing dyes, are made and sold in the bazaars of Nicosia, for dresses, blouses, skirts, scarfs, handkerchiefs, and other purposes.

It is true that a good deal has been done to prevent importation of bad eggs from France and elsewhere. But had the directions of Mr. Gennadius been fully followed Cyprus would have produced sufficient eggs of good quality, not only for local use, but also for exportation to other countries. As it is, the quantity produced is negligible, and large quantities of French eggs are imported. A largely increased cultivation of the mulberry tree should of course be one of the benefits which would be derived from increased irrigation, to which the study devoted to this difficult problem this year may, it is hoped in some quarters, lead. All this however presupposes also a more energetic and expert guidance in the development of this valuable and arrested industry. It is capable, as regard winding and ma acture, of very great improvements.

H.M. Representative at Belgrade announces that the surcharge levied in the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, when Customs duties are paid in paper or silver, has been increased from 300 to 400 per cent. as from November 10.

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## TURKEY'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

### A Serious Outlook.

A special report by Sir Adam Block, representative of the British and Dutch bondholders on the Ottoman Public Debt, has just been issued.

Sir Adam Block points out that until the Treaty of Sèvres is ratified bondholders should not count on any permanent improvement in the revenues assigned to the loans, and further that as long as the Greco-Turkish war goes on there is small hope of the Council being able to encash any revenues in Anatolia. Of the effects of this war he says :—" The loss and destruction of life and property caused by the prolongation of the war in Anatolia are deplorable, and must have far-reaching effects. The damage done is incalculable. Whole areas have been devastated, the resources of the country are wasted, and the population ruined. The bondholders are, therefore, deeply interested in the pacification of what is left of Turkey. Without peace at home and peace abroad, any policy of reconstruction or of reparation is out of the question. Whilst most of the other belligerent Powers of Europe have, at any rate, had a respite from hostilities, and have more or less profited from their opportunities for repairing the destruction and loss incurred in the war, Turkey has drifted from bad to worse. Three years have now elapsed since the Armistice, and at the moment of writing it is difficult to prophesy the date when a return to normal conditions will become possible."

For 1919-20 the gross receipts amounted to £T11,782,952.68, and the net receipts to £T7,766,838.20, there being an increase in the gross receipts of 72.51 per cent. due for the most part to the revival of trade after the Armistice. For 1920-21 only approximate figures are available, the estimated total being £T11,000,000. For the current year Sir Adam estimates the gross receipts for the first six months at £T3,376,930, a considerable decrease on the figures of the previous year.

As regards the coupons in arrears the funds at the Council's disposal in Europe enabled it to make a payment on account of 1s. 3d. per coupon up to March, 1920, inclusive. A similar percentage in francs was paid on the premiums and redemption value of Lottery Bonds draws for redemption between December 1, 1914, and February 1, 1920. The balance due on March 1, 1921, after deducting the above payments, amounted to £T7,524,183.18. On July 31 the Council had the following sums in hand for the service of the Unified Debt Coupons and the Turkish Lottery Bonds:—1, London, £268,580; Paris, 60,940 francs at 47.57, £1,281, £T (gold), 51,378, £58,862; Rome, 401,719 Lire at 84.75, £4,740; Constantinople, the sum of £T14, 746,308, equal at the rate of exchange of September 1, to £2,609,966, total £2,943,429; 2. The amounts deposited in German and Austrian banks equal at pre-war exchange rates to £8,312,703, and at the rates obtaining on September 1, to £513,006, making the general total £3,456,435. As foreshadowed in Sir Adam's last report measures have been taken with a view to obtaining from Germany repayment in gold of the funds deposited there during the war. " Until the result of these legal proceedings is known," says Sir Adam " it is impossible to state how the balance of the unpaid coupons of 1915-16, 1916-17, 1917-18, 1918-19, 1919-20, and 1920-21 is to be provided for. If Germany repays in gold the sums deposited in gold there will be more than sufficient to pay the coupons; if not the provision will be insufficient, and the bondholders will have to be consulted with regard to some scheme for the funding of the unpaid balance of the coupons, after utilising the remaining funds in hand."

In September of last year the members of the Council of the Debt were requested by the British, French, and Italian High Commissioners in Constantinople to undertake the control of the finances of the Government in Constantinople in order if possible to restore the equilibrium of the Budget and to enable the Government to carry on the administration. By the sale of certain material and with the aid of several windfalls the Government, Sir Adam points out, has been enabled to pay its way to the end of June, 1921, whilst funds are regularly provided for certain services. The question of increasing certain taxes is being considered, but, says Sir Adam, " the question bristles with difficulties, and, unless at the same time the Turkish Government follows the example of every other European state and agrees to reduce the number of its personnel, civil and military, and to adopt a policy of economy in general, there is little prospect of arriving at a balance between receipts and expenditure as long as Constantinople is cut off from Anatolia." The position is roughly that while the receipts amount to £T1,000,000 the expenditure totals £T2,500,000.

" If the Provisional Financial Commission has not succeeded in its somewhat ungrateful and difficult task " says Sir Adam, "it is that its powers are strictly limited. It can only suggest and advise. All hope of permanent improvement in the general financial situation must be deferred until a Financial Commission, on the lines of that provided for in the financial clauses of the Treaty of Sèvres, is set up and loyally accepted by the Turkish Government." He adds that it is to be hoped that as soon as control on these lines is established the Allied Powers will grant Turkey greater fiscal independence, and the right to establish an equal distribution of taxation.

" This," says Sir Adam in conclusion "is not written in the sole interests of the bondholders. The financial and economic rehabilitation of this country is very essential to the general reconstruction of the world. A bankrupt state is incapable of internal economic reconstruction. Turkey cannot, therefore, without reform in its finances take its proper share in the world's production. Turkey is a food-producing country, and unless the finances of the State are on a sound basis, Europe will suffer from the loss, not only of its valuable products, but of a market for the produce of industry and manufacture, wherein Great Britain has held, hitherto, the greatest share."

## PALESTINE'S SOAP INDUSTRY.

Olive-oil soap is the product of the most importance of the few industries which exist in Palestine (says the American Consul at Jerusalem, Mr. A. E. Southard). The centre of the Palestine soap industry is at Nablus, in the Province of Samaria, 40 miles north of Jerusalem. There are about 30 small factories at Nablus and all are engaged in making pure olive-oil soap. There are almost as many factories at Jaffa (the port of Jerusalem), but the production is not as great as that of the Nablus factories, is not exclusively of the pure olive-oil variety, and does not appear to have the reputation of the Nablus soap. Small factories are found in Jerusalem and elsewhere, but Nablus and Jaffa are the important centres. Nablus is also the centre of an important olive-oil district.

Exact figures as to the total quantity of soap produced in Palestine are not available. An estimate of a production of 8,000 tons annually is probably liberal. The Nablus soap makers' estimate is that they produce about 4,000 tons in a year when olive oil is obtainable in sufficient quantities. The value of the soap produced in Palestine varies with business conditions, but the rottle (6,349 lb.) has at present an average wholesale value of 20 Egyptian piastres. The minor share of the total soap production, which contains fats other than olive oil, sells a little cheaper.

Considerably more than half the total soap production of Palestine finds a market in Palestine, Syria, and the trans-Jordan regions, and may be considered local trade. Palestine soap finds its principal export market in Egypt. Syria, Palestine, the trans-Jordan region, and Egypt practically consume the entire soap production of this country, and there are no important quantities exported to other markets. Generally no Palestine soap goes to the United States, but there is a small factory at Haifa which caters to a limited but established American demand for pure olive-oil soap. The quantity of this soap exported is comparatively unimportant.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Prices Unsettled.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair request at unchanged rates. West Indian crystallized is the same at 38s. to 41s., while Czecho-Slovakian is 6d. down at 20s. White Java is the same at 47s.

Coffee.—The market has been quiet. Costa Rica is unchanged at 130s. while Indian is 2s. down at 110s. Nairobi at 105s. is unaltered. Futures are.—December, 47s. 9d.; March, 48s. 9d.; May, 49s.; July, 49s.; and September, 49s.

Oilseeds.—A steady tone has prevailed. Indian linseed is the same at 16s. 9d. while La Plata has gained 1s. at 16s. Rapeseed is higher with Toria 1s. 6d. up at 18s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore 3d. up at 17s. 9d. Cottonseed is unsteady. Indian has gained 3d. at 9s. 3d., while Sakellaridis is the same at 11s.; but Egyptian black has shed 1s. 3d. at 11s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Prices are higher. Linseed has been done at 27s. 6d., November—December, 27s. 6d., and January—April, 27s.; increases of 1s. in each case. Rape oil is unchanged with the crude variety at 48s., and refined at 53s. Cotton oil is lower with refined common edible 7s. down at 43s., and Egyptian crude 2s. down at 36s. Deodorised is unchanged at 50s. Turpentine is 2s. 3d. up at 71s.

Oilcakes.—Business has been brisk, and prices in most cases are higher. Linseed cake is 10s. up at 270s., while cottonseed cake has advanced 30s. to 200s. Arachis cake has shed 10s. at 220s., but palm kernal has gained 40s. at 160s.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., report as follows for the week ended November 12:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 148,940 bags as compared with 83,450 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 138,940 bags as against 73,450 bags for last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 10,000 bags as against the same amount for 1920.

Figs.—The total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 169,000 loads as compared with 184,000 loads last year. The total estimated sales amount to 169,000 loads as against 168,000 loads for 1920.

Shipments.—The s.s. City of Smyrna and s.s. Luque, the former for London, and the latter for Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow, are now loading and sailing about November 16.

Markets.—Sultanas are very firm, prices moving upwards, and an advance of about 10s. to 11s. per cwt. is reflected on the past fortnight. Although remaining stocks are sufficient for all requirements into next summer, both farmers and dealers, apprehensive of further depreciation in Turkish currency, are reluctant to part with their holdings, and can only be induced to sell with difficulty and at continually advancing rates. Figs are exhausted and business is practically over for the year. Exchanges have ruled fairly steady during the week at between 735-745.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon: (Continental), 133s. cwt.; (Canadian), 105s. cwt.; (American), 92s. 6d. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 251s. cwt.; (Australian), 160s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 192s. cwt.; cheese: (Canadian), 104s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 93s. cwt.; lard 73s. cwt.; eggs: (Danish), 40s. 6d. per 120; (Styrian), 28s. 6d. per 120; chillies, 167s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 7¼d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 97s. 6d. cwt.; coffee: (Costa Rica), 152s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 60s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2¼d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 145s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 125s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 80s. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 70s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 55s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 49s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 3d. cwt.; (West India crystallized), 40s. 6d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 16s. 3d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 17s. 3d. cwt.; rice: (Rangoon, No. 2); 18s. 9d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £6 17s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 6½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 8½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. ½d.; (medium to good), 1s. 7d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 48s. 6d. qr.; (La Plata, ex ship), 82s. qr.; (Australian), 57s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 65s. qr.; barley (feeding), 41s. qr.; oats (English), 32s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 25s. 4½d. qr.; (mixed American), 33s. qr.; maize (La Plata), 33s. 3d. qr.; flour, 45s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £36 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £66 11s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £75 10s. ton; gold bars 103s. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 110s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 125s. 9d. ton; galvanized sheets (24 G), £187 10s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 40s. unit; nickel, £187 10s. ton; platinum, 382s. 6d. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £9 17s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 39s. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 3s. 9d. ton; tin (standard), £158 17s. 6d ton; wolfram, 12s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 21s. 6d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 9d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4¾d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £14 17s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £39 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5¼d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 120s. cwt.; Potassium: Bi-chromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 6¼d. lb.; caustic, £32 10s. ton; nitrate, £40 ton; permanganate, 1s. 1d. lb.; prussiate, yellow, 1s. 2¼d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 8s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 10s. ton; bi-chromate, 6¾d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 13s. 9d. ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £17 10s. ton; prussiate, 8¼d. lb.; nitrate, £14 16s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.) £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1,260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 4s. 0½d. oz.; red lead, £38 5s. ton; white dry lead, £41 5s. ton; white ground lead, £50 17s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £29 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 75s. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8¼d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8¼d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 8¾d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7,3-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6,3-8d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7,1-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7¼d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs. 7¼d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5,1-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5,1-8d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6¼d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6¼d. lb.; Bulls (first), 5,1-8d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb; Kips (first), 7¼d. lb.; (second), 6,1-8d. lb.; (third), 4d. lb.; Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows), Agras, 9 to 12; Durbhangas, 6 to 7; Patnas, 4.8 to 5; Salted cows, 3 to 7. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 5.8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 250 to 280 per 100 pieces; Bombay Market:—Dressed buffs, 10 to 14 annas per lb.; dressed cows, 10 to 14 annas per lb.; goat and sheepskins, 1.4 to 1.12 rupees per lb.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton: (American), 10.41d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 18.40d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £14 12s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £16 7s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £17 17s. 6d. ton. Oils: Linseed, £26 ton; olive (Levant), £77 10s. ton; palm, £36 7s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £48 5s. ton; soya, £33 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £42 10s. ton; cotton (crude) £39 10s. ton; ground nut, £47 ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 10¼d. lb.; smoked sheet, 10¼d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 2¼d. lb.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on November 11 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4¼; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6,31-32; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £21-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56½x; Behera Ord., £E 8,3-8; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £23-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 90; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 24; Comptoir Fin. et. Com. d'Egypte, £1,11-16; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5¼; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 850; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 640; Credit Foncier, 1880 Oblig., Fr., 336; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 112; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 81½; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 104; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 30s 1½d; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3,7-8; Filature National d'Egypte, £11; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5,11-32; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi £4¼,; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £33 9-16 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £27; Lots Turc., Fr., 30½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 270; Nungovich Hotels, £6,5-16; Ramleh Railways, £2,15-16; Salt and Soda, 32s.; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr., 45; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 57½; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2,3-8; Egypt Hotels, £2 3-16; Urbaines et Rurales, £2,15-16.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Constantinople reports that the exportation of the following articles from Turkey is now permitted without licence:—wood for building purposes; locally made bricks and tiles; starch; pekmez; compounds of quinine, and compressed aspirin.

Mr. P. Garelli, sub-manager of the Zagreb branch of the Banque Franco-Serbe, has been appointed manager of the London office, and Mr. F. E. J. Pow, previously manager of the foreign exchange department of the Société Générale, London, has been appointed assistant manager.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

**Wire Rope Lubrication.**

The proper lubrication of wire ropes used in winding, ship, and other work is one of great importance now that the prime cost of wire ropes is so high. Wire ropes for ordinary commercial use are made up of a number of strands of iron or steel wire, twisted together, and laid over a hemp core in much the same way as a hemp or cotton rope is formed. Whenever such a rope is subject to strain, either by tension or by bending or passing over a pulley, these strands of wire have to move over and pass each other and back again, for perhaps an appreciable fraction of an inch ; in fact with ropes of large diameter the movement is far greater than anyone immersed in the subject would imagine.

Wire ropes will deteriorate with use but not with age if properly looked after. The life of a rope depends to a great extent, as has been pointed out, upon the character of the metal used, the construction of the rope, the diameter of the drums or pulleys on which it it is used, and to a very great extent upon how it is lubricated. A haulage rope should be considered as a piece of machinery having many wearing surfaces that should be thoroughly and efficiently lubricated, and the ideal lubricant is one that will penetrate to all the parts, and which will form an elastic coating on the exterior. A wire rope may be made and selected with the utmost care, but unless it is properly lubricated and protected from weather effects its life will be appreciably shortened. The conditions which affect the life of a rope, other than the actual mechanical strains and stresses, are friction which causes the strands to wear thin, contact with acid fumes, with water containing acids or salts in solution or with elements which produce corrosion and consequent brittleness of the strands. The higher the carbon content and the steel, the more susceptible are the wires to this corrosion. The lubricant used should penetrate between the wires, and should not harden on the outside. A lubricant that hardens becomes cracked when the rope is bent, and when it passes over pulleys, or drums, and these cracks, minute as they may be, allow moisture or acid fumes to penetrate to the centre and so cause internal corrosion. Further, the lubricant must be applied frequently in order that the wires may be kept well covered, and also to prevent the hemp core from drying. Each time the lubricant is applied the accumulated dirt must be cleaned away so that the fresh lubricant may penetrate to the parts where it is most required.

An efficient lubricant for use with wire ropes must possess the following practical characteristics. It must be absolutely free from acid, salt, chemical impurities, and water ; it must be of such a body as will remain soft and pliable under all atmospheric conditions, and it must not be subject to evaporation. It must be impervious to water, and must not tend to produce soap when bought into contact even with impure or alkaline water, and it must be unaffected by water heavily charged with chemicals such as exist in certain operating conditions, and must not decompose under the most severe service. Another point, and one which is frequently lost sight of, is that it must be able to penetrate or surround particles of dirt which may collect on the cable, as if it does not these will, through friction, cut into and wear away either the strands of the rope or the surface of the sheaves or drums. Another point to be borne in mind is that the lubricant should be of such a nature that it may be liquified to a consistency that will permit of a very thin film being applied.

One of the leading engineers who have specialised on this subject, Mr. G. R. Rowland, says that a long and careful investigation of the ropes used in all classes of service seems to indicate that no two rope manufacturers use the same grade of lubricant. An analysis of the materials most commonly used and recommended for this class of work shows that pitch, tar, talc, and graphite are used, with other filling materials, in very large proportions, this being no doubt for the purpose of making a heavy adhesive mixture. These substances, however, are of little or no real use as they have the effect of only partially protecting the external parts of the rope, and at low temperatures will crack and peel, permitting an attack to be made on the inner sides of the strands and the core. In some cases ordinary black mineral oil, or " waste oil" as it is called in the trade, is used. Apart from a temporary effect only, oils of this class are really worthless as rope lubricants as they will not cling to the outer surface, penetrate to the core, or resist the action of moisture or fumes. Where such oils are used frequent applications are necessary, and owing to their characteristics they afford no lubrication to the pitch of the sheaves, drums, and pulleys, and are thrown off or evaporate within a few hours after they are applied, thus leaving the rope at the mercy of the elements and of frictional wear. All of which goes to show that expert advice should be taken in this matter of lubrication, and that the old fashioned rough and ready methods of lubricating, which appeared to possess the elements of cheapness and simplicity of application may shorten the life of the rope on which they are used and thus prove exceedingly expensive in the long run.

**Carbonisation.**

Recently a good deal of attention has been devoted to the developments which have taken place in connection with what is known as the low temperature method of carbonisation. I have already dealt with this at length in these columns. and am firmly convinced that most if not all the difficulties in the way of its commercial application have been overcome.

I have just had brought to my notice another method of carbonisation which I have not seen in operation, but which seems to possess some interesting and novel features. It is the invention of Mr. H. Nielson, and differs initially from that already dealt with in that the retorts used are not fixed but slowly revolve during the heating process. The primary object of the invention is to obtain supplies of marketable smokeless fuel from waste coal, and consequently little attention is paid to either the quality of the gas or even to the exhaustive production of tar oil, ammonia liquor or other by-products. Internal carbonisation is effected by means of producer gas, this being a striking departure from most if not all of the other methods in use. Engineers will examine details of this process with interest, especially in view of the fact that carbonisation proceeds far more rapidly and economically with heat when directly applied. I hope in the near future to be able to give a full account of this new and promising method of low temperature carbonisation.

**Tunnel Ventilation.**

The efficient ventilation of long tunnels has been the subject of considerable attention on the part of railway engineers, and the problems presented appear to have been all more or less overcome. A new ventilating plant is being provided for the Severn tunnel, not that the existing plant has proved unsatisfactory, but merely because it is not large enough to cope with the recent increase in the traffic.

Opportunity has been taken to incorporate certain new features, and a fan considerably larger than most engineers would have expected is to be installed. It will be 27 feet in diameter and nine feet wide, and will operate at the comparatively high speed of 100 revolutions per minute. At this speed it will be able to supply about 800,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which should be ample for the purpose. A horizontal tandem compound condensing engine of about 800 indicated horse power will be used to drive the fan, the engine cylinders being 22 and 42 inches in diameter respectively, with a stroke of 30 inches. It is interesting to note that the new installation will be built and erected by the same firm that laid down the present installation nearly 35 years ago.

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# Company Meetings.

## SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

### BOARD'S FORWARD POLICY.

### Proposed further issue of capital.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., was held on November 23, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., Mr. F. Eckstein (the Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Acting Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—In addressing you last year I ventured to sound a note of warning regarding our prospects for the coming year, and I asked you not to blame your board if our next balance-sheet was not quite so brilliant as that which I then had the good fortune to present to you. The reason why I made this statement was obvious, inasmuch as cotton prices were then unjustifiably high and, unfortunately, events during this year proved my warning to be only too true. Not only did the market for cotton come down with a run owing to stagnation of trade in Lancashire, but we also suffered from considerable mishaps with our crops, to which I will refer late. on.

**Sound Financial Position.**

As usual, I will deal first with our accounts, which are before you. The first four items on the debtor side of the balance-sheet—namely, share capital, reserves and share premium account—are practically unchanged. Creditors are considerably less than last year, and so is our profit. On the credit side you will find under general development a large increase, something like £120,000 for Gezira and the new Hag Abdulla pumping station, all due to new work. Further, buildings and furniture show an increase of £34,000, canalisation Gezira areas of £12,600, and agricultural implements and plant of £17,000; and there is a new item, light railways, £21,000. Cotton and other stocks figure at £335,000, and to this I shall refer more fully later on. Our securities and cash assets are naturally less than last year, the above-mentioned sums having been spent on the Gezira development scheme. Still, our financial position is sound, but we shall in all probability soon require further funds, and it is our intention to issue fairly soon a further 150,000 shares, and, as before, to offer these to you at a moderate premium.

The profit and loss account needs no explanation, but, subject to your approval, we have again set aside a bonus for our staff and £2,500 as an addition to our staff provident fund. Both these items I recommend warmly to your acceptance. From the directors' report you will have noticed that we are proposing to distribute a slightly higher dividend than we had actually earned up to the close of our books. Your board has no hesitation in recommending this proposal to you in view of our very considerable carry-forward.

**Unsold Cotton.**

This is all I think I need say under this heading, but the point I wish to emphasise is cotton unsold at the date of closing our books—namely, June 30, 1921. The amount of cotton we have had to deal with is the largest so far in our history. As not a single bale of our cotton had been sold at the time we had to close our books, we stocked it in our balance-sheet partly at cost prices and partly at the valuation we then had from our brokers. During the last few weeks we have, however, disposed of our entire Zeidab crop, as well as of a fair quantity of both the Tayiba and Barakat crops. In the sale of the Tokar cotton we are only making slow headway. The reason why we had to deal this year with so comparatively large an amount of cotton is that, during my stay in the Sudan in the early part of this year, I arranged to buy a good deal of the Tokar crop on joint account with the Sudan Government. I did this because I wished to help the Government to dispose of this crop, for which at that time there were not many buyers in the Sudan, and so to encourage the natives to continue growing cotton. As far as I can judge to-day, this transaction will give the two parties a fair return on their outlay and for the work done.

**Cotton Production.**

Turning now to our own stations, at Zeidab the crop promised to be excellent when I addressed you last year, and picking started at an unusually early date, but shortly after we suffered from a bad attack of bollworm, to the great detriment of the yield. The Sudan Government sent Captain Bedford, one of their entomologists, to study and to report on this plague, and we hope that the careful research he made may bear fruit in the future. This season we have 3,300 feddans under cotton, and my reports are that up to date we have picked something like 6,000 kantars and that the quality is above the average and satisfactory. Our total yield last year from our own tenants and our water tenants was 6,876 kantars; this year we expect a considerable increase.

At Tayiba we experienced quite abnormal rains, which necessitated repeated re-sowing. This made the cotton late, which always means an unsatisfactory crop. The yield was 5,117 kantars from 1,700 feddans. This year we have planted 1,698 feddans, and we hear that our present crop is looking well, with the exception of a small area which is rather late.

At Barakat we should have had a very fine crop indeed, but during the later stages an unfortunate breakdown in the pumping station—the bursting of a boiler—caused a serious shortage of water just when the plants most needed it. So here, again, we had to be satisfied with middling results—namely, 6,704 kantars from 2,011 feddans. For this year we have planted cotton on 2,100 feddans, and our latest news is very satisfactory.

At our Hag Abdulla pumping station the work has progressed rapidly, and we have given our new cotton station the name of Hosh. The completion of the installation of the pumps and engines on this station in readiness for the present season was from first to last a race against time in circumstances of great difficulty. You will be pleased to hear that we have now 6,040 feddans under cotton, which is really record work, and reflects the greatest credit on our resident staff. The latest reports we have of this new crop are likewise good. To sum up, all the four stations are showing up very well, but it is a little too early to form definite estimates.

**Gezira Plain Developments.**

Having dealt with our present stations, I feel sure you wish me to say something about the progress of the larger scheme, to which we are wedded through our agreement with the Sudan Government, and I think this is all the more necessary as there are, so I am told, all kinds of sinister rumours floating about.

Gentlemen, the truth is that the Blue Nile dam, which is to bring the water to the Gezira Plain, and which is being constructed by the Sudan Government, is costing more—in fact, a good deal more—money than the original estimates provided for, the chief cause being largely increased costs of material and higher wages, all due to the late war. The Sudan Government has to raise more money, and naturally looks to the British Government for help in this respect in some form or another, and negotiations are going on in this sense between the two Governments. Meanwhile, within the limits of the money at present available, the work at the dam is proceeding, and we hope that by next year considerable progress will have been made. Some millions have already been spent upon this dam, and in my humble opinion it is unthinkable that its completion should be interrupted and delayed.

We on our part are steadily pushing on with the work before us, and you will be interested to hear that, quite apart from the areas at Barakat and Tayiba, we have developed on the Gezira Plain a further 60,000 acres, and out of these 12,000 acres are fully canalised. In addition to this we have completed practically all the buildings required for the headquarters staff and a number of houses on the land at a cost of about £56,000. Besides this we have in the Sudan something like £50,000 worth of stores and building materials, which are available for further extension of our operations. All this will show you that our faith in our undertaking is as great as ever, and I am confident that our forward policy will bear corresponding fruit in time and give you entire satisfaction.

**Potentialities of the Sudan.**

My colleague, Brigadier-General Asquith, paid a visit to the Sudan in the latter part of last year and made a thorough inspection of our various interests, and I spent several months there early this year. I came away more impressed than ever with the great potentialities of the Sudan and with the unmistakeable and keen desire on the part of the Sudan Government to develop the country to its fullest extent in the best manner possible.

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Among the countries where the British flag flies none ranks higher than the Sudan in its potentialities of wealth, in its record for efficient and economical administration, or as a field for the production of a high-class cotton. It appears to me to be the duty of the British Government to help the Sudan—a comparatively new country—to make itself self-supporting, and this can only be done by stimulating the production of cotton. You have there the right soil, a suitable climate, and a population which is purely agricultural and is quite ready and able to do the work under proper supervision. In all our experience there we have had good and middling crops, but we never had an absolute failure. Further, the population is growing at a rapid pace, as I have convinced myself during my journeyings through the Sudan this year.

May I just say, too, that the relationship of your syndicate with the Government in Khartoum and its officials in the Provinces is all that can be desired. Likewise, our relationship with our native tenants could not be better; they know they get absolutely fair, straightforward and sympathetic treatment, and they consequently trust us. I cannot illustrate this better than by telling you that when we wanted tenants for the new Hag Abdulla area we had applications from more than double the number we required.

Our staff, on whose efficiency we naturally depend a good deal, is perfectly loyal and devoted to its duties. It is invidious to mention names when all are efficient and do their work well, but I would like to give a special word of praise to Mr. Horne, our resident engineer at Hag Abdulla, for excellent work done under considerable difficulties. Our managing director, Mr. MacIntyre, is at his post in the Sudan and continues to render us the greatest possible help and assistance.

I now move:—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts to the 30th June, 1921, now laid before the meeting, be and that the same are hereby received and adopted."

**Brig.General Asquith's Visit.**

Brig.-General Arthur M. Asquith, D.S.O.: Gentlemen, our Chairman has dealt clearly with the various aspects of the reports and accounts which are submitted for your approval. In seconding this resolution I propose to confine myself to certain parts of the ground which he has already covered. I served in the Sudan as a Civil Servant for five years, and am consequently conversant with the language, the natives and the officials. Returning last year after nine years' absence, I visited the company's plantations and the Blue Nile dam with a fresh eye, and I came away confirmed in my belief in the potentialities of the Gezira as a field for the production of high-class cotton and in the efficiency and economy with which your interests there are administered.

With regard to the potentialities of the Gezira Plain and the first 300,000 acres to be irrigated, you must imagine a plain 80 miles long by 20 or so broad—a strip of a plain of much greater extent—as flat and for most of the year as bare of vegetation as this table. The Blue Nile bounds it and the railway runs through it for the whole of its length. It is composed of black and reddish black earth, yards deep.

Going south from Khartoum in the train you come first to Tayiba; next 15 miles or so further south, to Barakat; then, 30 to 40 miles further south again to Hag Abdulla, or Hosh as it is now called. It is a very remarkable sight in this arid plain to come across the fresh green extensions of your plantations—an actual case of the "desert blossoming like the rose." Each of these plantations spaced out over the area to be irrigated from the dam when it is finished, forms a nucleus round which families of natives have grown up or are growing up with a knowledge of cotton and how to grow it. Your English staff who inspect and superintend and help them deservedly enjoy their full confidence and ours. Without these nuclei of trained cultivators and of trained British staff it would be impossible to keep pace with the great strides in the extension of areas under cotton which should follow upon the heels of the completion of the dam, and this was the factor uppermost in your directors' minds when they decided upon the installation of the big new pumping plant at Hosh.

**The Problem of Finance.**

Our Chairman has told you that the Sudan Government are negotiating for the further funds which they require to complete the dam, and with him I consider it quite unthinkable that the British Government should fail to help them. You will remember that the British Government guaranteed the interest upon the previous loan of £6,000,000, the greater part of which was earmarked for this dam. There seems to me to be compelling reasons why the British Government should continue to help in this matter to the utmost of their power. If they do I am convinced they will never have to act up to their previous guarantee. If they do not they very probably will have to act up to that guarantee at the expense of the taxpayer.

But in addition to this financial aspect there are political considerations which should weigh overwhelmingly, even if the dam in itself would not, as we firmly believe that it will, pay its way and show a profit. We hear much in these days of the desirability of developing in other countries such industries as are complementary to, and not competitive with, those of Great Britain. Here we have a perfect instance in a country where our flag flies of a complementary industry—a means of feeding the mills of Lancashire, which, in turn, will sell to the Sudan increasing quantities of their finished products. We hear also of unemployment here and of money spent, largely unproductively, in relief of it. Any interruption with work on this dam means more unemployment and cancellation or postponement of contracts for sluices, ginning machinery, ploughing engines, light railway material and all sorts of engineering stores.

So much for the home political aspects, but to those of us who have spent some of the best years of our lives in the Sudan there is a final and vital reason for unfaltering pursuance of our task. In the East there must be no chopping and changing of policies. The Sudan costs the British taxpayer nothing or next to nothing. It is inhabited by tribes of warlike traditions, and probably never in its history before has it enjoyed over twenty years of continuous peace. This country, more populous and of greater extent than Mesopotamia, the Sudan Government rules with, perhaps 150 British officials and one battalion of British infantry. It is a supreme instance of goodwill and of mutual confidence, which has been built up by twenty years of conscientious and unadvertising administration. The native has learnt that he can always depend upon this sprinkling of British officials to give patient and disinterested consideration to all his grievances, and never to go back upon promises once made. They have been led by the Sudan Government to count upon the completion of the dam. Its completion spells for them prosperity and insurance against starvation, and they have not been free from famines in the past. Any interruption of the work now might be construed by them as a breach of faith due either to the weakness of this country or to the sacrifice of Sudanese interests to ill-informed extremist clamour in Egypt. In short, our position in the Sudan is based primarily upon the natives' confidence in our keeping faith with them, and this confidence, built up for over 20 years, must not be lightly risked.

There is just one further remark I should like to make. We have all read with regret in the papers that the recent negotiations between the delegation of Adly Pasha and the Foreign Office in regard to Egyptian affairs have broken down. People in this country are apt to confuse Egypt with the Sudan, forgetting that from Cairo to Khartoum is a four days' journey, and that the Sudan has in Port Sudan an independent outlet to the sea. We must not forget that the public opinion and politics of the Sudan are entirely distinct from those of Egypt. Let us hope that there may be no serious troubles in Egypt, but let us also remember that in 1919 the grave troubles in Egypt caused no ripple or reflection on the surface of Sudanese peace.

The motion was carried unanimously, and a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent., less income-tax, was declared.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## DEVELOPMENT OF PORT OF ORAN.

Certain proposals have been put forward by the local Chamber of Commerce with regard to works to be undertaken for the extension of the Port of Oran (says the British Vice-Consul at Oran). It may perhaps be necessary to point out that the whole of the quays and warehouses of the port of Oran are the property of the local Chamber of Commerce, which has practically constructed the port and quays at its own expense, by loans authorised by the French State, and with certain allowances from the Government-General on behalf of the Colony of Algeria.

**An Ambitious Programme.**

The programme is an elaborate one and will consume considerable time and an enormous amount of money before it is realised. No details are provided by the Chamber of Commerce as to the precise dates the various undertakings are to be commenced—some were started before the war, and on that account were abandoned—but all are mentioned as of urgent necessity It may be generally taken that the present Chamber of Commerce is determined to do its utmost to further the development of the port and commercial output of Oran and its province, and is continually urging both the Government and Municipal Authority to undertake improvements in conjunction with itself.

**Extension of Port.**

The proposals put forward by the Chamber of Commerce include the extension of the port eastwards, so that that portion will consist of five large modern basins. Added to this is the Mers el Kebir harbour, situated immediately to the west of Oran, where improvements under an old scheme will be completed and new plans evolved to make the whole a combined port large enough to meet the needs of the province and town of Oran, and incidentally one of the largest in the Mediterranean. The scheme involves many important subsidiary works, such as the development of inland communications with the port by the construction of new railways, sorting stations, and roads, and the alteration of those means already existing; the provision of adequate lighting, policing, and fire preventive apparatus in the port; of modern machinery for facilitating the loading and discharging of ships, of fresh water supply for ships; of adequate warehouse accommodation and a free-pass Customs House warehouse for goods in transit for Morocco. The proposals mention the establishment of a commercial exchange, a commercial club and library, a commercial educational scheme, and the improvement and extension of the residential part of the town and suburbs, and generally envisage a re-created town in accordance with the most modern ideas.

## NORTH MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE RESUMED.

The regular service of the Messageries Maritimes Company from Marseilles to Naples, Piraeus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Beyrout and Levant ports, which had been temporarily suspended since the war, will be resumed with the departure of the s.s. Lamartine, due to leave Marseilles on December 15 next.


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ELYSIA, FEBRUARY 10.
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## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses:—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Vitellia for Bombay (Liverpool, December, 7).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London December 3); s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 3); s.s. Maidan for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 17); s.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, December 24); s.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 7).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 7); s.s. Sittang for Rangoon (Middlesborough, January 7).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—A steamer will sail on December 15 for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Ceuta, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum (Liverpool, December 3); s.s. Tyria for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Liverpool, December 20).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Grodna for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania (Liverpool, December 1); s.s. Falernian for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, December 3); s.s. Asturian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 17).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Florence for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 8); s.s. City of Baghdad for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21); s.s. City of Bristol for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of London for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, December 12).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenamoy for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 8); s.s. Glentara for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 22); s.s. Glenariffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 5).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Mandala for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 14).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Ningchow for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, December 7).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 10).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Andalusian for Tangier, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, December 10).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Khyber for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 2); s.s. Kaisar-I-Hind for Bombay (London, December 16); s.s. Soudan for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 30).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Nuddea for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 3); s.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 15); s.s. Mudura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 10); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 30); s.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 6).

Holders of debenture bonds to bearer of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ltd., which fell due on November 30 are notified that the directors, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council, are prepared to renew such debentures for a period of two years at 5¾ per cent. and for four years at 6 per cent. interest.

The Postmaster-General announces that in consequence of an alteration in the time of departure of the aeroplanes from Toulouse it is now possible to post up to 6.30 a.m. (printed papers 6 a.m.) at the General Post Office, London, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, to connect with the air mails for Morocco which leave Toulouse on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday respectively. The mails are due to reach Casablanca on the following day in each case.

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# Company Notes and Reports.

**Indo Burma Oilfields.**

The first report of the Indo Burma Oilfields, covering the period from incorporation on February 6, 1920, to March 31, 1921, states that, as the company has not yet reached the producing stage, the whole of the expenditure incurred, less interest received and certain other items of revenue, has been debited to capital account, and no separate profit and loss account is submitted. Work was commenced at Yenanma in July, 1920, and at Padaukpin in January, 1921. The results obtained have exceeded the expectations of everyone connected with the company, and fully justify the change in the original programme. The last well drilled in on the Yenanma area has yielded 45 barrels per day, and the average from the wells so far drilled on that field of nine barrels per well per day, against the original estimate of three barrels, is evidence of the great potential value of the area. The equally satisfactory result of 63 barrels per day from No. 3 well on the Padaukpin area, against an estimate of 10 barrels, goes far to prove the oil-bearing capacity of that area. A satisfactory arrangement has been made with the Yomah Oil Company, Limited, a company already operating in the Yenangyaung field, for the drilling of a number of this company's well sites on a co-operative basis. The Yomah Company are providing the labour for and superintending the drilling of the sites, and this company itself is providing most of the plant. The oil produced will be divided between the two companies on a sliding scale basis. No. 1 Well drilled under this arrangement has to date reached a depth of 1,225 feet. It is hoped to drill exploratory wells on the Okpon and Mindegyi areas during the next dry season, and work on the other areas will depend on the result of detailed examinations and surveys to be made by the company's geological staff.

Arrangements have been made with the Yomah Oil Company, for the erection of a joint refinery, estimated to cost £235,000, to deal with the products of both companies. A separate company has been formed for this refinery, two-thirds of the requisite capital being subscribed by this company, and one-third by the Yomah Company. The refinery is situated on the left bank of the Rangoon River, about fifteen miles below Rangoon, and should be ready to receive oil early in the new year. The lay-out of the plant has been so designed as to permit of very large extensions. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., to-day, 12 noon.

**P. and O.**

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30, states that after providing for depreciation there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £111,938 17s. 2d. brought forward from last year, of £683,405 9s. 6d. The directors propose to deal with this balance as follows :—5 per cent. dividend on the preferred stock (of which 2½ per cent. was paid as an interim dividend), £152,000 ; 12 per cent. dividend on the deferred stock free of income tax (of which 6 per cent. was paid as an interim dividend), £431,100 ; to carry forward to next year, £100,305 9s. 6d. Warrants for the dividend now recommended will be posted on December 13. The Insurance Fund has been increased during the past twelve months by £5,000,000 bringing it up to £3,000,000. £840 of the first and £7,480 of the second debenture stock has been redeemed during the past twelve months, but, as noted in previous reports, the company retains the power to re-issue this stock. Of the five ships of the "B" class, building by Messrs. Harland and Wolff for the company's Australian emigrant and cargo business one, the Baradine, has been delivered and is on her maiden voyage. Another, the Ballarat, was launched over a year ago, but her completion has been delayed by the joiners' strike. She will probably be delivered in the course of the next few weeks. The Barrabool was launched last month. The construction of the other two vessels is progressing. Work is proceeding on the four large mail and passenger steamers, Moldavia, Mongolia, Maloja, and Mooltan. The Moldavia and Mongolia are launched and will probably be completed by April or May, and the directors hope to get delivery of Maloja and Mooltan towards the end of next year. The directors are glad to be able to report, thanks to their captains, officers and engineers, that the fleet has been navigated during the year without serious casualty. The mail contract continues to be worked, under arrangement with the Post Office, on the lines mentioned in the last report.

During the first six months of the year the steamers were able to do something more than cover expenses, but for the last six months this has not been the case. Recent voyages have resulted in serious losses, and owing to this the directors regret they cannot recommend a bonus for the past year. When wages, cost of stores and coal and operating generally come down to something like normal figures, and trade revives, it is hoped that there may again be a fair margin of profit for the company. Two directors Mr. A. M. Monteath and Sir Montagu C. Turner, go out of office by rotation, and will offer themselves for re-election at the annual meeting. The directors recently availed of an opportunity to acquire the freehold of a property, 20, Great St. Helen's, at the back of and adjoining the company's office in Leadenhall Street, which will be serviceable in the future. Meeting, Company's Offices, December 7, 11 a.m.

**Eastern Telegraph.**

The report of the Eastern Telegraph Company for 190 states that the revenue amounted to £4,381,856, from which are deducted £1,629,057 for ordinary expenses, and £1,359726 for expenditure relating to maintenance of cables, income and war taxes payable abroad, share of contribution to pension a,d superannuation funds towards depreciation of investments, payments to staff, and other expenses incidental to the war, special grant on formation of staff widows' fund, and sundry differences in exchange, leaving £1,393,073. After providing for income-tax, corporation profits tax, and excess profits duty payable in England, interest on mortgage debenture stock, and dividends on preference stock, in all £474,015, there remains £919,058, and £416,082 was brought in, making £1,335,140. The directors have placed £500,000 to general reserve fund and £100,000 to maintenance ships fund. Three interim dividends of 2½ per cent. each and a final dividend of 2½ per cent. have been paid on the ordinary stock, amounting together to £400,000, making 10 per cent., free of tax, for year ; also a dividend, free of tax, on the new ordinary shares amounting to £18,662. These appropriations absorb £1,018,652, and leave £316,478 to be carried forward. An expenditure of £1,576,088 has been incurred during the year in respect of new cables, and, in accordance with the purpose for which the new ordinary shares were issued, £1,000,000 has been charged to capital expenditure, the balance of £476,088 being charged against general reserve fund. This fund has also been debited with £301,021 for partial renewal of main line cables, &c., £57,650 for loss on sale of investments, and £250,000 as a further provision on account of investment fluctuations. Balance to credit of fund at date of accounts is £2,217,930.

**British Merchants' Morocco Association.**

We give the following extracts from the fourth annual report of the British Merchants' Morocco Association :—

It could not be expected that Morocco would be immune from the trade depression which has been prevalent all over the world during the past year. There are, happily, indications that the low-water mark has been reached. Trade, in certain goods, is again opening out, although the adverse exchange value of the French franc severely handicaps the restoration of the British export trade with the French Protectorate.

As regards the cargo services, although, throughout the year, business which has offered has been small and uncertain, the older lines have maintained regular sailings, and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., have recently instituted, in connection with the Power Steamship Co., a definite fortnightly sailing. The question of freights, both inward and outward, has been raised between the Association and the steamship companies, who have in every case where it has been possible, given favourable consideration to recommendations made. There is hope of still further reductions, although it must be borne in mind that the British steamship companies are operating under very adverse conditions of competition from foreign lines, the rates of exchange enabling the latter to quote freight rates with which the British companies necessarily find difficulty in competing.

The situation with regard to phosphates has not made much progress since the last report was issued. The Offices des Phosphates has been set up and it is understood that some quantity has actually been shipped. It is difficult to conceive how the Maghzen authorities can deal with so extensive deposits without enlisting private enterprise, and it is thought that a definite application to share in the exploitation of the phosphates, if made by a responsible British group with the necessary financial backing, might be favourably considered.

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A national association has been formed in Egypt for the transaction of motor car insurance business.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Stamboul, November 19.

The trade depression which has been brought about by the depreciation of the exchange is tending to disappear as the result of the fall in sterling which is at present between 720 and 730.

Speculative purchases on this market have ceased, and prices are lower. Consignments for Roumania and Anatolia have stopped. The only outlets at present are the ports of South Russia—Batoum, Sebastopol, and Novorossisk.

The new tariff of 11 per cent. *ad valorem* has come into force. Merchants have been hurrying to get their goods through the Customs so as to benefit by the specific tariff hitherto in force.

Prices of manufactures show a tendency to fall in countries of origin and in this market. Cabots which had risen to £T10¼ have receded to £T8½.

*Produce.*—Sugar. After undergoing various fluctuations, prices have ended by weakening on the chief foreign markets. Quotations are :—Java £19 per ton ; American 8 dollars per 100 kilos ; Belgian £20 per ton. Stocks here have increased, and prices tend to fall.

Coffee.—The market remains firm despite the attempts of New York to bring prices lower. All arrivals are immediately absorbed; stocks in warehouses are insignificant.

Salonika, October 31.

Cereals.—Prices have recorded a new rise. Wheat 1.60-1.70 drachmae per oke ; maize 1.20 to 1.35 ; barley 1.15 to 1.20.

Cocoons.—Stocks are nearly exhausted. The quotation is 60 to 70 drachmae per oke.

Wool.—Stocks are exhausted. Some transactions have taken place at the following prices : 9 drachmae for black and 8 drachmae for white.

Olive Oil.—There is an abundant supply. Prices are from 8 to 9½ drachmae per oke.

Opium.—There is no demand. Stocks amount to from 15 to 20,000 okes. Quotations 120 to 130 drachmae per oke.

Tobacco.—Some very important sales have taken place, and producers have profited by the marked rise in prices to dispose of their stocks, the principal purchasers of which have been the American houses. Prices range from 11 to 60 drachmae according to quality. Stocks of tobacco amount to 150,000 okes.

Skins.—Stocks are exhausted. Transactions have been carried out at 10 to 12 drachmae per pair for lamb's skins, and at 28 to 30 drachmae for those of kids.

Cotton.—Stocks are abundant. Smyrna-Adana is 9 to 9½ drachmae per oke, while American is 10 to 10½.

The Bulgarian trade delegates, M. Kassiroff, President of the Balkans Trading Company, Limited, and M. K .N. Moutafoff, former administrator of the Bulgarian National Bank, arrived in London last week for the purpose of meeting British trade delegates.

The Union of Czecho-Slovak Exporters and Importers and the Chamber of Commerce have to come to an agreement to establish an arbitration tribunal which will examine any complaints from abroad regarding exports.


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| **Reserve** | - | **£1,250,000** |

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.

Lt.-Col. J. PROCTOR, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Sub-Directors.
J. UNGAR

DJEVAD BEY.
HAMID BEY
NOURY BEY

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

| LONDON. | PARIS. |
|---|---|
| VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E. | LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O. |
| E. W. H. BARRY. | JEAN BOISSONNAS. |
| THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G. | CHARLES DE CERJAT. |
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# Stock and Share Markets.

## DULL AND UNEVEN TENDENCY.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday Evening.

The markets have on the whole been very quiet this week. The Irish position is still tinged with uncertainty, while the prospects of material results accruing from the Washington Conference are not so bright as they were, and these things have naturally checked activity. Favourable developments in both directions would make an enormous difference to the position.

Judging by the unfavourable result of the South African Loan the market has had enough of Colonial issues for the present, and it is quite probable that those that are said to be in the offing will be postponed until the New Year. Other new issues have not been so plentiful of late, but we are promised several in the next few weeks, including two important oil issues.

**Colonial Securities Weak.**

Gilt-edged securities have been fairly firm with a few exceptions. Consols are the same at 49,1-8, while War Loan Fives are 1-16 up at 88,1-16. Fundings are 1-8 up at 73¼. The India 7 per cent. Loan has shed ¾ at 103, while the Sudan 5½ per cent Loan is 5-8 lower at 74. In Near Eastern securities which rank among British Funds Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are ¼ down at 68½. Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are unchanged at 62, but Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are ½ up at 69.

Exchange fluctuations have again had their effect on the foreign group. French securities have been noticeably weak, the 5 per cent. War Loan being 3 down at 33½. German 3 per cents. were dull on the decline in the mark, and at 2,3-16 are 1-8 down on the week. Chinese securities have been dull, while Brazilians have displayed some weakness. Japanese stocks have been steady, the 4 per cent. 1899 issue and the 4 per cent. 1910 issue being both unchanged at 62.

Greek securities have been unsteady. The 5 per cent. 1884 Loan has shed a point at 33, while the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is also 1 down at 33. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is 1 down at 31, but the 5 per cent. Funding Loan is unchanged at 33. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is the same at 34.

**Industrials Dull.**

Industrials have been dull and irregular, though there has been as usual little business passing. Textiles have been fairly steady with Courtaulds 3d. up at 33s. 9d. After their fall of the previous weeks Armament Shares are a little steadier. Evidently the view is taken that the discounting of possibilities has now gone far enough, and that it would be as well to "wait and see" what is going to happen. Armstrongs are 9d. down at 14s., while Vickers are 3d. down at 9s. 3d. Guest Keens are unchanged at 28s., while Cammell Lairds remain at 11s.

There has been little doing in Shipping securities. P. and O. Deferred are 3 down at 280, while Furness Withys are 3d. down at 22s. 3d. Cunards have shed 1s. at 17s. 6d., while Royal Mails are unchanged at 79.

**Anglo-Egyptian B Strong.**

A somewhat dull tone has been in evidence in the Oil market as a result of a certain amount of Continental liquidation. Burmahs are 1-16 down at 5,11-16, but Mexican Eagles are unchanged at 3,5-16. Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B have been in demand, and are 3-16 up at 1,9-16. Oilfields of Egypt have shed 4½d. at 3s. 6d., while Gemsah, Oil Reefs are 3-8. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consols are 3d. down at 7s. 9d., while Steaua Romana have shed 3d. at 7s. 9d. Phoenix are 3d. down at 6s. 9d., while Dacia Romanos are 11-16, a decline of 1s.

Mines have been irregular, weakness developing in a number of directions as the result of Continental selling. Diamonds have been a specially weak spot with De Beers at 9,1-16.

**Banks Steady.**

Banks have been fairly firm. Agricultural of Egypt 3½ per cent. Bonds are ½ down at 54, but the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 55½. Imperial Ottoman Banks are ½ down at 6½, but National Bank of Egypt are 1-16 up at 18,9-16. Bank of Athens shares are unchanged at 2, but Ionian Bank are 9-16 up at 3¼. Chartered of India are unchanged at 15, while National of India are the same at 37½. P. and O. Banks are 3-16 down at 11,1-8. Imperial of Persia remain at 5,1-8, while Bank of British West Africa are the same at 4½.

Land shares have been steady. Béhéras are unchanged at 8¼, while Béhéra Prefs are the same at 3,1-8. Egyptian Delta Lands remain at 6s. 9d., while New Egyptians are unchanged at 22s. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1½d. down at 10½d. Sidi Salems are the same at 1, while Union Fonciéres are unchanged at 2,7-16. Sudan Plantations are 3-8 down at 2¾.

**Rubbers Firm.**

The Rubber market has continued to present a firm appearance though for the time being the rise has evidently ceased. There has so far been no buying of any importance by the public, which will not be induced to come in until it is a good deal clearer than it is at present that the price of the raw commodity is definitely on the up grade. My view, as I have pointed out before, is that fluctuations must be looked for, but that the tendency will henceforward be upwards.

Among miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are unchanged at 6,11-16, Egyptian Markets are 3d. down at 18s. 3d. xd., while Egyptian Salt and Soda are 3d. up at 32s. 3d.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest. Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 99.25-99.75 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 295-325 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 22.43 | 1,700-1,195 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4 -1.4⅛ |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4-1.4⅛ |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 61.45-61.75 |
| *Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | --- |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 750-780 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 42.86 2-3 | 3.98½-3.98⅝ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 57.65-58.10 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 375-385 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 97⅜-99 |
| Sofia ..... | Levas to £ .... | 25.22½ | 600-700 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 50 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 12,000-14,000 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20:43 | 13,500-15,500 |

* No Quotations. In some cases quotations are nominal.


FOREIGN EXCHANGES

AND

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# COTTON & COTTON GOODS.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester, Saturday.*

The market during the past week has not been altogether featureless, but although the tone has been rather better the increase in the actual turnover has been hardly noticeable. The strength displayed in raw cotton circles has been welcomed, but it has not forced out business. Buyers have distrusted current rates, but if values for the raw material will only steadily advance not with a rush, but slowly and definitely, then there is every probability of increased business following. The political situation abroad has been very disturbing, especially with regard to India, and although there are signs that the Gandhi boycott is weakening, it will be some time before his efforts are a thing of the past. Then again, the financial position in China is stated to be very serious, but everyone anticipates that the Shanghai houses will successfully cope with the situation. In the cloth section only a small demand has been about for Egypt and the Levant, and the majority of the offers have proved impracticable. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have tended to harden, but when actual business has been placed before spinners buyers have been able to obtain concessions. A few miscellaneous cloth transactions have been put through for India, but the turnover for China has been very unsatisfactory. Buyers for the Republics of South America have not been quite idle. Prices for American yarns have been rather firmer, but only a patchy offtake has been registered. Many weak sellers have been about.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date November 23:—The past week has shown but little difference from the many which have preceded it, and business on the spot continues to drag along in a most unsatisfactory manner. The only feature of note has been the issuance of the United States Ginners' Report last Monday. A somewhat "bullish" significance was read into the figures, and this contributed a better tone to the various "futures" markets which, to a certain extent, has been reflected in the "actual," both here and in Manchester. No real improvement is noticeable, but a better tone prevails and prices display a hardening tendency, which is a change from the last two or three weeks. There are rumours that the Indian boycott of British goods is breaking down, but so far no confirmation has been obtained. Manchester to-day reports a bigger enquiry, and "more attention being attracted to yarns," but tangible results still remain very small. Here in Liverpool, we have witnessed a series of steady, advancing markets, and though there is spot cotton to be had at considerably below the quoted official values, yet the sales average a bare 300 bales a day. Spinners are only buying just enough from week to week to enable them to keep their machinery going, and some have either shut down altogether or are running on part time only. It is, unfortunately, only too obvious that large stocks of high (cost) price materials are still hanging over the market, and the unfortunate possessors seem to have the greatest difficulty in disposing of them, even when they are willing to accept a more or less heavy loss. More interest has been shown recently in cotton for forward delivery, and from one quarter, at least, some fair orders have been forthcoming.

The small general enquiry here for spot cotton calls for no special comment, except possibly that sellers have been more pressing, and buyers less keen, than ever. Total sales, 1,700 bales (includes 150 bales Sudan). Quotations all round are advanced 25 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 21.25*d*.

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There is a demand in Algeria for British goods such as cloth for men's clothing, boots and shoes, linoleum, and oilcloth.

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The export of Tunsian alfa is hampered through lack of wagons and many negotiations for sales have consequently been stopped.

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According to a recent report the German potash syndicate has established a sales organization at Vienna for the purpose of trading with the Balkan countries.

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The deposit accounts of Czecho-Slovakian banks amounted to 3,443,000,000 kronen on August 31; while the current accounts totalled 6,110,000,000 kronen.

## OIL SHALES.

Only recently, when the demand for petroleum has so enormously increased and there seemed to be a danger of exhaustion of supplies of natural oil, has attention been directed to other sources of supply, especially oil shales. These are shales rich in bituminous substances and yield oil and gas on distillation. Oil shales have been worked for the production of oil for a number of years in Scotland, France, and a few other countries, but lately deposits in the kimmeridge clay in England have been receiving attention whilst those in Norfolk are under development. Much research has also been undertaken on the vast oil shale deposits in the United States, especially those of Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming, those at De Beque, Colorado, being actively developed.

Interesting information on the subject of this source of oil is given in a volume entitled "Oil Shales" by H. B. Cronshaw, B.A., Ph.D., A.R.S.M., just issued in the series of monographs produced under the direction of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Imperial Institute (price 5s. net.) The monograph first describes oil shale and the similar material torbanite; the mining and distillation of oil shale; and the composition and properties of shale-oil. Descriptions follow of deposits of oil shale and torbanite in various parts of the British Empire, including those in the Utrecht district of Natal, Wakkerstroom district of the Transvaal, Albert County in New Brunswick, Pictou County in Nova Scotia. Blue Mountains in New South Wales and Mersey district in Tasmania. Accounts of foreign deposits are given next and include those of the United States, France, Bulgaria, and Brazil. A map showing the oil shale deposits of the world and a bibliography conclude the volume.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 21:—

Season.—November 14 and 17.—light rain in North-West India. November 18—few falls in South Madras. November 19 and 20—monsoon strengthened slightly, causing nearly general rainfall in Malabar. Conditions of Crops.—November 18—Bengal and Punjab unchanged. In Central Provinces cotton and sesamum very good; wheat promising, and harvesting of rice nearly completed. Assam, November 21—transplanted winter rice good; broadcast winter rice, sugarcane, cotton and tea normal.

Markets.—November 18—Bombay cotton market unsettled Settlement due to-day (*i.e.*, November 21) postponed to November 22, certain firms having declined to acknowledge authority of East India Cotton Association as the authority qualified to deal with contracts entered into under the Cotton Contracts Board. Ready cotton steady with improved demand. Fine M.G. Oomras on November 15, were Rs. 365 December-January, and Rs. 359 March. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to November 11, 1921 were 325,000 bales as compared with 130,000 bales in the same period of the last year. Bombay piece-goods market unchanged. Local goods moving steadily. Calcutta jute market, November 18—quiet. Gunny market, November 15—very quiet. At tea sale on November 15 few Darjeelings offered, but good selection of good quality teas from other districts. Teas over Re. 1, 4 per lb. steady, but prices of other grades showed irregular advance of 3 to 9 pies per lb. Good liquoring medium grades sometimes 1 anna dearer. 302,132 packages sold to date at an average price of 9 annas 2 pies per lb. November 18—special Straits quality rice, Rs. 620. November 15—market conditions firm with further advance in prices. T.N., November, Rs. 162; December, Rs. 160. Railway Survey.—Mingaladon-Bauktaw railway survey of 11 miles by Burma Railways Administration and Reconnaissance Survey of Central Indian Coalfields Railway by State Railway sanctioned. Appointment of an officer to determine lines of railways required for coalfields in area bounded on north and west by East Indian Railway and south by Bengal-Nagpur Railway Main Line and Bilaspur Katni Branch also sanctioned. No change in Bank Rates.

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Czecho-Slovakia's exports to the United States from January to the end of June amounted in value to 4,438,000 dollars, and the imports from the United States amounted to 883,000 dollars.

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Anglo-Egyptian Oil Output (week ended November 18)—Gemsah, 38 tons, previous week 53 tons. Hurghada, 3,503 tons against 3,629 tons.

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It is understood that the Fourth International Samples Fair of Prague will be held from March 12 to 19, 1922. Applications for space will be received at the Fair Offices at Prague up to December 15.

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A Customs Office has been opened at Lalla Rhano for the collection of consumption duties on alcohol, sugar, candles, and "colonial products" entering the French Protectorate from the Spanish Zone.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 552—Vol XX. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Offer to Egypt.*

The official papers relating to the negotiations between the British and Egyptian Governments prove that more points were at issue than the military dispositions, although this latter question was made the crux of the discussions. A dispassionate perusal of the documents, however, leaves the impression that the negotiations ought not to have broken down, and in view of the pointed remarks since made by Lord Allenby, to the effect that they were on the eve of a solution of the Egyptian question which would be satisfactory to all and in which all interests would be safeguarded, we venture to hope that the negotiations have not completely broken down, but have been interrupted to enable Adly Yeghen Pasha to take fresh counsel in Egypt. In the High Commissioner's letter to the Sultan the British Government suggests its desire to grant full independence to Egypt as quickly and in such measure as conditions permit. Between the military clauses, on which the British Government sets such store, and the stipulations regarding the status of the British Representative, to which the Egyptian Prime Minister takes exception, there would seem to be ample room for a compromise acceptable to both parties.

### *The Issue in Brief.*

Briefly expressed, the position as revealed by the published papers is that the Egyptians want more than they have the right to expect, and the British Government is not prepared to concede all that it might safely grant. There is only one way of bridging the gulf between the two parties, and that is, for the British Government to be satisfied that it can make further concessions and for the Egyptians to be satisfied with less than they now ask for. It rests entirely with the Egyptians themselves whether the time required for the erection of this bridge shall be short or long. If Adly Pasha and Abdel Kharlek Pasha Sarwat can retain their hold of the situation and can clearly show that the Egyptian people have acquired the capacity—on which the British Note to the Sultan lays such stress—to preserve their country from internal disorder and its inevitable corollary, the intervention of foreign Powers, the transition stage to the full attainment of the national ideal will not be unduly prolonged. If, on the other hand, from lack of courage or from want of confidence in themselves, they abdicate in favour of Zaghloul Pasha or his extremist followers, there can only be a period of trouble and disappointment in store for Egypt.

### *"Safety First."*

There can be no question that the British Government's point of view has been cogently set forth in the letter presented by Lord Allenby to the Sultan. Lord Milner adopted the view that, although the Egyptian people were not yet qualified for self-government, they should be allowed to experiment with it within certain limits, and as his Mission was not called upon to formulate the limits in a hard and fast treaty, there was an inevitable tendency on the part of the Egyptians to anticipate that the utmost latitude was to be afforded them. The British Government has not receded from the letter of the Milner agreement, but it has approached the subject in a different spirit from that adopted by the Mission. As we believe that it would be possible to go farther that the Government has done without endangering the safety of the Empire or the security of life and property in Egypt, we would the more urgently counsel the Egyptians not to lose their opportunity by refusing what is offered them. The rejection of the terms of the draft Treaty will suggest that they shrink from the test of their capacity for self-government entailed in the restrictions imposed on their conception of complete independence; whereas if they are able—as they claim to be—to pass through the period of probation with flying colours, they have the certainty that public opinion in Great Britain will not deny them "the full attainment of the national ideal."

### *The Entente and Asia Minor.*

However obstinately M. Briand may defend the action of his Government in making a separate Treaty with Mustapha Kemal Pasha, it must be plain to all thinking Frenchmen that the alarm created in Cilicia must react upon Greece and make the Greek Government, even if it accepts under protest the principle of evacuation, much more exacting in the matter of safeguards for non-Turkish minorities in Asia Minor. On this point, however, France can be of no assistance to the Entente, as her prestige in Greece is well below zero, and the British Government must take it upon itself to treat independently with Greece. Already it is being suggested in Athens, according to the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, that Great Britain has "abandoned" the Greeks. In the official settlement of the Turkish question the Entente Powers must act together; but there is no reason why Great Britain of her own accord should not offer Greece a separate explanation of the

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circumstances that have led to the revision of the Treaty of Sèvres. Her responsibility for Greece's disappointment will be in Greek eyes much greater than that of France, and it will take time to convince the Greek people that the change in British policy is more favourable to the permanent interests of Greece than was the shortsighted action that launched her on the hazardous Asia Minor venture.

### *The Position in Greece.*

Nothing is more calculated to give a concrete turn to the traditional British sympathy with Greece than her present disappointment. Little interest may have been taken by the British public in the campaign in Asia Minor, because it was felt instinctively to be the outcome of a wrongheaded policy that perpetuated fighting anywhere over anything after the Allied victory in the Great War; but there was much to command respect in the way Greece insisted upon settling her own domestic concerns according to her own inclinations, and not at the dictation of the disgruntled Supreme Council. It was possible to challenge her wisdom in taking the situation in Asia Minor into her own hands, but her courage could not be denied. As things are, she has an invaluable asset in having achieved unity, and there can be little doubt that the strong position which King Constantine holds in the affections of his people will stand the country in good stead at this trying time. He will need all the statesmanship that he can command to bring Greece unscathed through her fresh ordeal, and those who have wished the country well, and have refused to subordinate the interests of the Greek people as a whole to those of individual political parties, are confident that King Constantine will prove equal to the occasion.

### *Flight from Cilicia.*

The panic caused among the Armenians, Greeks, and other Christians of Cilicia by the conclusion of the Franco-Turkish Agreement has spread rather than diminished. According to some reports, it is shared by the Arabs of the evacuated region, said to number between four and five thousand, and even by the Turks who do not belong to the Nationalist party. As in all such cases, it will doubtless be wise to make somewhat wide allowance for exaggeration in these reports, which usually owe their origin to refugees who are, very naturally, hardly in a state to see things in any but the worst light. But even when such allowance has been made, it is clear that the panic is widespread; and in spite of all official denials and assurances, it is impossible to feel that it is quite groundless. General Gouraud may point out to the frightened people that not only the honour of the Kemalist Government, but its interests also are at stake, and that "it cannot be imagined that the Turks will display rancour on account of the past or resort to massacre;" but those addressed would probably reply that the Kemalists have not always shown themselves alive to their own interests, and that for their own part they put no faith in Turkish honour, while their imagination makes no difficulty at all over envisaging the Turks either showing rancour or resorting to massacre.

### *Some Consequences.*

We do not share the fearful anticipations just referred to, and we believe that Angora will do its best to avoid disgracing itself before the civilized world. Mustapha Kemal and his associates must realise that for them the Franco-Kemalist Agreement constitutes, as General Gouraud puts it, a half-way house towards peace; and if anything untoward should happen, it will surely be against their desires and intention. But reports regarding the attitude assumed by the Turks who first returned to Adana towards the Christians there are certainly not calculated to allay uneasiness on the part of the latter; and it is easy to understand the rush there has been to escape from the area concerned. At least four shiploads of refugees arrived at Alexandria and Port Said last week, and so great was the passengers' fear that in one case when they were refused permission to land they seized the ship in order to prevent its return to Mersina; nor would they allow the captain to proceed to Beyrout without an official guarantee that they would be allowed to land there. Why they were debarred from landing in Egypt is not clear, and the explanation will be looked for with some anxiety. But it is surely astonishing for the Paris *Temps* to "regret to learn that the British authorities do not appear to find it possible to permit the admission into Egypt" of these refugees; and to suggest that "the French authorities will no doubt not fail to offer them that help and protection which they believed they were able to do without." Even the extremely Francophil *Morning Post* finds France's attitude on this point "strange."

### *Anarchy in Persian Azerbaijan.*

A message from Tabriz sent to *The Times* by its special correspondent in the Middle East throws into vivid relief the state of anarchy existing in the extreme north of Persia. The Assyrian refugees who have been the guests of the British Government in Mesopotamia are now returning to their homes in the Urumiah district, and their passage of the Kasvin-Tabriz road appears to have incited the Shahsavend tribes to improve the occasion after their own style. The unfortunate refugees are reported to have had a very bad time, many of them being stripped naked, and the road has been, once more, rendered unsafe. The notorious Kurdish brigand chief, Simko, whose name is not unknown to our readers, and who has been terrorizing the Urumiah district, has now gone so far that an expedition has been organized for the purpose of bringing him to book. Indeed, as we write, it is reported that Persian troops have actually engaged and defeated his followers.

### *An Insult to America.*

Vigorous action of the kind was clearly called for if the Persian Government hoped to keep up any pretence of being master in its own house. For Simko had overstepped all limits, as is shown by the account given of a raid on Suj Bulak carried out by him on October 6. Suj Bulak, it may be remarked, lies about 70 miles south-east of Urumiah; but the brigand made a forced march and appeared before the town quite unexpectedly. The gendarmes offered resistance, but were defeated, and, after surrender, were put up in batches and mowed down by machine-gun fire, to the number of 500. The town, needless to say, was looted. Not content with this, the attackers broke into the American Lutheran Mission, stripped three American ladies, beat a Frenchman attached to the Mission, and appear to have driven his wife out of her mind by their brutalities. The outrage is sure to create great indignationin America and Americans will at least take a very lively interest in the Persian Government's attempt to settle the account with Simko.

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### *Liberty in India.*

While the Prince of Wales has been enjoying the splendours and the sports of the Rajput States, the Government of India have been taking steps to restore to ordinary subjects the liberty of which they have for some time been to a great extent deprived. Lord Reading's speech to the Punjab Chamber of Commerce is noteworthy for its frank recognition of the fact that the intimidation and coercion of private citizens had become intolerable; and the proclamation as illegal associations of the various formations of "volunteers," who have been the effective agents of intimidation, may be taken as evidence that business is meant. These bands of youths have been steadily extending their activities during the past year; they have enforced the boycott of foreign merchandise by picketing and intimidating traders; they have molested the vendors and the consumers of exciseable goods; they have compelled the general closure of shops when that nuisance is decreed by some irresponsible persons in the background; they have fomented strikes and industrial disorders; and, speaking generally, they have done much to deprive British India of its old reputation as the freest country in the world. Their disappearance, if it happily results, will be welcomed by the great majority of the people.

### *"Slave Mentality."*

If the question be asked, how these "volunteers" can do what they have been doing, the answer must be sought in the story of the past. Indian governments, whether Hindu or Moslem, interfered in the daily lives of their subjects to an extent which is now difficult to realise, and anyone wearing a uniform, or displaying any sort of a badge of authority, was in practice free to bully as much as he chose. Extremist politicians talk of "slave-mentality" as a product of British rule, but the phenomenon is in fact far older, and these same politicians have exploited it most effectively for their own purposes. The badged volunteer has been trained to bully the people, and the people, bound by the tradition of being bullied, have submitted to the badge. Of late there have been some faint signs of a reaction against this tyranny in a few of the larger cities, and, so far as we can judge, Lord Reading's Government have seized the psychological moment for action designed to bring it to an end. The effect of their action may be expected to appear when the Prince of Wales reaches the cities of northern India, for in many of these a boycott of his visit has already been "ordered" by the local extremist junta, who will now have an opportunity of showing the extent of their influence when deprived of the assistance of their trained bullies.

### *Trouble on the Frontier.*

When we wrote last week that the treaty with Afghanistan could not by itself remove anxiety for the safety of the Indian Frontier, we did not anticipate quite so prompt a demonstration of the fact as was furnished by the Waziri raid in the direction of Quetta. The raiders really belong to the tribal country, but they have been settled for some time in Afghan territory, and it was from Afghan territory that they started on the expedition which must be regarded as successful from their point of view. We do not suppose that this party of Waziris have any particular respect for the Ameer's authority, or that the raid has any connection with the conclusion of the treaty; the simple fact is that an unprovoked attack has been successfully carried out, and, if it is not punished, it is likely to be followed by more. We trust that the significance of the occurrence will be realised by those Indian politicians who still think that frontiers can be guarded by fine phrases: it may well serve as an object-lesson, and object-lessons are more effective than lectures in the primary stages of political education.

### *Lord Sinha's Resignation.*

There will be widespread regret at the news now formally published that Lord Sinha has been compelled to tender his resignation of the office of Governor of Bihar after less than a year's tenure. The cause assigned for this step is nervous exhaustion, or what most of us call overwork, and the fact is a significant reminder of the strain of public life under the conditions which now prevail in India. Lord Sinha has always worked at high pressure. In the old days he enjoyed an enormous practice at the Bar, notoriously an exhausting occupation, and for the last ten years or so he has advanced from one high office to another in a way which can have left little or no opportunity for rest or relaxation. Last week's announcement assures us that his health has not been permanently injured, and we hope that a real holiday may result in such a recovery as may enable him to do many years' work for India.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening*

### Ulster and Sinn Fein.

Ulster has given its answer to the Sinn Fein proposals for an All-Irish Parliament, and it is of the nature that was anticipated: Ulster will have nothing to do with such suggestions—she intends to stay as she is for the present. Sir James Craig's speech had the authentic touch of the man who has made up his mind, and it was significant that it was at once accepted, even in quarters that are not friendly to Ulster, as final and conclusive.

Thereupon the British Government had to try again; Downing Street is nothing if not persistent. Fresh proposals were formulated for Sinn Fein—or perhaps it would be more correct to say that the alternative proposals which were already in existence were taken out and dusted before they were presented to the Irish delegation, which retired to consider them. Sinn Fein naturally professes to be disappointed that Ulster will not trust it, but I doubt whether the delegates are very

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surprised. The note at the moment, however, is moderation, and it is said that Sinn Fein will neither definitely accept nor reject the Government's new proposals. But sooner or later the question of allegiance will have to be faced. Sinn Fein has so far avoided the matter, and spoken of a general profession of allegiance by the Irish Parliament instead of the individual oath by every member. The theory is that this is the best card in the Sinn Fein hand, and they want to keep it till the last. When they have won the other tricks (most of which which we are willing to concede) they will not mind losing the final trick to the King. At any rate, that is what those who are in pretty close touch with the Sinn Feiners assure me.

**Washington and the World.**

The Correspondents at Washington have not been earning their money this last week, but then little of importance has happened. It appears that it was the well-known French journalist "Pertinax," and not M Briand, who said rude things about the Italian army, but the mischief is done. This excitement over, the only flutter in the dovecots of peace has been the rumour that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance was to be denounced immediately, but the report was on the face of it absurd.

The fact seems to be that the Conference has realised that the world cannot be reformed by a gesture or a good resolution, and has settled down to business—the business of considering problems in detail. This is excellent common sense, but it does not make good cables, and the journalists are perceptibly yawning. Even when President Harding threw out a hint that the Washington Conference might become a kind of annual affair, the reporters gave it rather perfunctory treatment.

The one question that really moves the political world at the moment is whether Mr. Lloyd George is to cross the Atlantic or not. The morning paper says he will, the evening paper says he won't. At the moment of writing, the odds seem against his going, but before the printer has this paragraph the position may be reversed. It all depends on Ireland: if Sinn Fein can be persuaded to keep the Irish Conference in cold storage for a month, then the Prime Minister will go. I believe that the Sinn Fein delegates are quite willing for the Conference, or at least for the truce, to go on, but there are ugly signs from the Irish counties that some of the rank and file want to be breaking heads again.

**A Communist Fiasco.**

The legal event of the week has been the action of Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., against an obscure paper named the *Communist*, which is edited by a conscientious objector and pro-Bolshevist called Mr. Francis Meynell. Mr. Meynell, who is the son of a well-known poet, seems a little primitive in his methods. He attacked Mr. Thomas for the part he took in the coal strike, accused him of treachery to his class, and called him Judas Iscariot. When Mr. Thomas brought an action, Mr. Meynell cited no evidence on his own behalf to show that he had any reason for making these accusations, and forbore to go into the witness-box to say why he had done it. In fact, he has not had a word to say for himself. He was cast in damages for £2,000, which seem well deserved. If that is the best that communist propaganda can do, I don't think much of it.

**A City Loan.**

Some comment has been caused in the City by the fate of the South African Loan. Six million 6 per cent. stock was offered at 96½, but 83 per cent. was left on the underwriters' hands. There was nothing against the stock, for South African credit is high, but it followed rather closely on another issue last September of £5 million by the Union of South Africa, and in the past two months altogether £33 millions of Colonial loans have been emitted. Seeing that in the same period about £70 millions have been subscribed to our own Treasury Bonds, it is not very surprising that the investor has got a little out of breath; the wonder is that he has kept up so well, for there have also been a good many industrial issues this autumn. The South African stock will sooner or later be absorbed, but it would probably be wise for other Colonial loans to wait a little. A good many industrial prospectuses are also hung up pending better times.

**A London Fog.**

The first genuine London fog of the season visited us last week. It was impossible to see across the road, omnibuses almost ceased, and trains were hours late. It may have been imagination, but after the long spell of fine weather the atmosphere seemed peculiarly gritty and offensive. But even a visitation like this does not convert us from our love of the open hearth, which is responsible for most of the smoke; I doubt whether even a month's continuous fog would change our habits.

Meanwhile, although most people have forgotten about it, the drought in the South of England goes on, and Unless December gives us a succession of downpours, 1921 will go down to history as the driest year in our records.

**Postal Grievances.**

The Postmaster-General is in hot water again. The new telephone exchanges are being hotly criticised, and some of the bills that have been published by small users of that abominable convenience certainly seem extortionate. The picture-postcard makers again say that they are ruined by the three-halfpenny postcard rate, which is probably true; and business men who deal largely in the mail-order trade are pointing out that the abolition of the Sunday collections means that Monday is a lost day. This latter facility evidently ought to be restored with the New Year, and now that falling costs have enabled tram and bus proprietors to reintroduce the penny fare, the three-halfpenny postcard can hardly plead justification any longer.

**The Theatre Slump.**

The theatres are complaining of bad business. They always do just before Christmas, but this year there seems more reason than usual for the groans of the managers. Only two or three houses are playing to capacity, and one play after another collapses with only a short run. The critics, who were recently attacked by the managers for damning their productions, have again retorted that the plays are too bad to draw the public. I find it difficult to accept that verdict, partly because the worst play in London is attracting crowded audiences every night; the real reason is that there is not enough money in our pockets to go regularly to the theatre. After all, there are a large number of theatres in London, and to fill them all nightly means the expenditure of several thousands of pounds, as well as bus, tram, and taxi fares—when one is hard up, the theatre becomes an occasional luxury. Much the same tale comes from the restaurants which deal in theatre suppers.

**Poor Clergy and Rich Churches.**

Appeals are again being made for contribution to the funds to diminish the poverty of the clergy, which is indeed deplorable. But the effect of these appeals has been somewhat discounted by the announcement that Barclay's Bank has offered half-a-million sterling for the site of All Hallows, Lombard Street, one of the redundant City churches, and the offer has been refused. The church has only about twenty parishioners, its upkeep costs something, and the stipend of its incumbent is over a thousand a year. Five hundred thousand pounds would go a good way towards solving some of the more pressing difficulties of church finance.

**The Week's Books.**

It seems that an unusual number of religious books have been and are to be published this season. In "The Evolution of the New Testament" (Murray) Mr. J. E. Symes summarises the results of modern historical and critical research with great clearness. He is usually on the conservative side, but the extreme position taken up by the more destructive critics of thirty years ago has been generally abandoned.

"The Mother of All Living" (Constable) is by the author of the most successful novel of the year, "Simon Called Peter," which has run through several editions and has been discussed at every tea-table.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, November 27.*

**Parliament.**

On Monday, November 28, Parliament will be re-opened.

It is anticipated that the King's Message will this year be a fairly short one, and will touch in general terms on the various political and social problems set forth in the Government's programme for the coming legislative Session. The first paragraph of the King's Speech will announce the birth of Prince Mihai, which, apart from giving the country a new Crown Prince, provides for the continuance of the dynasty. The Message will then refer to the new Franchise Bill, which it is hoped will become law in the course of the coming session. Another paragraph of the Speech will lay stress on the fiscal reforms and the economic reconstruction of the country. A further announcement will be made upon the revision of the Constitution in order to comply with the new situation brought about by the union of the new provinces. Further, the Message will touch on the administrative Reform Bill, which tends to the decentralisation necessitated by the country's expansion. The King's Speech will end with a reference to Roumania's foreign policy.

**The Opposition's Attitude.**

Even until the eleventh hour the Opposition still upholds its determination not to attend the sittings of Parliament. There are, however, strong rumours that the Tzaranist Party have been induced by the Government to resume their seats in Parliament by the assurance that the new Franchise Bill will be modified according to their views. Should the rest of the Opposition still continue in its recalcitrant attitude, the Government has decided to declare the seats vacant and to call for by-elections.

In Government circles it is asserted that the Liberals' vigorous campaign of late is due chiefly to the expiration in December of the term of office of the Governor and one of the Directors of the Banca Nationala. As these high functions have always been occupied by Liberal members—the Banca Nationala is, so to speak a Liberal Institution—the Party is doing its utmost to come to power before these nominations fall due.

**Capture of Chief Author of Senate Attempt.**

Max Goldstein, the principal author of the Senate attempt, when a bomb was made to explode during the sitting of the House, was captured in very exciting circumstances. Last Saturday night, after having managed to cross the Danube in a rowing boat at Giurgiu, without being noticed by the frontier guard, Goldstein was walking towards the town when suddenly he was stopped by a gendarme and ordered to show his identity papers. He first tried to bribe the soldier, but as this failed, he fired a shot at him and ran away. The gendarme, although severely wounded in the lung, managed to give the alarm, and a search party was organized. Next morning, at a village half-way to Bucharest, the criminal was recognized—Goldstein has only one arm and was carrying a bag—and after an exchange of shots with a number of peasants of the village, he surrendered after having exhausted all his cartridges. He was then conveyed to Bucharest by motor-car. The police found on him 2,200 dollars and passports with three different names, and his bag contained 25 kgrs. of explosives of the strongest kind.

Max Goldstein, on being cross-examined, very coolly admitted that he was the chief perpetrator of the Senate outrage, and even gave the police full details of the methods by which it was carried out. On being questioned why he returned to Roumania, he calmly answered that his object was to rescue his comrades who were recently arrested, and to pursue the task with which he had been entrusted by the Soviet Communists.

Goldstein is a Communist of the fanatic type, and make no secret of his anarchistic theories. He will be tried by a military court on December 15, together with 400 other Communists now under arrest.

**An Epoch-Making Discovery.**

For the last fortnight the local press has been ringing with praises in honour of the extraordinary discovery of a hitherto unknown provincial Roumanian physician, Dr. Putzureanu, who claims that by his specially prepared serum he can cure consumption even in its last phase. This discovery, although in a more or less experimental stage, has attracted a large number of patients suffering from phthisis, and a regular pilgrimage has started to Olanesti, the small village-spa, where Dr. Putzureanu has his primitive sanatorium. Dr. Putzureanu is keeping the composition of the serum secret until he has completed his experiments. The treatment, however, starts with an examination of the patient's blood in order to establish the strength of the serum required, which is then injected. The serum, it is said, is obtained from domestic animals.

The Government has appointed a special Committee of Physicians to investigate the efficiency of this treatment.

**Commemoration of Roumania's Unknown Hero.**

A festival, organized by the "National Union of Ex-Warriors," took place at the National Theatre last Monday in commemoration of Roumania's Unknown Hero. The programme consisted of patriotic speeches, recitals, *tableaux vivants* and plays performed by members of the Union and the actors of the National Theatre. The hall was beautifully decorated with Roumanian and Allied flags, and was packed to over-crowding The festival was honoured by the presence of Prince Carol and the British, French and American Ministers, as well as of MM. Maniu, Vaida, Jorga, Bratasanu and other prominent Roumanians.

**Order of "Michael the Brave."**

With the usual ceremony, the King gave the traditional annual banquet to the members of the Order of "Michael the Brave," the highest Roumanian Military decoration, at the Royal Palace last Monday. Two hundred members were present and they were seated at the table headed by the King and Prince Carol, not according to rank but in accordance with the length of time ago that the Order was bestowed upon them. On this occasion the members asked from the Sovereign that a plot of ground in town might be presented to each of them, and this the King promised to do.

**Ukrainian Refugees in Roumania.**

The majority of the Ukrainian refugees have settled down in Bessarabia. Their total number is now about 22,000. The Government, considering it unsafe that such a large number of them should be concentrated in one particular province, especially in Bessarabia, has now decided to transfer them to the interior of the country, allotting a certain number to every town. This

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transfer began on November 20, and during the winter months only those fit for travelling will be transported, allowing the aged and children to follow in the spring.

**Ex-King Charles' Subsistence Allowance.**

The annual civil list of £20,000 accorded to ex-King Charles and his family in their exile, to be borne by the Succession States of the former Hapsburg Empire, is being greatly criticised especially by Roumanians. In the first place, it is considered rather curious that some of these countries should be burdened with this expenditure without being previously consulted. Roumania's share would be about 1,700,000 lei, which amounts to more than the actual civil list of the King of Roumania. Apart from this, Roumanians do not cherish the idea of having to contribute to the maintenance of a former monarch who has never been a *persona grata* to the Roumanians, who, on the other hand, have been actually oppressed by this dynasty.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, November 28.*

**A New Group and a New Paper.**

There are signs that the various bourgeois parties are gradually realising that unity is strength and that it is necessary for them to sink their party differences and form a solid coalition against the Government. With the idea of fostering this idea a number of prominent citizens, composed of bankers, lawyers, business and professional men, have formed themselves into a group. This group is essentially non-party, and although there are many politicians in its ranks, these have for the time being, become, so to speak, "independents." The group is in touch with the leaders of the different bourgeois parties, who have promised them all the assistance in their power. The group represents capitalist interests, and one of its main objects is to call public attention to the fact that Bulgarian capital must at all costs be attracted back to Bulgaria. At the moment a great deal of capital is outside the country, and the owners thereof are afraid to bring it back lest it may be touched by some new legislation on the part of the present Government. Such a state of affairs is, of course, very harmful to the industrial and commercial life of the country, and if the new group can succeed in remedying this evil, it will have accomplished a great work.

Although not forming part of the organisation of the group, the institution of a new commercial newspaper is very closely allied with it. This newspaper is expected to make its appearance at the New Year, and will be published daily. It will be entirely non-political, and will confine itself to matters of economic and commercial interest. It is understood that a considerable sum of money has been secured with which to give this new production a good start, and provided that it can manage to steer fairly clear of the Censor, there is no reason why it should not prove a most successful venture. Sofia is very rich in daily papers, but a good solid commercial paper will fill a much felt want. If it is to come into line with the other newspapers its price will have to be half a lev (about a fifth of a penny at the present rate of exchange); but as it is well known that hardly any of the present newspapers manage to pay their way at this price, perhaps the new paper, whose name has still to be decided on, will give the others a lead by charging a lev a copy.

**Internal Reforms.**

Any Englishmen who was acquainted with Bulgaria before the world war will testify that the average State employee was possessed of a high code of morals. In fact without making any comparisons with other Eastern European countries, it can safely be said that Bulgaria enjoyed a very enviable reputation in this respect. Owing to a variety of reasons this reputation is fast being lost. The war had a bad effect on the morals of every country, but in Bulgaria the enormous rise in the cost of living, (it is 25 times higher than it was before the war) has been the chief cause of the increase in bribery and corruption. Wages have been advanced only a mere trifle in comparison with the rise in prices, and the consequence is that a great number of the 100,000 odd State employees find it impossible to live on their pay. The lucky ones have a private income; but the vast majority have either to do other work in addition to their State duties, or to adopt a dishonest means of livelihood. The alternative is starvation for themselves and their dependents.

In order to try to put a stop to this state of affairs among the Gendarmerie, M. Radouloff, the newly appointed Minister of the Interior, is preparing a series of reforms which he hopes will at least decrease the amount of corruption. Considerable changes amongst the personnel are anticipated, and a stricter supervision of the minor officials will be made. M. Radouloff is well fitted to the task of reform, as he is known as a singularly upright man himself. Corruption has, however, grown to such an extent that it will require very strong measures indeed to abolish it. In fact, the only certain way of abolishing it is to pay all State employees a living wage, and summarily punish and dismiss any official who is afterwards found guilty of dishonesty. The increase of wages would mean a large drain on the Exchequer, but this could be partly counterbalanced by doing away with half the number of the present employees. Besides this, if corruption were reduced to a minimum, the State would itself gain thereby, as a good proportion of the money now being illegally made, must come, indirectly, if not directly, out of the State funds. M. Radouloff's reforms will in any case be awaited with interest, as it is very necessary that something should be done to put an end to the present state of affairs.

**Trial of the Radoslavoff Cabinet.**

Last week General Jekoff, the Bulgarian Commander in Chief during the recent war, was cross-examined regarding his actions whilst Minister of War. He occupied this post for forty days in the summer of 1915, but was transferred to command the Army a few days before Bulgaria declared war. The most interesting piece of evidence given by the General was his statement that ex-King Ferdinand, when asked why he himself did not assume the command of the Bulgarian Army, replied that his influence was not great enough to permit of his taking on this responsibility. General Jekoff always referred to his former Monarch in a tone of the utmost respect, which was in striking contrast to the tone adopted by some of the other accused persons while speaking of their former ruler. General Jekoff did not disclaim responsibility for his attitude regarding the declaration of war, contenting himself with saying that,


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as a Minister he had to carry out the orders of his superiors. The manner in which he gave his evidence made a very strong impression on all who were present, but the general opinion is that he will be punished along with the rest in spite of his chivalrous action in voluntarily returning to face his trial. Another matter on which General Jekoff spoke very strongly was the gift by Germany to Bulgaria of 200 million levas. This sum of money was intended as an incitement to Bulgaria to enter the war on the side of Germany. General Jekoff declared at the time that such an offer was an insult to Bulgaria and reduced her soldiers to the level of paid mercenaries. He said that if Germany wanted Bulgaria's aid, the line of action she should have taken was to pay for all the expenses incurred by the war, but he personally was against the question of money entering into the military convention between the two countries.

## GREECE.

*Athens, November 26.*

**Departure of Earl Granville.**

Earl Granville, accompanied by Lady Granville, left Athens last Wednesday morning by the "Orient Express" for England. All the members of the British Legation, the majority of the members of the British Club and English Colony in Athens, as well as several Greek notabilities attended at the Station.

The new British Minister is expected here early in December.

**Church and Politics.**

Politics in Greece apparently play a prominent part even in the election of such minor church officials as the wardens. According to the *Ethnos*, last Sunday's election of the wardens in the various churches in Athens was marked by incidents between the Venizelist and the Anti-Venizelist candidates, the latter even succeeding in bringing about a postponement of the elections in certain churches where a strong Venizelist feeling predominated. In spite of this, however, Venizelist wardens were elected in the Cathedral itself and at several other churches. The *Ethnos* adds that it is possible that these results will not be confirmed by the Metropolitan of Athens.

**Bonuses to the University.**

The Commission charged to examine the question of bonuses to the Professors of the University revoked under the Venizelist Government has decided to grant to each of the twenty-one Professors of this category, an amount equal to seven months salary. The total disbursements to be made in this connection will amount to 500,000 drachmae.

**Athens in Darkness.**

A lightning strike was declared soon after midday on Tuesday last by the employees of the Electricity Works at New Phaleron, and both Athens and Piraeus were left for three days without light and tramcars. The electric train service between the two towns were also suspended. At the same time the Athens tramway employees also went on strike, and left their cars on the road without taking them back to the depôts.

For several days previously negotiations had been in progress between the Committee of the Union of Electricians and the Government, the principal demand of the former being an increase of 200 drachmae per month retrospectively from January 1, 1921. After much deliberation, the Government agreed to a temporary increase of drs. 50 per month, plus a bonus of 25 drachmae a month for every child under 21. These concessions, however, did not satisfy the employees, and at midday on Tuesday the Union of Electricians published a statement to the effect that in view of the indifference with which they considered the Government had treated the matter, and in fact had rejected concessions previously accorded, a general strike was to be declared. But the Government had not been asleep this time. All Power Stations were immediately placed under military control, and orders for the arrest of the promoters of the strike issued. All electricians enjoying temporary exemption from the Army were ordered to rejoin their units within 24 hours, and 300 sailors specially chosen from the naval arsenal were brought up to work the central Electrical Works at New Phaleron. At the same time most of the ringleaders of the strike and several of the strikers themselves were arrested by the Military Authorities and charged with insubordination and leaving their duties without permission. The trials were quickly arranged, and after an all-night sitting the verdict was pronounced by which eight were condemned to eight years' imprisonment, 28 to five years' imprisonment, while twenty others were acquitted. These severe punishments have apparently had the desired effect, as many of the strikers still out have expressed their willingness, on presenting themselves to the Prefect of Police, to resume their duties.

Athens to-day has practically regained its normal aspect. although certain economies in the use of electricity are still enforced. The Authorities are to be congratulated upon the prompt and energetic manner in which they have handled the situation, and the result can only be described as a complete victory for the Government.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, November 23.*

**Cilician Refugees.**

The British s.s. Montaza brought to Smyrna over 300 Christian refugees from Cilicia, who were escaping before the territory was handed back to the Kemalists. M. Sterghiades, the Governor of this province, refused a landing to them in Smyrna, and when a Greek deputation sought to induce him to allow the refugees to land he asked for a guarantee that they would be housed and fed—which was not forthcoming. The steamer has taken them on to Constantinople, but it is very improbable that they will be allowed to land there, as there are already over 50,000 refugees in Constantinople.

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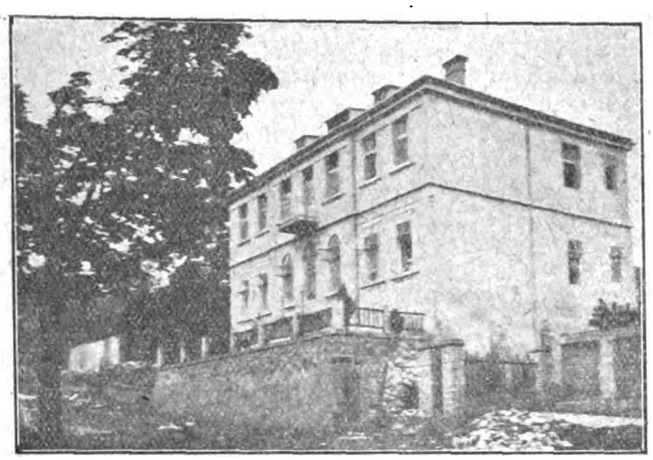
## THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (ANGLO-SERB.) BELGRADE.

Dr. Macphail makes an urgent appeal through our columns for money to help to support the Children's Hospital (Anglo-Serb) in Belgrade, which has been carrying on its work and growing under great difficulties during the last three years. Until recently the Hospital was of a temporary nature, but some months ago the opportunity occurred for Dr. Macphail to put this work on a permanent footing by the acquisition of a new building which was in course of construction in the hospital quarter in Belgrade. This was officially opened in February 1921, and has been working for some months as a Hospital of seventy beds, complete with out-patient department, operating-room, and dispensary. The Camp in the woods of Topchidar for



**The Hospital: Exterior**

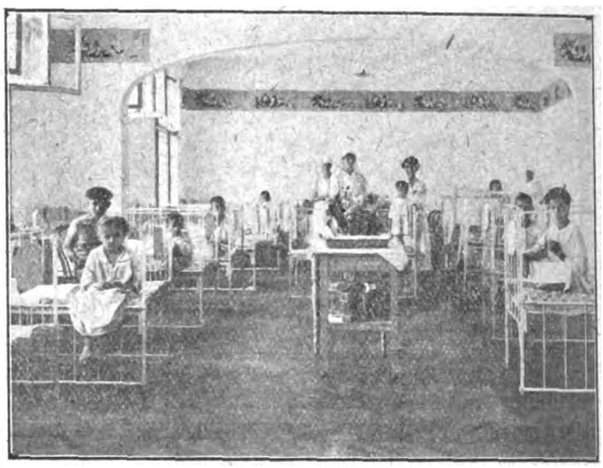
convalescent patients opens for six months during the summer in connection with the Hospital.

Part of the older building in the street of Prince Milosh the Great has been retained as a training school for Serbian nurses and is being run in connection with the Hospital. This training-school is supported financially by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The school is the first of its kind in Serbia. It is regrettable but true that at present the nursing profession, in other countries one of the proudest assets of womanhood, occupies in Serbia a very inferior position. The training-school is doing much to alter this state of things, and its establishment in connection with the Children's Hospital is further evidence of the value of the work of the Hospital, not only in its more obvious aspects, but as a factor contributing to progress and enlightenment in the medical work of the country.

The expense of running the Hospital in its new, and, it is hoped, permanent, form has been materially increased during the last six months owing to necessary outlay incurred in outfitting the Hospital building, and also because many of the Allied Relief Missions which used to render great assistance by grants in money and in kind have ceased their activities in Yugoslavia. This has also had the effect of temporarily reducing the subsidy made by the Serbian Government, as the latter have now to support entirely a number of institutions all over the country which were formerly guaranteed by the aforesaid organizations. The cost of the new building was £5,000, of which all has been paid. Of this latter sum £2,000 was subscribed by the Child Welfare Association, S.H.S., and £1,000 by the Hon. Elsie Cameron Corbett, £1,000 proceeds of collection by Messrs. Ellis, South Africa, and the rest from various sources. The yearly cost of running the Hospital is about £3,000, and Dr. Macphail is appealing for a sufficient sum to guarantee the future of the Hospital for three years.

£50 will secure the upkeep of a bed in the Hospital, which can be designated in accordance with the wishes of the donor. It is felt that many persons and units who have served in this country or with the Serbian Army may wish to perpetuate their connection. There could scarcely be a better method of effecting this than by the endowment of a bed or the granting of a small donation to this Hospital where the children of the soldiers and of the people come to be healed of their ills.

A critical period in the history of the Hospital has now arrived. Unless further support is forthcoming the



**The Hospital: Staff and Patients Surgical Ward**

work will have to cease, for lack of funds. The Serbian Ministry of Health is not yet in a position to take over the Hospital and maintain its present standard. The only source of regular income is 5,000 dollars monthly from the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church and, until the Association closed in June, 10,000 dinars monthly from the Child Welfare Association, S.H.S. All other income is from voluntary subscriptions. It is felt that it would be a crime to abandon at this juncture a work which represents nearly three years of ceaseless and heroic endeavour especially as the full harvest of this is just beginning to be reaped.

The Children's Hospital as it stands to-day is not only an institution unquestionably deserving of support on account of the work it is doing for humanity, but in the eyes of thousands of Yugoslavs it is a monument to the sympathy and help rendered by the English speaking peoples of the world to a young and struggling nation, not only during the great conflict but also in the difficult post-war period. As such it must continue. Dr. Macphail has formed a small committee in Belgrade to further the interests of the Hospital, of which Major Hanan, ex-Chairman of the Child Welfare Association, S.H.S., Mr. Clark, Managing Director of the British Trade Corporation Bank, Colonel Kratz, and several others are members. Subscriptions may be sent to the Honorary Treasurer and Auditor:—J. Clark, Esq., British Trade Corporation, Knez Mihailovo, Belgrade.

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According to a message from Angora, the Soviet of Moscow has recognised the independence of Daghestan, to the north of Baku, on the Caspian.

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# CORRESPONDENCE.

## ARE EGYPTIANS CAPABLE OF GOVERNING THEMSELVES ?

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The question which has been made the subject of this letter is one that is being constantly asked by people in England, who know little or nothing about Egyptian affairs but have a vague idea that: (a) we went to Egypt to suppress a rebellion; (b) we have during the past forty years evolved order and affluence out of chaos; (c) if we leave the country, it would be a question of a few years, or even months, to undo all that we have accomplished; (d) it is much better, therefore, to continue as we are, ignoring the demands for independence so persistently urged by the Nationalists. (a) and (b) are undoubtedly true, and the problem our statesmen have been endeavouring to solve is to prevent the result anticipated (c) and at the same time to satisfy the legitimate aspirations referred to under (d), which many of our countrymen are urging us to ignore.

Unfortunately the problem, which was comparatively easy of solution at the start, if properly handled, now bristles with difficulties owing to the inconsistent way it has been treated by our rulers from the early eighties to the crowning act of folly when the Foreign Office was too occupied to receive the Egyptian Delegation after the Armistice.

All the statesmen, whether British or Egyptian, who played the leading parts in Egyptian drama are dead and gone, and on this account one hesitates to criticise; but let us recapitulate very briefly the events as they occurred, and study them, if we can, from the point of view of the Egyptian Nationalists. We have:—The military occupation, to suppress rebellion; the appointment of a Financial Adviser, with a seat on the Cabinet of Ministers; the civil occupation by officials from India with limited contracts for a few years; the Drummond-Wolfe convention, which failed to materialise, and the subsequent refusal of England to fix any date for evacuation; the appointment of other advisers in the several Ministries; the re-conquest of the Sudan and the Joint Control recognised by treaty; the Anglo-French convention giving England a freer hand in Egypt; the Mixed Government at one time contemplated by Lord Cromer; the creation of the European Civil Service; the failure of Sir Eldon Gorst's policy to extend home rule; the dictatorship of Lord Kitchener; the Italian seizure of Tripoli, acquiesced in on our part without protest; the Balkan war and further diminution of Mohammedan power caused thereby; the declaration of the Protectorate; the incidents of the Egyptian Labour Corps and conscription of animals, etc. Finally, whilst the Arabian Ameers were being welcomed in Paris the Foreign Office refused to receive an Egyptian delegation even to discuss the status of Egypt.

With this record to guide them, is it any wonder that the Egyptian agitators refuse any longer to believe in the disinterested motives of the British Government, or to place much faith in our repeated declarations of eventual evacuation?

It is not for a moment argued that the situation which has arisen was deliberately engineered to make evacuation impossible. Our statesmen have merely failed to foresee the results that must follow from the inconsistency of their acts with their declared policy. There can be no question, either, that the Egyptians have benefited by our actions more than they would have had we fulfilled our pledges in the spirit. But we cannot expect Egyptians, especially the younger generation, who have no first-hand knowledge of the abuses which existed, to look at it in this light. All that they see is a constantly increasing interference in every branch of the administration and a civil cadre to provide salaries for Europeans, where in their eyes the cheaper Egyptian would serve the purpose equally well.

But the discussion of might-have-beens will not help us much to relieve the existing tension. What we must strive for is to create a better atmosphere for the present and security for the future. There are only three things that our Government need trouble themselves about—Justice, Public Security and Finance. As regards the justice to be meted out to the Egyptians this requires little or no interference on our part. The law courts contain most of the intelligence of the country, and if justice fails occasionally, it will be on account of there being too much law and too little of the rougher methods which alone appeal to certain classes. The only difficulty for which provision should be made will be to ensure that all the Europeans who accept the hospitality of Egypt shall be subject to the same law as the Egyptians, the powers of the Mixed Tribunals being extended for the purpose, and the Capitulations abolished.

As regards public security, if there are *no political grievances* there will be *no political agitators* to stir up the lower classes. With no agitators, the Police, with the assistance of the Egyptian troops, may safely be left to look after any rowdy elements that may exist, and Europeans will be as safe in the Nile Valley as in their own country. The only places where the British Army will be sadly missed will be the sporting clubs which owe so much to the British officers. It may be argued that the British Cabinet should insist on the right of re-occupation if necessary? With the Powers, perhaps, but not with the Egyptians—simply warn them what to expect without even a declaration of war if things go wrong. The right will never require to be exercised except to protect Egypt from invasion.

The financial question is really the only one which calls for interference. Writing in complete ignorance of any terms which may have been proposed by the Foreign Office and refused by Adly Pasha, I nevertheless consider that the Foreign Office has every right to insist on the continued existence of the Financial Committee with the British Controller or Adviser as a final arbiter, the said Committee to have the preparation of the Budget till such time as the reserve may have reached a sum to be agreed upon, when this control might be relaxed. If these proposals were accepted, it by no means follows that all the Europeans would be cast adrift. The only difference would be that those who elected to remain and were accepted by the Egyptian Government would recognise that they could no longer look to the British Agent to further any cause they might have at heart. They would have to rely on their own Minister or other superior Egyptian official. They would, in fact, have to exercise more tact and less brute force.

I am, etc.,

Biarritz, November 26. Coles Pasha.

## THE FRANCO-TURKISH AGREEMENT AND THE CHRISTIANS OF ASIA MINOR.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The Franco-Turkish agreement is now an accomplished fact; but a fact as to the final results of which, for both contracting parties, we are very doubtful. However careful both parties may seem to be in putting it into practice, we have every reason to believe that fresh troubles are looming over the darkened horizon of Cilicia.

Evacuation of this unhappy corner of the Near East has begun. French troops under the command of General Dufieux have bidden their last farewell to their fallen comrades. The non-Turkish population is left to its cruel destiny. Some three hundred Christian families, anticipating a reign of terror by the Kemalists, have given up all hopes, abandoned all posts and properties, and escaped to the shores of Cyprus or Syria.

No doubt France at this very critical moment is anxious to regain the favour of the "Sick Man of Europe." But in doing so, we are afraid, she is pursuing her course at the expense of Allied policy in the Near East. It is fully understood, therefore, that if her immediate purpose is to resume her old diplomatic relations with her "prodigal" friened, Turkey, her further aim is to cope with and be a check to British

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interests, and thus to create a balance of power in the Near East.

In this heart-rending situation, the attention of thousands of people is directed to the public opinion of Great Britain, to know whether it can ever approve of France's action, as to the signing of the death decree of so many thousands of Christians in Cilicia. Those unhappy people are to-day doomed to pass once more under the yoke of Turkish treachery. Will Great Britain, who was the first Power to occupy that land three years ago, to-day fold her arms and turn her back with absolute indifference towards a matter which directly concerns her own interests? Will she participate with France in dooming those homeless people to die on the barren coasts of Syria and Cyprus, or in leaving the remaining non-Turkish population of Cilicia at the mercy of the Kemalists? Will she ever do that? Will her policy this time also, be hesitating, cloudy and unwise; and will she let matters drift?

I am etc.,

O. Basra.

Beyrout, November 13, 1921.

## THE CASE OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF RHODES.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—The Italians declared that the "lack of courtesy" of the Archbishop of Rhodes was the principal cause of his deportation to Patmos. On the contrary, a "lack of tact" towards the Greek community of Rhodes was shown by the Italian authorities on the occasion of the visit of their Crown Prince. The officials of the Archbishop's court at Rhodes were informed of the forthcoming event *one* day before the arrival, whereas the Turks and the Jews had been officially advised a fortnight before, so that they should be prepared for the ceremony, in the course of which, as it is alleged, they alone ate 500 okes of sweets and drank 250 cases of champagne and 200 cases of beer. . . .

The Rhodian Greeks frequently complain of the persecution which they suffer at the hands of the Italian demobilised soldiers, who, under the auspices of the Governor, Count Bosdari, have formed in Rhodes two Legions, the "Lega dei Combattenti" and the "Lega d'Italia," with a view to terrorising the Greeks. It has been also ascertained that the Italians had premeditated the deportation of the Archbishop a long time before the visit of the Prince, and that they availed themselves of the absence of the British Consul, Mr. F. Taylor, a personal friend of the Prelate, to put this into effect.

The latest news from Rhodes is that the Archbishop is still at Patmos in a very destitute position. This behaviour towards a Prince of the Greek Church surely is a disgraceful scandal. *Quousque tandem Italia?*

I am, etc.,

T. D. Moscona.

# PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

## Egypt and India.

Under the above title the weekly edition (November 26) of the *Westminster Gazette* gives briefly its views upon these two large questions. After mentioning the breakdown of the Egyptian negotiations, it says it is sufficient at this juncture to say that

the military authorities have had their way, and that a golden opportunity of placing our relations with Egypt on a sound basis, and of improving our position in the Mohammedan world, has been lost. We still believe that a settlement on the lines of the Milner Report is inevitable. The question now to be answered is how severe a crisis we shall have to meet in Egypt before the inevitable is recognised. If the military influences had their way we should be fighting everywhere and all the time, in Ireland, in Egypt, and in India alike, and that fact is in itself the *reductio ad absurdum* of their policy. For we have not sufficient force to go round, and although they might conceivably coerce Ireland, or Egypt, or India, they manifestly cannot coerce Ireland, and Egypt, and India.

It proceeds to examine the "disturbing news" from India, and discusses the possibility of Mr. Gandhi's arrest.

For in India the responsibilities of government still rest upon us. If in the future the vast mass of the Indian people wish to be rid of us altogether we shall have to go, for we cannot coerce such numbers, nor would it be right that we should try. But such a position has certainly not yet arisen. Mr. Gandhi and the extreme Caliphate agitators speak only for a small, though a very vocal, minority. Moreover, we have already set our hand to the development of self-governing institutions in India, and we are pressing forward with our scheme as fast as is practicable or safe. Our course, therefore, is clear. We must persevere in our efforts to make the Montagu reforms a success, and in the meantime the Government of India must govern. That is its first and simple duty to the millions of people who look to it for peace and security. The sufferings of Hindus during the Moplah revolt and of Parsees during the Bombay riots are enough to indicate the kind of persecuting anarchy that is awaiting its chance. When, however, we say that the Government of India must govern, we mean that it must act with judgment and not in a panic. The panic which resulted in the Amritsar massacre is very largely responsible for the present state of unrest, and the deep resentment aroused by that tragedy will, we fear, be increased by the appalling blunder which has caused the death by suffocation of over fifty Moplah prisoners. The Government can withstand agitation, and is in duty bound to suppress it when it results in disorder and loss of life; but depending as it does on the consent of the great majority of the Indian population, it cannot afford to permit horrors like these to happen. Nor can it afford to incur the genuine hostility of the Mohammedan section. The Mohammedans have been seriously perturbed by our policy towards Turkey, and they will not be reassured when they learn of our failure to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Egyptians.

## The Future of Turkey.

In the November issue of *Looking Forward* Mr. Constantine Browne writes from Constantinople on "What is going to Happen in Turkey?" His article is dated last September, and was therefore written before the signing of the Franco-Turkish agreement, but his picture of the position nevertheless remains substantially true. He begins:—

Three months' fighting between Greeks and Turks have brought us back exactly to where we were a year ago, and the situation a year ago was not much better than ten years ago, or ever since Turkey became a bone of contention between greedy European Powers. It is really wonderful to watch the doings of the representatives of the Great Powers in Constantinople. Their main idea is not to settle the Eastern question, but to entangle it in such a way that it may do harm to the interests of some "Ally." The Greeks, while hastily withdrawing, clamour victory for the sake of "moral" and "prestige" and other useful words they learned during the European war from the various Allied and German censorships. The Turk acts like a dog that has just missed being licked and barks after the bigger dog; and the Allies shake their heads telling everybody: "We told them not to undertake such a hazardous enterprise without being thoroughly prepared" and look forward with great delight to more secret diplomacy and more intrigues to come.

To the simple-minded onlooker the solution to the Near Eastern question seems easy. Since the Greeks have failed to force the Treaty of Sèvres upon the Turks by force of arms the main clauses of that Treaty ought to be altered. The Smyrna district which, it was admitted in London last February, had unjustly been given to the Greeks, should be returned to the Turks. Thrace, where there are very few Greeks, should be divided between Bulgars and Turks who represent more than 75 per cent. of the population. The Tripartite agreement dividing Turkey into three zones of influence—British, Franch and Italian—should be cancelled. But this is not how the Allies look at the matter.

He then considers the respective attitudes of Italy and of France in conciliating Turkey, and comes to Great Britain's position:—

Great Britain's position is more complicated. Britain looks at the Turkish question more from the political than the economic standpoint. What will the Mussulman world say if the British Government yields to Kemal's demands? Some eight months ago the British Government still had time to make a *beau geste* and come to an understanding with Kemal Pasha, compelling the Greeks to evacuate Smyrna and Eastern Thrace. But at that time the British Government followed the policy of "punishing the Turk" and really believed that 150,000 Greeks, well equipped and supplied, would be able to annihilate the Kemalist army. It still believed that peace ought to be dictated and not discussed with the Turks; it considered as a bluff the various treaties between Kemal and the Mussulmans in Persia and Afghanistan; it believed that the Indians were not interested in the Turkish question. An intelligent Turk, one of their few statesmen, said to me once: "When Turkey was strong, the Mussulmans of other races under her rule were intriguing and bothering her; when Turkey was neither powerful nor weak, they were indifferent as to what happened to her; but now, when Turkey is down and out, they all rush to her succour." And this

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is true. Remember the revolts of the Egyptians and the Arabs. Remember that during the Great War all the holy wars proclaimed by Turkey had no effect, yet now Egyptians, Arabs, Indians, Azerbaidjanese, Persians and Kurds send money and men to help her out of her troubles. The failure of the Greeks to defeat the army of the Turkish Nationalists has placed Great Britain in an unpleasant position. If the Government agrees to satisfy all the claims of the Turks, this will be interpreted by the Mussulmans as a sign of weakness and will perhaps give excellent propaganda material to various agitators in India and elsewhere. On the other hand, if Kemal's main demands are not satisfied, the British Government has no means to compel him to accept the terms of the Treaty of Sèvres. The Greek army, the main trump in the hands of the Allies, is demoralized and can no longer be counted on.

Kemal is to-day in a position to dictate his peace terms. Neither the Italians nor the French are willing to let the present state of affairs drag on much longer. Their Mussulman subjects are in another Continent and they are not afraid of them, even if a peace with the Nationalists were to be interpreted as a capitulation. On the other hand, they do not mind much if British prestige comes out of this affair much lowered and do not worry about the possible troubles the British Government may have to face in India. Great Britain, in the present situation, cannot but desire to delay the solution of the Turkish question as long as possible.

**Fealty to Faisal.**

Under the heading "The Fealty of the Tribes: A Chapter in the history of 'Iraq," the *Fortnightly* publishes (November) a picturesque description of King Faisal's reception by the Arabs of the Euphrates when he went among them to make himself known to them, and to receive the allegiance of their chiefs. The writer, "'Iraqiyah," gives a vivid account of the enthusiasm not only of the half-settled Arabs, but also of the true Desert wanderers, the 'Anizah and others, for the Emir—for a ruler of their own race. We have a good picture of Fahad Beg, Shaikh of the 'Anizah, "whose writ runs westward halfway to Damascus while his fame as a Ulysses among his people has spread to the extreme confines of Arabia." Mahrut, Fahad's son was the host of the party, but—

It was Fahad Beg himself who held out his hand to us as our boat touched the western bank of the river. Small of stature—his tall son overtops him by a foot—vigorous in mind and body under his 70 odd years, he has been a staunch friend of the Great Government since General Maude first entered Baghdad. Yet earlier friendships unite him with such of us as knew these parts before the war, when we made certain of safety and hospitality by pitching our tents beside his in the wide levels of the Syrian desert. There he holds his nomad court, with the black tents of his tribe clustered round him and the grazing camel herds which are his wealth covering the plains.

Under the bluff which ends the wilderness towards Euphrates floated the standard of 'Anizah, surrounded by the horsemen and camel riders which compose the striking force of the tribe. Mahrut leads them in battle; it is his task to guard our desert frontier against attack, but Fahad, now that he has grown old, keeps to the tents. There, sitting by his coffee hearth, he will draw open his shirt and show you a deeply pitted scar where the spear, driven between his shoulder blades, came out below his breast. "I looked down and saw the spear point, but my mare bore me on till the Shammar behind us desisted from pursuit. I was carried to a tent and the women tended me with herbs according to their knowledge. It was the will of God that I should recover, but afterwards I raided no more."

There follows some account of another important sheikh, 'Ali Suleiman, of the Dulaim, who is acknowledged as their paramount chief along two hundred miles of the river.—

His tribe, obedient to the laws of nature which for the last 6,000 years have driven the population of the Arabian peninsula to find a livelihood by the Mesopotamian streams, appeared some 300 years ago in the Syrian desert and gravitated to the Euphrates. There, no doubt, they absorbed or scattered the older inhabitants, their predecessors from Arabia, who for greater security had built their villages on islands in mid-river. At Alus, at Hadithah, at 'Anah you may see soaring mediaeval minarets, as well as the stone foundation of people yet older than the minaret builders, still earlier comers from the peninsula, as far back as the Assyrians.

Then came the turn of the Dulaim: Shammar, and on their heels 'Anizah, poured out of the southern waste, raided, robbed, and destroyed till they drove the half-settled Dulaim back into the confines of the island villages. But the Dulaim survived; they are a sturdy nation. They made terms with 'Anizah and pastured their flocks with those of the nomads in the Syrian desert; but with the Shammar, driven back into the plains between the two rivers, they maintained an enduring enmity. Gradually, as the Turks established a feeble hold over the Aleppo road, the cultivator gained greater security, but it is only in the last four years that he has come to his own. British troops at Ramadi revived his hopes that where he had sown he might reap the harvest, that even if he planted palm trees he might gather the fruit, and he set to work, 'Ali Sulaiman leading. Already the shaikh has doubled the area of his date gardens; but more than that, confident in our protection, he has invested his capital in permanent undertakings. A wide new bazaar, with ample accommodation for travellers above it, testifies to his activities; he finances the water supply of the town, he promoted the buying of the electric light plant from the British Army when it evacuated Ramadi, and under the guidance of British engineers he is digging a canal from the Euphrates almost to Baghdad, whereon his turbulent tribesmen will find peaceful and profitable employment.

Ir was at Ramadi that the great scene of the tour was enacted. Here—

An immense black tent stood by the river bank. At the upper end was a dais walled in on three sides with screens of green boughs through which a cool air blew from the river. Here sat the Amir with Fahad Beg by his side, while 'Ali ranged the tribesmen in their appointed places. They stretched so far that no voice could have carried more than half their length and before he spoke Faisal summoned them up to him. They sat below the dais, five or six hundred men wrapped in brown mantles, their hands folded in long white sleeves, their heads covered with the red kerchief of the Sunni tribes and crowned with a black rope of camel's hair. There, Faisal, leaning forward in his high seat, lifted his hand and spoke, and he spoke as a chieftain of tribesmen in the sonorous language of the desert, with command and injunction and question to which his audience gave deep-tongued answer. So it has been in such gatherings since the earliest days of Arab civilisation, when the tribes assembled in the Days of Ignorance, before the preaching of Islam, to hear the recital of verse which is yet preserved. And as the poet chanted, his hearers broke into his ode with their applause: "Yes, yes, by God the truth! He speaks the truth!"

Faisal was at home in these surroundings. "For four years," he began, "I have not sat in a tent, nor in such company. I have come to help you to restore your land to its ancient glory and I claim from you your help. If we would work we must have peace—oh, Arabs, are you at peace with one another?"

"We are at peace," they answered.

"From this day——" he continued. "What is the date?"

Some one gave him the Muhammadan month and day.

"And what the hour?"

The Arab hour was given—four o'clock, an hour before noon.

"From this day, the nineteenth of Dhul Qada and the hour 4, any tribesman who lifts his hand against a tribesman is responsible to me. I have my rights over you as your lord."

"And our rights?" cried out a white bearded shaikh.

"And you have your rights as subjects," he answered, "which it is my duty to guard. I guard the peace of the land—can we prosper without peace?"

"True, by God!" they shouted.

"And I will come among you, and with your chiefs in council I will settle your differences."

Then Fahad took up the word.

"Oh, Arabs," he said, "does this content you?"

"We are content," they answered.

With that Shaikh 'Ali and Fahad Beg, standing one on either side of Faisal, took the oath of allegiance to him as king, "because," they added, "you are acceptable to the British Government."

Faisal turned smiling to the one or two British officers who were sitting near.

"There is no doubt," he said, "of my relations with the British Government, but we must settle our own affairs among ourselves."

Thereupon 'Ali stepped to the edge of the dais and called up the shaikhs of the Dulaim. One by one, to the number of thirty or more, they strode up to Faisal, and laid their hand in his hand in token of personal fealty. For this is the religious law of Islam: a man may seal the formula of allegiance, yet he is not bound to personal service unless he has given his hand to his lord.

The great moment of the day was over and we turned out thoughts to feasting.

The article concludes with a silhouette of Faisal standing up to recite the evening prayer. "With his face towards Mecca, the birthplace of his ancestor, the Prophet, he prayed and bowed his forehead to the ground in the prostrations ordained by his faith. We sat silent, but I think that in spirit we prayed with him . . . ."

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## DALMATIA TO-DAY.

Last Friday those who desired to hear something on the Italian-Yugoslav controversy from the Italian point of view, had the opportunity, when Captain Goad addressed the British Italian League at 74, Grosvenor Street, describing his recent experiences in Dalmatia. The trade of Trieste, he said, had immensely diminished, due partly to the confusion of the hinterland which consequently, had no exports, and partly to the Yugoslav method of placing tariffs on goods from Trieste going through their country to Hungary or Austria. This had decreased imports. The slump in shipping and the American restriction of immigration had also affected the port adversely. Zara was an Italian enclave and the headquarters of the third zone of occupation. The results upon it of the evacuation of that zone would be disastrous, its trade would come to an end. Sebenico had seemed to him like a dead city. The principal thing that had struck him was its marvellous harbour. The ship had passed into what appeared like an inland sea, through a channel of deep water about two hundred yards wide, with a fort on one side surmounted by the Venetian lion. In the harbour four great steamers lay rusting. They were part of the old maritime fleet of Austria, and had been handed over to the Yugoslavs who could make no use of them. Except the loafers round the pier he had found very few people in the town. Asking how this was he was told that two thousand had emigrated, going mostly to Istria.

Speaking of political conditions he said that in Spalato, although the population was mainly Italian, the street names were written up in Cyrillic characters. The Italians told him they had no schools; these had been closed by the Austrian Government when Italy went into the war and had never been reopened. They were not even allowed to put an Italian inscription on a tombstone. There was no endeavour made to save the Venetian relics of the town, as apart from those of the ancient Romans; the opportunity of pulling down Venetian windows and such things was gladly taken. The Italians had no redress for the insults they continually received.

The Croats had impressed Captain Goad as a singularly smileless, politically intense people. They loathed the present régime; there was a sort of Balkan tyranny, a lack of justice and a militarism above all that they had not experienced under the Austrians.. The great danger was lest Serbia should endeavour to rule Dalmatia by setting Croats and Italians one against the other, and by the illusion of Italian imperialism, which was steadily kept up. The remedy for the existing state of things was the decentralisation of the new power and autonomy for Dalmatia.

## THE NAVY IN THE CASPIAN.

A spirited little affair in which the British flotilla under Commodore D. T. Norris in the Caspian Sea, won considerable renown in May, 1919, is recalled by the Admiralty announcement of the award of prize bounty. The bounty, which is now ready for distribution in the Department of the Accountant-General, is granted to H.M. ships Kruger, Venturi, Asia, Windsor Castle, and Emile Nobel, together with certain airmen from the seaplane carrier Alader Yousanoff, for the destruction of eight Bolshevist armed vessels at Alexandrovsk. At this place the main part of the Bolshevist force, including five armed merchantmen, eight destroyers, 14 small armed motor-boats, and two gunboats, were assembled, and after an aerial reconnaissance and bombing raid Commodore Norris's flotilla made a determined attack, pressing on up the harbour under a heavy fire. In addition to the eight vessels destroyed others were injured or rendered immobile from want of oil. The affair definitely curbed the Bolshevist naval power in the Caspian.

## LORD KITCHENER MEMORIALS.

In view of the wide interest that has been taken in the Lord Kitchener Memorial Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral, the Executive Committee of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund desire to announce that certain modifications in the original scheme have been made in accordance with the suggestions of Sir Aston Webb, President of the Royal Academy; Sir Thomas Brock, R.A.; and Sir George Frampton, R.A., who placed their advice at the disposal of the Committee. It is hoped that the models for the new design will be ready for submission to Sir Aston Webb and his colleagues early in the New Year.

At a dinner given by Mr. Ralli at the Café Royal on November 28 to the Lord Kitchener Scholars, it was decided to form a Lord Kitchener Scholarship Association, in which will also be enrolled the ex-Service officers and men, numbering 200, who obtained Lord Kitchener Scholarships at the end of the war. The income from the Lord Kitchener Fund will probably permit of 50 to 60 scholarships being annually granted, so that in years to come the Association will be a very large body. A committee of the scholars was constituted, including representatives from the Imperial, King's, and University Colleges, and the London School of Economics.

## THE KING TO THE AMEER.

The King has sent the following telegram to the Ameer of Afghanistan: "To His Majesty Ameer Amnullah Khan of Afghanistan. On the occasion of the conclusion of a treaty of friendship between my Government and the Government of Afghanistan, I desire to convey to your Majesty this expression of my sincere pleasure at the restoration of friendly relations between us, together with my earnest hope that these relations may long continue, and may contribute, as I am sure they will, to the prosperity and peace of my Empire and of Afghanistan. GEORGE R. I."

## THE INDIAN COUNCIL.

Mr. Bhupendranath Basu, who has been a member of the India Council for four years, has left for Calcutta on leave until the middle of April. His health has been somewhat indifferent of late, but he will return for a further spell of service in Whitehall unless his medical advisers strongly urge his resignation. In the ordinary course his membership, begun before the reduction of the statutory period to five years, would extend to November, 1924. His Mohammedan colleague, Sahibzahda Aftab Ahmad Khan, is in India, having gone out in anticipation of being followed within three or four weeks by the other members of the Lytton Student Committee, but, meanwhile the Legislative Assembly refused the grant required for the cost of the Committee's tour. The other Indian member, Mr. Dadiba Merwanjee Dalal, took his seat last week, and has been appointed a member of the Finance Committee.

## RUSSIAN REFUGEES.

The Russian Refugees Relief Association announce that in response to the appeal published in the *Morning Post* they received up to November 25 donations for the refugees in Constantinople to the amount of £156 13s. 7d., and that a considerable amount of clothing was also received. On November 24 £200 was forwarded by the Association to the central committee of the Russian Red Cross, Russian Zemstvos, and Russian Towns in Constantinople, which distributes food to the most destitute among the refugees in that city. Four bales of clothing are being despatched to Constantinople through the British Red Cross.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

According to the latest statistics the total number of Russian refugees in Bulgaria is 35,000, of whom 7,000 are in the district of Sofia.

An agreement between the British and Greek Governments (Cmd. 1554, 3d.) signed in Athens on September 9, 1921, provides for the recognition of the Imperial War Graves Commission as the sole British authority charged with the care of British military graves in Greece.

About 4,700 more refugees from Cilicia are expected to arrive in Smyrna in ships provided by the Hellenic Government, which has ordered all refugees to be disinfected and vaccinated.

M. Stratos, leader of the Reform Party in the Hellenic Chamber, now possesses an official newspaper in Athens owing to the appearance recently of the *Ephimeris ton Sizitisseon*.

As Bulgaria has been unable to recruit gendarmes for 12 years' service the Conference of Ambassadors has authorized the reduction of the period of service by half.

Brigands stopped a postal motor-car near Gabes, in Tunis, and murdered the driver, a French lady, and a French officer. Two other passengers were wounded.

Marshal Franchet d'Espérey arrived in Tunis on December 2 and proceeded to the headquarters of the French Occupaton troops.

During a violent storm off the island of Trianisia, 56 miles west of Rhodes, last week, the Italian destroyer Centauro was sunk, without loss of life.

Ferid Bey, the diplomatic representative of the Nationalist Government at Angora, arrived in Paris last week.

In recognition of the generous hospitality shown by the Ameer of Afghanistan to the Dobbs Mission, the Government of India has presented the Ameer with sufficient telegraph material to link up the 400 miles separating Kabul from the Indian telegraph extension at Herat *via* Kandahar.

General Gouraud, French High Commissioner of Syria, has issued a proclamation to the inhabitants of Cilicia, in which he expresses confidence in the guarantees given by the Nationalist Turks, and urges the Cilicians to remain under the promised protection of the Ottoman Government, assured that they will always have the full solicitude of France.

According to a Moscow message the Commissar Tchitcherin is to take part in the forthcoming Angora Conference with delegates from Turkey, Persia, India, Afghanistan, and Transcaucasia.

According to a message from Tunis, some difficulty has arisen between the French authorities and the British Consul there with regard to the conferring of French nationality on Maltese in Tunis.

The League of Nations Secretariat has received from the Greek Government a Note protesting against Albanian action in Koritza. This Note, which states that the Albanians occupied Greek schools and expelled the Greek Metropolitan, will be forwarded to the members of the League Council.

The 1st Battalion Loyal Regiment (North Lancashires) left Devonport on December 1 for Southampton to embark for Constantinople. The battalion was brought home from Malta early in the year, and has served until recently in Ireland.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## THE EXPANSION OF ISLAM. II.

**"THE NEW WORLD OF ISLAM." By Lothrop Stoddard, A.M., Ph. D. (Harvard). London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. 16s. net.)**

The Indian peninsula is a geographical unit by virtue of its mountain and ocean barriers, but its political unity is a modern achievement. Peopled by many races which are kept apart by diversity of blood, language, creed and culture, it has always succumbed to foreign invasion. In the 11th Century of our era an Afghan prince established Islam in the Punjab, and succeeding Moslem leaders extended its sway over Northern India. Their creed attracted the lower grades of the Hindu hierarchy,who found in its conception of human brotherhood a refuge from the contempt of their priestly tyrants. An overwhelming majority of the 70,000,000 Mohammedans who inhabit India descend from Hindus who voluntarily emhraced Islam, or were compelled to adopt its tenets. In the 16th Century a Turko-Mongol dynasty obtained hegemony; but the empire welded together by Akbar's statesmanship was destroyed by the intolerance of his successors. The Hindu princes rose in revolt, provincial satraps assumed sovereign power, and India was plunged in anarchy from which it was rescued by an association of British merchants, compelled by circumstances to found an empire. It is needless to relate the rise of the British "Raj," which has given India 150 years of almost unbroken peace; but Professor Stoddard's opinion of the régime which has been superseded by "Dyarchy," deserves quotation :—

> It was the government of a few hundred highly-skilled administrative experts, backed by a small professional army, ruling a vast agglomeration of subject peoples. It was frankly an absolute paternalism, governing as it saw fit, with no more responsibility to the governed than the native despots whom it had superseded. But it governed well. In efficiency, honesty, and sense of duty the government of India is probably the best example of benevolent despotism that the world has ever seen. It gave India profound peace; played no favourites, holding the scales even between rival races, creeds and castes. Lastly it made India a real political entity—something that India had never been before. Yet the very virtues of British rule sowed the seeds of future trouble. Generations grew up united in unprecedented acquaintanceship, forgetful of past ills, seeing only European shortcomings; and, above all, familiar with Western ideas of self-government, liberty and nationality. In India, as elsewhere, there was bound to arise a growing movement of discontent against Western rule—a discontent varying from moderate demands for increasing autonomy to radical demands for immediate independence.

In diagnosing the symptoms of Indian unrest Professor Stoddard travels far from his thesis. Suffice it to remark that Indian Moslems are divided on the question of Nationalism, with its side issues of non-co-operation and *Swadesh*. The great majority dread the recrudescence of Hindu supremacy which it apparently involves; but some are inclined to join forces with the half-educated proletariat which clamours for complete autonomy. India, in short, has entered on an era of transition fraught with pain and peril.

Professor Stoddard's concluding chapters deal with the economic and social factors which favour the speed of revolutionary leaven. Chief among them is the unquestionable fact that mouths to feed are increasing in a greater ratio than means of subsistence. Thanks to freedom from the warfare, pestilence and famine which kept it down, the population of India has trebled in a century; while the arts and crafts which sustain human life are still incredibly archaic. Hence an unprecedented rise in the price of necessaries, which falls with special stress on the *intelligentsia*. The latter ascribe their sufferings to foreign rule; but an upward trend of prices prevails throughout the civilised world, owing partly to the wastage of war, but chiefly to the reckless multiplication of the human species. The lesson taught by Professor Stoddard's lucid survey of the economic problem is that political reform is not a panacea for social ills. A first step in the upward ladder will be made when education shall have brought home to every family in the land the absolute necessity of prudential self-restraint.

This consummation lies in the womb of the future, and it is threatened by destructive forces which may involve the social-political and economic organization of Hither Asia in irretrievable ruin. Russian Bolshevism—a direct result of the Great War—aims at the overthrow of Western civilisation. There are two stages in its insidious propaganda. The first renders lip-respect to Oriental creeds, and supports all rebellious movements; the succeeding stage bans religion and Nationalism as "bourgeois" devices to keep men under the yoke of Capitalism. It cannot be doubted that the volcanic conditions prevailing in Hither Asia are in great measure due to Bolshevist propaganda. The masses in India and Egypt have none of the bulwarks which protect Western societies from a powerful dissolvent; and their plight wears an ominous resemblance to that of pre-revolutionary Russia. They are emotional, credulous, and densely ignorant; there is no powerful and enlightened middle class; the tradition of age-long despotism breeds acquiescence in the rule of minority. Professor Stoddard sounds a timely note of warning in his peroration :—

> If the triumph of Bolshevism would mean barbarism in the West, in the East it would mean downright savagery. The sudden release of the ignorant,brutal Oriental masses from their traditional restraints of religion and custom, and the submergence of the relatively small upper and middle classes by the flood of social revolution would mean the destruction of all civilisation and culture, and a plunge into an abyss of anarchy from which the East would emerge only after generations, perhaps centuries.

F.H.S.

## "TO THOSE WHO MAY FORGET."

**"WHILE I REMEMBER." By Stephen McKenna (London: Thornton Butterworth. 21s. net.)**

In his preface Mr. McKenna very ably explains why, at the age of thirty-three, he is writing a book of reminiscences. He is urged to do so, as was Mr. Shane Leslie when he wrote "The End of a Chapter," by the feeling that the point of view of someone who is young and therefore not very far from any of his own experiences, and who can still look forward, must be more interesting than that of one who has reached old age. Decidedly, such an arrangement has obvious advantages, but that certain degree of detachment, which is really necessary to a book of reminiscenses, must be lacking. It is noticeable that the best chapter is the second, which is called "A Setting and a Date," and which contains a kind of summary of the manners, politics, literature and dramas of the '90s, given in order to produce the right atmosphere in which to begin an account of the time through which those who were born about thirty years ago have passed. This chapter, which deals of course with impressions gained in childhood and with facts which are becoming definitely historical, achieves, because of the better perspective given by distance, a greater clarity and gives a more definite idea of a period than the rest of the book, which is written in the spirit of partisanship and in the turmoil of strongly held political opinions.

Maintenant prêt.

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No reader can doubt that it was worth while for Mr. McKenna to write, in the words which he knows how to set racing with such a swift stormy current, his impressions of Westminster, Oxford, life in London before the War, a Government Office during the War, and of England since the Treaty of Versailles was signed. The reader might, however, be forgiven for remembering that Mr. McKenna has already given his impressions of all these things more vividly and with greater force in his novels; notably—of all but the last—in "Sonia," from which we feel sure that a future generation will be able to form a clearer picture of the times—and also for that matter of the aspirations of those members of the Liberal party who were very young in 1906—than will be possible from this book of things remembered. It is strange and interesting to find the author, as he passes quickly along, commenting on the Marconi case, the doings of the militant suffragettes, and the Ulster trouble of 1914, and to remember how few years it is since everyone discussed these events long and loudly and to realise to what an incredibly distant age they seem to belong. Through his success in reproducing an atmosphere Mr. KcKenna helps those of his own generation to recall many half forgotten sensations. At the present time, when the Washington Conference is taking place, the diary of the author's visit to Washington as a member of Mr. Balfour's Mission in 1917 is especially interesting. There is one curious chapter in which literary snobbishness in London and the tiresomeness of its effect on an author are vehemently condemned. It seems to be out of place here and to have little connection with the other chapters. Readers of Mr. McKenna's novels will not need to be reminded of his opinion of London Society and its "gilded hooliganism;" he sums it up in his preface where he says that society has "passed in thirty years from the civilization of the Stone Age, to that of the Cities of the Plain."

The result of writing so near to the events described is that the strongest impression left on our minds as we close the book is not that we have just been given some graphic sketches of the life of that generation so many of whom never passed beyond their early youth. It is of the fact that Mr. McKenna combined all his shining ideals and all his generous hopes for the attainment of mankind's greater happiness with his ardent faith in the Liberal party, and that he now stands dismayed at the side of its grave, exclaiming bitterly that his "political idols have been flung on their faces." But it would be impossible for one who has nothing but fierce scorn for those whose consciences can rest until everyone "is secure from disease and premature death; from pain, hunger, thirst and cold; from spiritual and intellectual fear; from terror of his fellow-men; from the educational inequality that sets him at a disadvantage with others; from the grievance that comes of a blow struck to his racial or religious sentiment" to end on a note of pessimism. He is comforted to feel that, just as it had been ten years earlier, "Oxford is still the kingdom of youth and idealism still flourishes in its shelter," and he finishes his record by expressing the belief that if the Liberal party, to which he had given his wholehearted devotion and to which he feels that he must still look for the creation of a better scheme of things, lacks a leader, "it is only for a moment."

## FASHIONABLE DIVERTISEMENTS.

**"THE ROMANTIC LADY." By Michael Arlen (London: Collins, 7s. 6d. net.)**

Last year Mr. Dikran Kouyoumdjian, the Armenian author who writes English under the name of "Michael Arlen," published a book called "The London Venture." It was a series of vivid impressions, brilliantly done, but a little lacking in proportion. In this collection of four stories, which takes its title from the first of them, much the same qualities are evident: a mordant, searching power of criticism, and a certain waste of energy in the undue concentration upon rare aspects of human life. These stories, of which the first, "The Romantic Lady," and the third, "Consuelo," are the best, turn for the most part upon the loves of men and of women, and particularly on the fashionable way of conducting such affairs. Now in Mr. Arlen's stories there is perhaps naturally, and certainly mercifully, no one who even distantly approaches to Mr. Kipling's "If" type; but really the opposite type of man, who knows more about a married woman than her husband knows, whose honour can be bent and straightened in a day, and whose vaunted obsession is sex, is as boring as the other is nauseating. In a word, the characters in this book do not hold us, they mildly stir an interest.

What does interest us, however, is the extraordinarily serviceable technique of Mr. Arlen. It is a technique which enables him to present almost perfectly alike the background or atmosphere of his tales and the conversation of his agents. His skill in our language is really marvellous; and though for ourselves we do not greatly care for his book as a book, we have no doubt that those who like this sort of thing will very well like it.

## THE BOMBAY HANSARD.

**"OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATES." Vols. i, ii. (Bombay, 1921.)**

We have received the first two volumes of these reports, covering the sessions of March and April last. In point of form they are pleasing, well printed on good paper; an index is badly wanted, but we suppose this will be provided in due course. As regards the matter, even a cursory notice would run to many pages of this journal; the debates appear to have touched every topic of local interest, and possibly a few others, and a rough calculation indicates that not far short of a million words were spoken during these two sessions. To say more would be superfluous.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"War Government of the British Dominions." By Arthur Berriedale Keith, D.C.L., D. Litt. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. Published on behalf of the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Zionism and World Politics." By Horace M. Kallen, Ph. D. (London: William Heinemann. 12s. 6d. net.)


# Cambridge University Press

**Studies in Islamic Mysticism.** By REYNOLD ALLEYNE NICHOLSON, Litt.D., LL.D., Lecturer in Persian in the University of Cambridge, formerly Fellow of Trinity College. Demy 8vo. 24s net.

"Dr. Nicholson, by a long series or editions, translations, and essays has acquired a European reputation as a master of this subject . . . Dr. Nicholson's work leaves nothing to be desired from the point of view of either learning or taste, and, though chiefly interesting to specialists in Islamic matters, should serve to enlighten a far wider public on what William James called the varieties of religious experience."
*The Saturday Review.*

**Studies in Islamic Poetry.** By the same author. Demy 8vo. 26s net.

"Dr. Nicholson's *Studies in Islamic Poetry*, issued in a beautiful volume by the Cambridge University Press, presents a fascinating account of Early Persian and Arabic poetry. Not only is the critical and historical material of the utmost value, but Dr. Nicholson provides a large number of fine renderings in prose and verse of all the quotations."
*The Jewish Guardian.*

**Arabian Medicine.** Being the Fitzpatrick Lectures delivered at the College of Physicians in November 1919 and November 1920. By EDWARD G. BROWNE, M.B., F.R.C.P., Sir Thomas Adams's Professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge. With a frontispiece. Demy 8vo. 12s net.

"There is always a fascination about the medicine of the East, especially that of bygone days, and the early phases of the healing art as practised by the Muslims of the eighth to the thirteenth centuries A.D. could not have a better exponent than Professor Browne. . . . The book is a scholarly review of a very interesting subject and forms delightful reading. It well repays perusal."—*The Prescriber*

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# PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**

December 8 (New Style).
November 25 (Old Style).
Rabia II, 9, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 7, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan has arrived at Nice from Paris.

Viscount Milner, has taken his departure for Spain, and will be absent about a fortnight.

Lord Cawley has left Berrington Hall, Leominster, for Gallipoli, *via* Constantinople.

Sir John Norton-Griffiths, M.P., has returned to England from South America.

The insignia of arch-priest of the Serbian Church has been presented to the rector of St. Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge.

Sir Cecil and Lady Lowther are leaving for Hammam R'Irha, Algeria, and will not return until the meeting of Parliament.

General Sir Bindon and Lady Blood have arrived at their flat, 59, Cadogan Square (telephone, Kensington 416), which is now their permanent address.

The King received in audience at Buckingham Palace last week Mirza Davud Khan, Miftah es Sultaneh, who presented his credentials as Persian Minister.

Marquess Curzon of Kedleston has left London for Kedleston. Marchioness Curzon of Kedleston remains for the present at 1, Carlton House Terrace.

On December 2, the Hon Francis Lindley was received in audience by The King and kissed hands upon his appointment as His Majesty's Representative at Athens.

The Grand Duchess George of Russia was the guest of the Greek Chargé d'Affaires and Madame Rangabe at luncheon on December 2 at the Legation.

The offices of the Roumanian Military Attaché have been transferred from Marble Arch to the Legation in Cromwell Place, Kensington.

The Earl of Altamont, the Hon. G. H. Pelham, and Sir Robert and Lady Hay Drummond-Hay are among the recent arrivals at Cairo.

The Countess of Ronaldshay has sailed to join the Earl of Ronaldshay at Calcutta, and will be away till March.

The engagement is announced between Gervase Gorst Smith, of Colombo, Ceylon, and Gladys Alford, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Alford, of Hankham Place, Sussex.

The engagement is announced between Danby Robins Wheatley, S.I., and Guinivere Isabelle, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Craig, Woolwich House, Sydenham, lately Cairo, Egypt.

After being absent from Bulgaria since October, 1918, the two sisters of King Boris, the Princesses Eudoxia and Nadejda, returned unexpectedly to Sofia on December 3. Their return has been well received in the country, not only on their own account; for they are deservedly popular, but also because the attachment of the King to his two sisters is well known and much sympathy has been felt for him in his loneliness during the last three years.

The marriage arranged between R. V. M. Buchanan, M.C., R.E., and Geraldine, only daughter of G. Keatinge, C.I.E., of Teffont Ewyas, Salisbury, will take place at Teffont Ewyas on December 29.

A marriage has been arranged between Major J. C. Field-Richards, late Hampshire Regiment, and Marion, widow of Lindsay J. A. Daniell, of 25, Ovington Street, S.W., and youngest daughter of Sir Steuart Colvin Bayley, G.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., and Lady Bayley.

The marriage took place on November 26, at Brompton Oratory, between Brevet Major Frederick Corbett Hickie, Supply and Transport Corps, youngest son of late John Hickie (Survey of India), and Margaret Annie Macdonell, eldest daughter of late Cuthbert MacDonell.

M. Mavromichaelis, the Hellenic Minister of Marine, and Admiral Aubrey Smith, head of the British Naval Mission to Greece, arrived in Constantinople on November 28, to discuss the question of reinforcing the Black Sea Squadron.

A marriage has been arranged between Major A. Thompson, 112th Infantry, Indian Army, youngest son of the late Joseph Thompson, of Wandly, Brough, and Josephine Mary, daughter of E. P. Hutchinson, Elloughton, East Yorkshire.

The marriage was celebrated on December 1, at St. John's Church, Paddington, by the Rev. R. H. Hutchinson, assisted by the Rev. A. S. V. Blunt, between Douglas Hamilton Coats, Captain, R.A.M.C., and Eileen Constance, daughter of Lieut-Colonel F. H. G. Hutchinson, I.M.S.

A marriage has been arranged, to take place in Calcutta early next year, between Reginald Bousfield Lagden, M.C., late Rifle Brigade, eldest surviving son of Sir Godfrey Lagden, of Weybridge, and Christine, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Haig, Royal Engineers.

The engagement is announced between Patrick Shaw (late 6th Cameron Highlanders), son of the late Sir Andrew Fraser, K.C.S.I., and Lady Fraser, of Auchenleish, Glenisla, Alyth, N.B., and Peggy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. McArthur, of 25, Barkstone Gardens, S.W.

The marriage was celebrated on November 18, at the Cathedral, Bombay, between Captain T. Franklyn Pearse, 120th Rajputana Infantry, Indian Army, eldest son of Major R. E. Franklyn Pearse, and of Mrs. Pearse, Brown Heath, Buxted, and Madge, niece and adopted daughter of Mrs. Tucker, The Chantry, Buxted, Sussex.

The marriage took place on September 20, at the Afghan Memorial Church, Colaba, Bombay, India, between Westley Stokes, V.D., M.I.M.E., M.I.S.E., M.Inst.T., eldest son of Westley Stokes, of Goring-on-Thames, Oxon, and Jennie Catherine, elder daughter of Richard and Mrs. Harwood, of Bombay.

The marriage was celebrated on November 19, at the British Consulate, and on November 22, at the Embassy Chapel, Constantinople, by the Rev. Canon Whitehouse, between Captain Charles Edward Gray, I.A., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Butler Gray, Chorley Hall, Bridgnorth, and Ruby Kathleen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Baker, Constantinople.

The marriage was celebrated on November 25, at Christ Church, Colombo, by the Rev. W. S. Senior, between Gerard Linton younger son of General Sir Henry Watkis, K.C.B., and Lady Watkis, of Farnborough, Hants, and Marjory Eveline Noel, third daughter of Captain W. W. Gascoyne and Mrs. Gascoyne, of Westwell, Ashford, Kent.

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The marriage took place on November 24, at St. Thomas' Cathedral, Bombay, between Captain William Forster Charter, M.C., 40th Pathans, only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Charter, and Enid Constance Maud Wathen, only daughter of the late Charles Trevelyan Wathen and Mrs. C. T. Wathen, 2, Windsor Terrace, Glasgow, N.W.

Captain F. Entwistle, D.S.O., M.C., who was recently killed in the gallant defence made by a company of the 92nd Punjabis at Barshov (45 miles noth-west of Quetta) when they were outnumbered and overcome by Wazir raiders, joined the Indian Army in 1920. He gained his D.S.O. for heroism in Palestine, where, in December 1917, he took part in the first raid on Amman.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Mgr. Vicentini, Papal Internuncio at The Hague, has been appointed Apostolic delegate at Constantinople.

Captain John D. Kelly, C.B., A.D.C., has been promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral, with seniority, November 21, 1921. At the outbreak of war Rear-Admiral Kelly was in command of the light cruiser Dublin on the Mediterranean Station, in which ship he played a prominent part in the chase of the Goeben and the Breslau. He is at present Director of the Operations Division of the Admiralty Naval Staff.

## OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Shelton, D.S.O., R.A.S.C., died last week. He first saw active service in the Somaliland Expedition of 1909-10. For his services there he received the African General Service Medal and bar.

The death occurred at Mirzapur last week of Mr. Frederick Samuel Philip Swann, C.I.E., of the Indian Civil Service, aged 50. He reached India at the close of 1894 and his service was wholly in the United Provinces where he reached the grade of Commissioner in 1909. He received the C.I.E. in 1915 for famine work.

The death is announced from Haifa of Sir Abdul Baha Abbas el Bahai, the leader of the Bahai cult. The religious movement called Bahaism had a profound influence in the Middle East, and its powers of attraction extended even to Western Europe and America. It may be remembered that a series of letters contributed to *The Near East* in 1911 by Mr. Francis H. Skrine gave an exhaustive account of Bahaism as a universal religion.

The death has occurred suddenly, at the age of 58, of Brigadier-General George Fraser Phillips, C.B., C.M.G., who gained a European reputation owing to the ability he showed in administering Scutari, in Albania, during a period of international crisis. It was in 1913 that he was appointed to command the International Force at Scutari, where he evolved order out of what was really chaos. During 1915-16 he was Military Attaché with the Serbian Army, and in 1916-17 was head of the British Military Mission in Greece. He went back to Albania from 1918 to 1920 on behalf of the British Government, and his personal prestige greatly helped the Albanians in the re-organization of their country.

The death has taken place of Mr. Robert Watson Frazer, LL.B., the Orientalist, at the age of 67. He had experience as an administrator in the Madras Civil Service, to which he went out in 1877. Upon his return home he was appointed to the staff of the London Institution in Finsbury Circus, and was secretary and principal librarian up to the time of its absorption by the School of Orintal Studies. At the School he was lecturer in Tamil and Telugu. He wrote extensively on India, his best known books being "British India," "Literary History of India," and "Indian Thought, Past and Present."


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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1921.


## LEADERSHIP OR DRIFT.

Although Palestine continues to be administered satisfactorily, no real progress can be said to have been made towards a settled form of government under a definite constitution; nor can this be looked for until Arabs and Jews have composed their differences or at least agreed upon some measure of co-operation. Four months have passed since the Arab Delegation came to London to submit the Arab case to the British Government, and until it returns Palestine remains, politically, more or less in a state of suspended animation. The attempt of the High Commissioner to make the draft constitution a subject for local study and dispassionate consideration broke down in the face of the Arab refusal to serve on the consultative body pending the issue of the Delegation's visit to London. Meanwhile the Delegates find it difficult to make any headway; the British Government was by no means anxious that they should come to England, and now finds itself hampered in discussion by other preoccupations. But perhaps the main reason for the lack of progress in the negotiations is that the two parties have not decided upon a common goal towards which they can try to advance. The Arab demands have been formulated, and as they include "the abolition of the present policy in Palestine," their goal may be said to be an Arab State in which Zionism shall not count. Great Britain, on the other hand, stands committed to a policy in which Zionism most certainly does count. There is only one way of effecting a compromise between these two divergent views; it is for the Mandatory Power to declare, in terms which can be easily understood and admit of no doubt, exactly how much Zionism is to count in the new State. The Arabs will then know where they stand; if they are satisfied with the explanation, well and good, and all parties can co-operate to a definite end; if the Arabs are not satisfied, they will have to decide whether they will suppress their disappointment and make the best of the situation, or whether they will jeopardise the interests of Palestine as a whole, as well as their own, by permanent hostility to the Administration. As far as can be judged, the British Government hesitates to take the natural straightforward course. Since the Armistice cajolery has ousted leadership as the guiding principle of government; it may prove wonderfully successful in Paris or Dublin, but it is woefully out of place in the Near and Middle East. Jews and Arabs, Greeks and Turks, are invited to come to terms with one another, and surprise is expressed when it is realised that they have failed to respond to the spirit of the invitation.

Nothing but an explicit declaration on the part of the British Government as to the manner in which it proposes to provide for the co-operation of Arabs and Jews in the administration of Palestine will clear the air. So far British intentions have been expressed only in vague terms. The Balfour Declaration stated that "His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish People, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country." Since then Sir Herbert Samuel, acting as the spokesman of the Government, has expressed in his first report his conviction that the satisfaction of the legitimate aspirations of the Jewish race in relation to Palestine is compatible with a full protection of the rights of the existing population. The measures to foster the well-being of the Arabs, he has pointed out, "should be precisely those which we should adopt in Palestine, if there were no Zionist question and if there had been no Balfour Declaration." At the same time Jewish aspirations are to be satisfied in so far as the Home is to possess "national characteristics—in language and customs, in intellectual interests, in religious and political institutions." Now, in spite of the fact that Sir Herbert Samuel can claim that these have been the principles which have guided the policy of the Palestine Administration during the last year or more, it is not difficult, in view of many exaggerated Zionist statements, to understand the Arabs' desire for a more definite statement which, they think, will enable them to conjure up a vision of Palestine, say, a score of years hence, with this or that post or department or institution carefully labelled Jewish or Arab. Certainly, the British Government cannot itself paint any such futurist picture, but it can more clearly indicate than it has already done how the greater prosperity of the country, through the development of Jewish enterprises, is not to be at the expense, but for the benefit, of the Arabs, how exactly the degree to which Jewish national aspirations can be fulfilled is to be conditioned by the rights of the present inhabitants. It is possible, if not probable, that the Arab Delegation would have received more enlightenment by remaining in Palestine and threshing the matter out with the High Commissioner and his consultative committee. But they have chosen to come to London, and it is to the interests of neither Great Britain nor Palestine that the present indeterminate position in the latter country should be prolonged. If the Delegation in London still holds that a "clear and satisfactory answer" has not been given to the Arab demands, it should be possible to convey authoritatively to it the British Government's resolve that the Jewish minority is to be represented in the Palestine Administration, and that, unless the Arabs agree at once to discuss amicably and on this basis the draft Constitution, the Government will proceed to give the document its final shape without further reference to them. In acting thus, however, the Government must be quite sure of its ground; it will have to be free from all partisanship and must frame a Constitution which will hold the balance even between Arab potentialities and the present superior capacity of the Jewish population.

Apart from Palestine's need for domestic peace, there is the risk of an indeterminate position being used as a motive of unrest throughout the Arab world. Transjordania can hardly fail to react to Arab sentiment within the boundaries of Palestine proper, and through it the various communities of Arabia will become, in greater or less degree, affected. It is a moot point whether the British Government should try to exert its influence on the Arab tribes of the Peninsula in the cause of peace, or should regard a measure of tribal warfare as a safety valve, and turn a blind eye towards it. Recently it was reported that the Sultan of Nejd had attacked Hejaz territory and had captured two towns. If the report were true, it would seem to be straining tolerance too much to allow Sultan Bin Saud, who is in receipt of a subsidy from the British Government, to make war on our Hejaz ally. But it has yet to be learned whether the incident is more than a frontier quarrel over debatable territory. Even so, the occasion offers for impressing upon all the peoples of Arabia that tangible signs of British good will are invariably conditional upon the keeping of the peace. Great Britain has no wish to interfere with their internal affairs, but she cannot remain indifferent to acts of warfare which may ultimately set the whole Arab world ablaze. Unless this attitude is made clear from the outset, the British Government may be storing up trouble for itself. The principle applies to all the peoples of the East. They understand and respect a strong, definite lead. It is unfair to them to adopt at first an easy-going attitude towards their most besetting sins, and then suddenly to draw them up because they appear to have overstepped an imaginary line of our own creation, of which they are entirely ignorant.

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## THE MACEDONIAN QUESTION.

### A PLEA FOR AUTONOMY.

*From Our Sofia Correspondent.*

The speech delivered by M. Karandjouloff, the Macedonian delegate to the International Congress for the Rights of Small Nations, which was held at Geneva last September, was a masterly review of the Macedonian question. M. Karandjouloff, formerly a Judge of the Bulgarian High Court of Justice, has consecrated his life to the Macedonian cause, and is a well-known figure in Bulgarian and Macedonian politics. He devoted the beginning of his speech to a brief sketch of Macedonia as it was under the Turks, and went on to mention the names of well known European writers, who were all convinced that the granting of autonomy to Macedonia was the only sure way of assuring peace in the south-west corner of the Balkans.

The desire of the Macedonians to be freed from Turkish rule was very great, said M. Karandjouloff, and the first Balkan War of 1912 was hailed with joy, signifying as it did the union of all the Christian peoples of the Balkans against the hated Ottoman race. This joy was strengthened by the signing of an alliance between Serbia and Bulgaria, which provided for the creation of an autonomous Macedonian State, consisting of the country between Mont Char, the Rhodope Mountains, the Aegean Sea, and Lake Ochrida.

Alas, this alliance was soon annulled by the secret treaty, made on June 1, 1913, between Greece and Serbia, which laid down that Macedonia should be divided up among the Balkan countries, and that the only principle to be observed in the division of the country was that of occupation. This secret treaty was confirmed by the Treaty of Bucharest, and on this occasion no mention of Macedonia was even made by any of the signatory Powers, owing to its partition being regarded as the spoils of war. Macedonia was thus divided up into three sections, and Salonika, its most important town, was cut off from two-thirds of the interior. The next occasion on which the Macedonian question came up for international discussion was at the Peace Conference at Paris in 1919. One Great Power, America, with the support of Italy and Japan, proposed that Macedonia should be made into an autonomous State; but the proposal was overruled on the ground that the greater part of Macedonia already belonged to the Allies, *i.e.* to Greece and Serbia, and the fact of these two countries having signed the Treaty for the Protection of Minorities was considered a sufficient guarantee for the future welfare of the Macedonians.

The Great Powers, continued M. Karandjouloff, no doubt imagined that the protection of minorities would be strictly observed, but in believing this, they showed an ignorance of Balkan affairs; for neither Greece nor Serbia recognises the existence of a Bulgarian element in Macedonia. Statistics relative to the population of disputed territories, and especially Balkan territories, must always be accepted with a certain amount of reserve; but according to M. Karandjouloff, the Bulgarian element in Macedonia totalled a million in 1912. There were in 1910, i.e. before the first Balkan war, 1,100 Bulgarian schools, which were attended by 70,000 pupils. None of these schools now exists. There were also 1,300 churches, chapels, and monasteries, where services were conducted in the Bulgarian language. Greek and Serbian are now the only languages allowed to be used in these churches, whilst of the seven Bulgarian Archbishops whose authority was recognised by the Porte only one is left, the Bishop of Nevrokop, whose diocese is now incorporated in Bulgaria. As regards newspapers, no Bulgarian paper is permitted in Macedonia to-day, whilst no Bulgarian was able to present himself as a candidate for the Parliaments of Athens or Belgrade.

M. Karandjouloff then proceeded to speak of the 200,000 Macedonian refugees who were now in Bulgaria. He drew a touching picture of the life of these unhappy people, who, deprived of their money, their possessions, and often of their nearest relatives, were dragging out a miserable existence. More than 90 per cent. of these refugees, declared M. Karandjouloff, asked nothing better than to regain their homes, provided that they could be sure of enjoying freedom of religion, speech, and thought. These refugees were the children of parents who had for years struggled in a vain attempt for independence, and who would go on struggling, as their spirit was not yet broken and they still had faith in the final triumph of right and justice. In conclusion, M. Karandjouloff made an appeal to the Congress, and by its intermediary to the League of Nations, whereby the voice of the Macedonians might be heard, and, their demand for autonomy be granted.

M. Karandjouloff's speech expresses the views of practically all the Macedonians who are at present refugees in Bulgaria. These refugees are scattered all over Bulgaria, but about a sixth of them live in Sofia, and the quarter near the railway station is almost entirely populated by Macedonians. A few of them are Communists, but all of them are Nationalists in the sense that they desire above everything the autonomy of their country. They do not want Macedonia to be incorporated in Bulgaria, although they would prefer the latter country to Greece or Serbia.

The Macedonians in Bulgaria have come into some prominence lately, owing to the murder of M. Dimitroff, the Bulgarian Minister of War. It was M. Dimitroff who had a meeting with M. Pashitch at Belgrade last June, and it is understood that an arrangement was come to on this occasion whereby common action would be taken by Serbia and Bulgaria against the bands of *Komitajis* who had been active on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier. During the summer months there have been not a few Macedonians killed in and near Sofia, and it was popularly supposed that M. Dimitroff was indirectly responsible for these deaths. This belief was strengthened by the Minister's having declared that he had received a warning from the Macedonian secret Committee, condemning him to death on account of his persecution of the Macedonians.

This secret committee has its headquarters in the Macedonian mountains, and is presided over by one Todor Alexandroff. M. Dimitroff did not take any special precautions against the threats levelled at him, and as readers of *The Near East* will remember, he, along with three others, was brutally done to death on October 22. This assassination was the signal for the wholesale arrest of many Macedonians, but although the Government state that the assassins were Macedonians, whose names are known, it seems that the actual assassins have not yet been run to earth. The Macedonians in Bulgaria are a very powerful factor, and no Government, however strong it may be, has ever been able to put a stop to their activities. The present Government may once have had the idea that they were capable of succeeding where others have failed, but the assassination of M. Dimitroff, one of the strongest men in the Agrarian Party, will probably discourage them from further meddling with these not too welcome refugees.

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# GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

## The Recent Negotiations.

The text of the various documents issued by the Foreign Office on December 3 relative to the recent negotiations with the Egyptian Delegation is given below. The proposed Convention, which was rejected by the Egyptian Delegation, is as follows :—

Memorandum of Clauses of suggested Convention between Great Britain and Egypt, handed by the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston to Adly Yeghen Pasha on November 10, 1921.

I.—Termination of Protectorate.

1. The Government of his Britannic Majesty agree, in consideration of the conclusion and ratification of the present treaty, to terminate the Protectorate declared over Egypt on December 18, 1914, and thenceforth to recognise Egypt as a Sovereign State under a constitutional monarchy.

There is hereby concluded, and there shall henceforth subsist, between the Government and people of his Britannic Majesty on the one hand and the Government and people of Egypt on the other hand, a perpetual treaty and bond of peace, amity, and alliance.

II.—Foreign Relations.

2. The foreign affairs of Egypt shall be conducted by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs under a Ministry so designated.

3. His Britannic Majesty's Government shall be represented in Egypt by a High Commissioner, who, in virtue of his special responsibilities, shall at all times be entitled to an exceptional position, and shall take precedence over the representatives of other countries.

4. The Egyptian Government shall be represented in London, and in any other capital in which, in the opinion of the Egyptian Government, Egyptian interests may require such representation, by diplomatic representatives enjoying the rank and title of Minister.

5. In view of the obligations which Great Britain has undertaken in Egypt, notably in respect of foreign countries, the closest relations shall exist between the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the British High Commissioner, who will render all possible assistance to the Egyptian Government in respect of diplomatic transactions or negotiations.

6. The Egyptian Government will not enter into any political agreement with foreign Powers without consultation with his Britannic Majesty's Government through the British High Commissioner.

7. The Egyptian Government will enjoy the right of appointing such Consular representatives abroad as their interests may require.

8. For the general conduct of diplomatic relations, and the consular protection of Egyptian interests in places where no Egyptian diplomatic or consular representative is stationed, his Britannic Majesty's representatives will place themselves at the disposal of the Egyptian Government, and will render them every assistance in their power.

9. His Britannic Majesty's Government will continue to conduct the negotiations for the abolition of the existing capitulations with the various capitulatory Powers, and accept the responsibility for protecting the legitimate interests of foreigners in Egypt. His Majesty's Government will confer with the Egyptian Government before formally concluding these negotiations.

III.—Military Dispositions.

10. Great Britain undertakes to support Egypt in the defence of her vital interests and of the integrity of her territory.

For the discharge of these obligations and for the due protection of British Imperial communications, British forces shall have free passage through Egypt, and shall be maintained at such places in Egypt and for such periods as shall from time to time be determined. They shall also at all times have facilities as at present for the acquisition and use of barracks, exercise grounds, aerodromes, naval yards, and naval harbours.

IV.—Employment of Foreign Officers.

11. In view of the special responsibilities assumed by Great Britain and of the existing position in the Egyptian army and public services, the Egyptian Government undertake not to appoint any foreign officers or officials to any of those services without the previous concurrence of the British High Commissioner.

V.—Financial Administration.

12. The Egyptian Government will appoint in consultation with his Britannic Majesty's Government, a Financial Commissioner, to whom shall be entrusted in due course the powers at present exercised by the Commissioners of the debt, and who will more especially be responsible for the punctual payment of the following charges :—

(i) The charges for the budget of the mixed courts.

(ii.) All pensions or other annuities payable to retired foreign officials and their heirs.

(iii.) The budgets of the Financial and Judicial Commissioners and their respective staffs.

13. For the proper discharge of his duties the Financial Commissioner shall be kept fully informed on all matters within the purview of the Ministry of Finance, and shall at all times enjoy the right of access to the President of the Council of Ministers and to the Minister of Finance.

14. No external loan shall be raised nor the revenue of any public service be assigned by the Egyptian Government without the concurrence of the Financial Commissioner.

VI.—Judicial Administration.

15. The Egyptian Government will appoint, in agreement with his Britannic Majesty's Government, a Judicial Commissioner, who, in virtue of the obligations assumed by Great Britain, shall be charged with the duty of watching the administration of the law in all matters affecting foreigners.

16. For the proper discharge of his duties, the Judicial Commissioner shall be kept fully informed on all matters affecting foreigners which concern the Ministers of Justice and of the Interior, and shall at all times enjoy the right of access to the Egyptian Ministers of Justice and of the Interior.

VII.—Sudan.

17.—The peaceful development of the Sudan being essential to the security of Egyp and for the maintenance of her water supply, Egypt undertakes to continue to afford the Sudan Government the same military assistance as in the past, or, in lieu thereof, to provide the Sudan Government with financial assistance to an extent to be agreed upon between the two Governments.

All Egyptian forces in the Sudan shall be under the orders of the Governor-General.

Great Britain further undertakes to secure for Egypt her fair share of the waters of the Nile, and to this end it is agreed that no new irrigation works on the Nile or its tributaries south of Wadi Halfa shall be undertaken without the concurrence of a Board of three conservators representing Egypt, the Sudan, and Uganda respectively.

VIII.—Tribute Loans.

18. The sums which the Khedives of Egypt have from time to time undertaken to pay over to the houses by which the Turkish loans secured on the Egyptian tribute were issued will be applied as heretofore by the Egyptian Government to the interest and sinking funds of the loans of 1894 and 1891 until the final extinction of those loans.

The Egyptian Government will also continue to apply the sum hitherto paid towards the interest of the guaranteed loan of 1855.

Upon the extinction of these loans of 1894, 1891, and 1855 all liability on the part of the Egyptian Government arising out of the tribute formerly paid by Egypt to Turkey will cease.

IX.—Retirement and Compensation of Officials.

19. The Egyptian Government shall be entitled to dispense with the services of British officials at any time after the coming into force of this treaty on condition that such officials shall receive monetary compensation as hereafter provided, in addition to any pension or indemnity to which their conditions of service may entitle them. On the like conditions British officials shall be entitled to resign at any time after the coming into force of this treaty. The scheme shall apply to pensionable and non-pensionable officials as well as to employees of municipalities, provincial councils, or other local bodies.

20. An official dismissed or retiring under the terms of the preceding clause shall receive in addition to compensation a repatriation allowance sufficient to cover the cost of transporting himself, his family, and his household goods to London.

21. Compensation and pensions shall be payable in Egyptian pounds at the fixed rate of 97½ piastres to the pound sterling.

22. A table of compensation, (a) for permanent officials, (b) for temporary officials, shall be prepared by the President of the Society of Actuaries.

X.—Protection of Minorities.

23. Egypt undertakes that the stipulations following shall be recognised as fundamental laws, and that no law, regulation, or official action shall conflict or interfere with these stipulations, nor shall any law, regulation, or official action prevail over them.

24. Egypt undertakes to assure full and complete protection of life and liberty to all inhabitants of Egypt, without distinction of birth, nationality, language, race or religion.

All inhabitants of Egypt shall be entitled to the free exercise, whether public or private, of any creed, religion, or belief, whose practices are not inconsistent with public order or public morals.

25. All Egyptian nationals shall be equal before the law, and shall enjoy the same civil and political rights without distinction as to race, language, or religion.

Differences of religion, creed, or confession shall not prejudice any Egyptian national in matters relating to the enjoyment of civil or political rights, as, for instance, admission to public employments, functions, and honours, the exercise of professions and industries.

No restrictions shall be imposed on the free use by any Egyptian national of any language in private intercourse, in commerce, in religion, in the press or in publications of any kind or at public meetings.

26. Egyptian nationals who belong to racial, religious, or linguistic minorities shall enjoy the same treatment and security in law and in fact as the other Egyptian nationals. In particular, they shall have an equal right to establish, manage, and control, at their own expense, charitable, religious, and social institutions, schools, and other educational establishments, with the right to use their own language and to exercise their religion freely therein.

DELEGATION'S REPLY.

The reply of the Egyptian delegation to the proposals of his Majesty's Government, handed by Adly Yeghen Pasha to the Marquess Curzon on November 15, is in the following terms :—

Reply of the Egyptian Delegation to the proposals of his

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Majesty's Government, handed by Adly Yeghen Pasha to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston on November 15, 1921.

The Egyptian official delegation have taken cognisance of the draft handed to their president by Lord Curzon on the 10th inst. The delegation note that with regard to the majority of the questions which have formed the subject of our discussions and of notes exchanged between us during a period of four months, the draft reproduces the texts and the formulae which were presented to us at the beginning of the negotiations and which we did not accept.

Thus, with regard to the military question, which is one of capital importance, the draft not only supports, but even extends the scope of the solution which we so resolutely opposed. The protection of Imperial communications, which in the conversations of last year was given as the only reason for the presence of a military force in Egypt, could not justify this solution. While it would have been sufficient to agree upon a zone in the region of the Canal, where the ways and means of Imperial communications and the force for their protection might have been localised, the draft confers on Great Britain the right to maintain military forces at all times, on any part of Egyptian territory, and places at her disposition all the ways and means of communication in the country. This constitutes occupation pure and simple, destroys every idea of independence, and suppresses even internal sovereignty. In the past military occupation, although it had only a temporary character, sufficed to guarantee to Great Britain absolute control over the whole administration without the need of any textual treaty or any definition of the powers whatever.

With regard to the question of foreign relations, the only point on which the original formula of the Foreign Office has been modified by the acceptance of the principle of representation, the right which has been recognised as ours is surrounded by so many restrictions that it becomes to a certain extent illusory. It cannot be thought that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would be able freely to undertake the responsibilities of his office, if he were compelled by a formal stipulation to maintain the closest relations with the High Commissioner, that is to say, in fact to submit to his direct control in the conduct of foreign affairs. Further, the obligation to submit to the consent of Great Britain all political agreements, even those that are not incompatible with the spirit of the alliance, constitutes a serious infringement of the principle of external sovereignty. Finally, the maintenance of the title of High Commissioner, which it is not customary to confer on diplomatic representatives accredited to independent countries, emphasises yet further the character of the political status proposed for Egypt.

Again, the problem of the capitulations having been postponed, we had every reason to believe that there ought to be no further question of it in the agreement, and that it would be dealt with later by Egypt, the party chiefly interested, with the diplomatic co-operation of her ally. But now the problem is regarded as one that principally interests Great Britain, who takes upon herself from henceforth the protection of foreign interests and intends eventually to carry on alone the negotiations relative to the abolition of the capitulations.

With regard to the Financial and Judicial Commissioners and their interference, in the name of the protection of foreign interests, with the whole internal administration of the country, interference going so far in certain cases, as regards the Financial Adviser, as to constitute a check on the Government and Parliament, we do not wish to touch again upon the objections put forward in our various notes. We must, however, say that from the discussions which followed on the postponement of the question of the capitulations we did receive the impression that an agreement would be reached with regard to the protection of foreign interests on other bases more compatible with the sovereignty of Egypt.

With regard to the question of the Sudan, which had not yet been discussed, we feel bound to point out that it has been made the subject of provisions which we cannot accept, and which do not guarantee to Egypt the exercise of her indisputable right of sovereignty over that country and of control of the waters of the Nile.

The foregoing observations render it unnecessary for us to analyse the draft, the spirit and scope of which they have sufficiently brought out. And the insistence with which it refers to the obligations of Great Britain, "the special responsibilities" of the High Commissioner and the new reason given for the presence of the military force, viz., the protection of the vital interests of Egypt, have the effect of investing the draft with the quality of an actual deed of guardianship.

When we accepted the mission with which his Highness the Sultan entrusted us, we hoped to conclude a treaty of alliance which, while truly establishing the independence of Egypt, would have safeguarded British interests, and Egypt as the ally of Great Britain would have held it a point of honour scrupulously to fulfil the obligations which would have been incumbent upon her. But an alliance between the two peoples cannot be realised save with the condition that it does not constitute for one of them a permanent pact of subjection.

The conciliatory spirit in which our discussions were conducted entitled us to look forward to the result of the negotiations with confidence. The draft which we have in our hands does not correspond with that expectation. In its present form it does not allow us to retain the hope of arriving at an agreement which will give satisfaction to the national aspirations of Egypt.

## LORD ALLENBY'S NOTE.

Communication from his Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan to his Highness the Sultan of Egypt, December 3, 1921.

Your Highness,

I have the honour, in accordance with instructions received from his Majesty's Government, to place before your Highness the following statement of their views in connection with the negotiations that have recently taken place with the delegation despatched by your Highness under the presidency of his Excellency Adly Pasha. His Majesty's Government have presented to Adly Pasha the draft proposals for a treaty between the British Empire and Egypt which they were prepared to recommend to his Majesty the King and to Parliament and have learnt with keen disappointment that these are not acceptable to him. They regret it the more because they regarded their proposals as liberal in character and far-reaching in effect, and because they cannot hold out any prospect of reconsideration of the principle on which they are framed. It is therefore proper that they should acquaint your Highness fully with the main considerations by which they were guided, and with the spirit in which their proposals were made.

One dominant fact has governed the association of Great Britain and Egypt for forty years, and must always govern it, namely, the close coincidence between Great Britain's interests in Egypt and the interests of Egypt herself. The independence and the prosperity of the Egyptian people are both of great importance to the British Empire. Egypt lies upon the main line of communications between Great Britain and the King's dominions to the east. The whole territory of Egypt is indeed essential to those communications, since the fortunes of Egypt, are inseparable from the security of the Suez Canal zone. The immunity of Egypt from the dominant influence of any other Great Power is therefore of primary importance to India, Australia, New Zealand, and all his Majesty's Eastern Colonies and Dependencies; it affects the welfare and safety of nearly 350,000,000 of his Majesty's subjects. The prosperity of Egypt is also important to them, not merely because Egypt and Great Britain are each other's best customers, but because any serious danger to financial or commercial interest in Egypt invites the intervention of other Powers and threatens her independence. These have been the governing motives of British association with Egypt, and they are as powerful now as in the past.

The general success of that association during the generation which preceded the Great War was universally recognised. When Great Britain first began to take an active interest in Egypt the Egyptian people were a prey to financial chaos and administrative anarchy. They were at the mercy of every comer, and could not have resisted those fatal forms of foreign exploitation which undermine a nation's self-respect and destroy its fibre. If the Egyptian people are a vigorous and self-respecting nation to-day they owe that recovery largely to British assistance and advice. They have been secured against foreign intervention; they have been helped to create an efficient system of administration; large numbers of them have been trained in the arts of government; their power has steadily grown; their finances have prospered beyond all expectations; the welfare of all classes has been laid on firm foundations. There has been no shadow of exploitation in this rapid development. Great Britain has sought for herself no financial gain or commercial privilege. The Egyptian nation has garnered all the fruits of her counsel and help.

The outbreak of war between the great European Powers in 1914 made the association between the British Empire and Egypt of necessity more close. When the Ottoman Empire joined the side of Germany, not only Britain's communications, but Egypt's independence were forthwith jeopardised. The declaration of the protectorate was a recognition of the fact that only by common action under a single command could the common menace to the Empire and to Egypt be effectively repelled. In the extension of the war brought about by Turkey many thousands of the King's subjects from India, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as from Great Britain, were maimed or killed. Their graves in Gallipoli, Palestine, and Irak stand as witness of the great effort which Turkish intervention cost the British Commonwealth. Covered by their ranks Egypt passed scatheless through that period of ordeal. Her losses were inconsiderable; her debt was not increased; her wealth is now greater than before the war, whilst economic paralysis lies heavy on most other lands. It is not wise for her people to overlook these facts or forget to whom they are owed. But for the power exerted by the British Empire in the war Egypt must have become a field of action between contending forces, which would have trampled on her rights and destroyed her prosperity. But for the victory of the Allies she would not now be a nation claiming sovereign national status in lieu of the protectorate of a foreign Power. The freedom which she enjoys and the prosperity of higher freedom to which she aspires she owes alike to British statesmanship and British arms.

His Majesty's Government are convinced that the close coincidence of interests between Great Britain and Egypt which has made their association so mutually beneficial in the past is the key to the relationship which they should still maintain. Now, as in the past, the British Empire has to shoulder ultimate responsibility for the defence of your Highness's territories against external menace, as also for such assistance as your Highness's Government may at any time request in the maintenance of your authority at home. It must claim, moreover, the ex-

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clusive right of tendering such advice as your Highness's Government may require in the administration of the country, the conduct of its finances, the development of its judicial system, and the pursuance of its relations with foreign Governments. These claims are not, however, asserted with any desire to derogate from Egypt's enjoyment of the full rights of national self-government. They are pressed only as against other foreign Powers; and they are based upon the fact that the independence, good order, and prosperity of Egypt are an essential element in the safety of the British Empire. His Majesty's Government regret that throughout the negotiations your Highness's delegation made little practical advance towards recognition of the British Empire's just title to these exclusive rights and responsibilities.

The treaty provisions which his Majesty's Government consider necessary to maintain these rights and cover these responsibilities were formulated in the draft proposals which Adly Pasha will communicate to your Highness. Of these the most essential are those relating to British troops. His Majesty's Government gave most careful consideration to the arguments advanced by the Egyptian delegation on this subject, and were unable to accept them. Neither the present condition of the world nor the course of events in Egypt since the Armistice permits of any modification at this time in the disposition of the British forces. Egypt, it is necessary to repeat, is a part of the Empire's communications. Scarcely a generation has passed since she was rescued from anarchy, and there are signs that the extremer elements in the Nationalist movement are even now capable of plunging her back into the abyss from which she has so recently been raised. The anxiety of his Majesty's Government on this point has been aggravated by the unwillingness of your Highness's delegation to recognise that the British Empire must have firm guarantees against any such menace to its interests. Until such time as Egypt's record gives confidence in her own guarantees, the British Empire must maintain sufficient guarantees itself. Of these the presence of British troops in Egypt is the first and foremost. His Majesty's Government cannot waive or weaken it.

They repeat, however, with emphasis, that their claims in this respect are not intended to involve the continuance of an actual or virtual protectorate. On the contrary, the ideal which they have sincerely at heart is that of an Egypt enjoying the national prerogatives and international position of a sovereign State, but closely wedded to the British Empire by a treaty guarantee of common aims and interests. With this end in view, they proposed to terminate the protectorate forthwith, to recognise Egypt as "a sovereign State under a constitutional monarchy," and to substitute for the present relation between the Empire and Egypt "a perpetual treaty and bond of peace, amity, and alliance." Their hope was that Egypt, with a reconstituted Ministry of Foreign Affairs, would at once have despatched her own representatives to foreign Courts; and they would readily have supported an application on her part for admission to the League of Nations. The Egyptian nation would have thus secured at once the powers and privileges of a sovereign State.

The rejection of these proposals by your Highness's existing Government creates a new situation. It will not affect the principle of British policy, but it necessarily reduces the measures which can now be carried out. His Majesty's Government therefore desire to state clearly where they stand.

With regard to the immediate present, they cannot give effect to their proposals without the consent and co-operation of the Egyptian nation; but they maintain the desire, which they have long entertained, to provide for the ever-advancing development of native talent by an increase in the number of Egyptians employed in every branch, and notably in the higher branches of the Administration, hitherto too extensively filled by Europeans. They are willing to pursue, in consultation with your Highness's Government, the negotiations in foreign Courts necessary for the abolition of the capitulations, so that the international situation may be clear when the Egyptian legislation necessary to take the place of the capitulations is ready to be passed. They would wish that the powers now exercised by the Commander-in-Chief under martial law should be exercised only under the Egyptian civil law by the Egyptian Government, and they will gladly withdraw martial law as soon as the Act of Indemnity, which is indispensable for the protection of that Government as well as of the British authorities in Egypt, has been enacted and become operative in all the civil and criminal courts in Egypt.

With regard to the future, his Majesty's Government desire to state in plain terms the policy which they intend to pursue. They understand that the proposals presented to your Highness's delegation were rejected on the ground that the safeguards for British and foreign interests contained in them would be fatal to the genuine exercise of self-government. They deeply regret that the maintenance of British troops in Egypt and the association of British officials with the Ministries of Justice and Finance should be so gravely misunderstood. The progress of Egypt towards her ideals will not only be retarded, but completely jeopardised, if her people are tempted to indulge their national aspirations, however sound and legitimate in themselves, without sufficient regard to the facts which govern international life. Nothing is gained by minimising national obligations and exaggerating national rights. Extremist leaders who preach in this vein are not a stimulus but a menace to Egyptian development. By their influence on the course of events they have repeatedly challenged the interests and provoked the fears of foreign Powers; and they have sought to affect the outcome of these negotiations during the past few weeks by subversive appeals to popular ignorance and passion. His Majesty's Government do not consider that they would be consulting Egypt's welfare by making concessions to agitation of this kind; and Egypt will make no progress until her responsible leaders show the will and strength to put it down. The world is suffering in many places at the present time from the cult of a fanatical and purely disruptive type of nationalism. His Majesty's Government will set their face against it as firmly in Egypt as elsewhere. Those who yield to it only make more necessary and so prolong the maintenance of those foreign sanctions which they denounce.

In these conditions, for Egypt's interest as much as for their own, his Majesty's Government will continue unshaken in their aims as Egypt's advisers and trustees. It is not sufficient for them to know that they could exercise the right of re-entry into Egypt, if, left to her own unaided counsels, she should revert to the waste and disorder of the last century. They desire to see the work of Lord Cromer's generation completed, not recommenced, They do not aim at keeping Egypt in tutelage. On the contrary, they desire to fortify the constructive elements in Egyptian nationalism, to give them scope, and to bring nearer the full attainment of the national ideal. But they must insist on effective rights and powers to safeguard both Egypt's interests and their own until the Egyptian people have shown the capacity themselves to preserve their country from internal disorder and its inevitable corollary, the intervention of foreign Powers.

The true line of advance for the Egyptian people is by co-operation with the British Empire, and not by antagonism to it. In this spirit of co-operation his Majesty's Government on their side are prepared to consider any methods which may be suggested for carrying out the substance of their proposals, whenever your Highness's Government may so desire. They cannot, however, modify the principle on which their proposals are based or relax the essential safeguards which they contain. The future of Egypt under these proposals would be in the Egyptian people's own hands. The more clearly your people recognise the identity of British interests with their own, the less necessary will safeguards become. It is for the responsible leaders of Egypt, in this second generation of her association with Great Britain, to prove by their acceptance and steady use of the national status now open to them that the vital interests of the Empire in their country may be progressively entrusted to their care.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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### The Sudan Loan Negotiations.

After somewhat anxious negotiations which have been spread over nearly six months Sir Edgar Bernard, Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, has been able to leave London with the satisfaction of knowing that, as far as can humanly before seen, the future of the Sudan is assured. I have called the negotiations "anxious," because in spite of the reticence, perhaps rightly, maintained regarding them, it was realised by those closely interested in Sudan affairs that the mission charged with the task of securing the British Government's consent for a further Sudan loan was encountering serious difficulties. The great irrigation project of the Sudan—the bringing of water to the Gezira Plain by means of a dam across the Blue Nile—which is being carried out by the Sudan Government mainly with the proceeds of a loan the interest of which is guaranteed by the British Government, is going to cost considerably more than was originally estimated. More money is required, and unless the British Government is prepared to continue to back the enterprise, the necessary funds have little chance of being raised.

### Britain's Hand on the Plough.

The delicacy of the position in regard to the Sudan was obvious. On the one hand there was the compelling need for the strictest economy on the part of the British Exchequer; on the other there were the Egyptian negotiations, and the feeling that it would be much more convenient if for the time being attention was not directed towards the Sudan. Whether any whispers had reached the Government ear challenging the practical success claimed for the project cannot be said. If they should have, the speeches made at the annual meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, reported in these pages last week, will have supplied a useful antidote. As for the Egyptians' anxiety over their water supply, presently, when political passions have subsided, it will be realised that the maximum area of land that can be irrigated by the Nile is only a third more than the area now under irrigation, and that, given the intelligent control predicated by the British occupation of the Sudan, Egypt can have all the water she is ever likely to want, without grudging the Sudan any scheme of irrigation in which it cares to undertake. In regard to the Blue Nile Dam the most pertinent factor is that the work is already well advanced; hopes and enterprises have been founded upon it; the future of the Sudan, it may be said without exaggeration seems to hinge upon it. In such circumstances it was well nigh out of the question that there could be any looking back now; but the times are sadly out of joint, and the Sudan is to be congratulated on having established its case for the completion of the great work.

### Yugoslavia's Budget.

Our Correspondent in Yugoslavia supplies this week the details of the Yugoslav Budget. The measures proposed with a view to balancing the Estimates at 6,257 million dinars are sufficiently drastic, for, in addition to a substantial increase in the income tax, they include a levy on capital. It will be of interest to note what the Croats and Slovenes will say to the War Ministry being responsible for a quarter of the total expenditure. Even if the Belgrade Government can plead that "the young State has a very long frontier and has no friends among its neighbours and some avowed enemies," the obvious retort is that Yugoslav policy must be largely responsible for this state of affairs at this particular moment of the world's history.

### Peace in the Balkans.

The only attempt since the Armistice to disturb the peace of the Balkans—if we exclude the civil fighting in Hungary—has by the judgment of her Allies been laid at the door of Yugoslavia. There is, therefore, no justification for the suggestion that the attitude of her neighbours calls for armed vigilance on her part. She is a party with Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania to an Entente, and her treaty with Greece has not been formally denounced. Even if these arrangements should not prove adequate for her peace of mind, she knows well that in the League of Nations she has all the protection against aggression that she needs. No country in South-Eastern Europe has brighter prospects than Yugoslavia, and she is in a position to set an example of wholehearted devotion to peaceful development. But if her war budget is to be a quarter of her total expenditure each year, it is evident that she will have to deny herself many of the things for which the country is clamouring.

### Indo-Burma Oilfields.

As the Chairman's speech at the first annual general meeting of the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920) Ltd., is reported elsewhere in this issue, I prefer to touch here

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upon the remarks subsequently made by the Company's Technical Adviser, Colonel H. H. Johnson. After stating his conviction that the Company had in Yenanma one of the largest, if not the largest potential oilfield in Burma, he referred to the question of the future of Burma. That country, he believed, was only on the eve of its oil production, and he looked for a very large development in the industry. There was, he said, an immense deltaic formation, and oil was found over a very large area, portions of which have never yet been thoroughly explored. It is to be hoped that these confident predictions will be fulfilled. In view of the fact that the big Burma oilfield—the Yenangyaung—is regarded as one of the most prolific in the world, if a considerable extension of oil-bearing ground can be proved, there may well be bright days ahead for the country.

**The Anglo-Egyptian Bank.**

With a dividend of 15 per cent. and a bonus of 2½ per cent., both free of income-tax, the shareholders of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank will have no need to be unduly despondent over the fact that the Bank has had to claim back some of the excess profits duty previously paid to the Government. Egypt has proved no exception to the general rule that banking profits throughout the world have shown diminution. The year has been marked by violent fluctuations in the price of cotton, a circumstance which necessarily tends to restrict trade in the country. The upward movement that set in during the summer has not been maintained, but even the lower prices ruling represented such a marked improvement on those obtaining in the earlier part of the year that the fellaheen has been showing greater readiness to part with his cotton. Trade in Egypt cannot hope to be altogether independent of the political situation, but everyone financially interested in the country will note with satisfaction that the first news of the conclusion, in circumstances suggesting failure, of the negotiations between the Egyptian and British Governments has been received philosophically in Egypt. On all hands there seems to be reluctance to believe that a *modus operandi* cannot even now be reached.

**Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.**

In the Directors' report issued to the ninth general meeting of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., there is much of interest not only to the shareholders of the Company, but also to a wider public interested in the development of Roumania and of South-Eastern Europe as a whole. The Company has acquired for a period of twenty years the exclusive right to supply natural gas for heating and power purposes in Ploeshti, the second town of Roumania and the "capital" of the oilfields. Extensive tracts of gas land have been secured at a distance of some seven miles from Ploeshti, and the presence of large quantities of natural gas has been established. A pipe-line connecting the town with the first of the wells drilled has already been constructed, while another, more than seventeen miles long, is supplying gas fuel to the Company's boilers at Bana Moreni. This source of power opens up great prospects for the British Company as well as for Roumania's oil and other industries.

**Commentator.**

## AGRICULTURE IN CYPRUS.

The annual report of the Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan, for 1920-21, has been published. The Director acted as Commissioner in two districts, from May, 1920, to January 21 last, but carried on his own work in addition. His entomologist retired, his Moslem Assistant Inspector died while on leave, and two lecturers resigned—their places being still vacant. Clearly therefore the department was very considerably handicapped. The entomologist, Mr. Solomides, is the inventor of an insecticide, which claims to be fatal to locusts at small cost, while harmless to other animal life; and it would be interesting to know what success the inventor is meeting with.

Candour compels the admission that any survey of agricultural work in Cyprus can hardly fail to be disappointing, seeing that under present conditions no substantial advance, commensurate with island needs, is practicable. Here is a land which every book and report assures us is one of great possibilities. But it is a worn-out estate, whose soil, in its once most fertile regions, is played out, whose agricultural methods remain antediluvian, and whose rural population is deeply submerged in debt. It might, and may again, see prosperous days; so at least say all the experts who have looked in and reported. Sir Samuel Baker held that Cyprus red wines should undersell cheap clarets in England, and its chief port become the Liverpool of the East. Many authorities have visited the island on Government invitations, and have submitted valuable essays, which, as Mr. Bevan says of a late report "fully bear out the views put forward from time to time by the Department." But it is generally "a voice and nothing more." Depressing indeed must be the labours of many British officials who work in such an atmosphere. The reports alluded to will remain as valuable documents for future reference, when the island wakes up to better times.

In the present report we read that M. Mazel, of the Fédération Générale des Grainages Francais, visited the island and went very fully into the whole question of silk-production. "He was much impressed by the silk-producing possibilities of Cyprus, and furnished a valuable report." What we wonder will be the result. In the year under review silk cocoons were the best produced for many years. The olive crop surpassed anything within living memory. Oil presses worked day and night from mid-October to February. The "olive plants imported from Spain in 1919 are doing well;" but the whole industry, which might be enormously developed, remains in a lamentably backward state.

As regards wine, it is sad to read that, after a tenure of 43 years, "the fundamental principles of wine-making are, to all intents and purposes, unknown to the average village wine-makers." A new departure has been made in giving practical instructions. But the outlook is still far from promising. Happily prices obtained for such wines as are made have recently been good. Respecting tobacco the hopes raised a few years ago appear to be quite blighted. No mention is made of the crops. Lately the leaf is said to have been sold at 2d. a pound.

A consignment of sugar-beet was sent to Egypt, and the Société Générale des Sucreries reported that it compares favourably with that of the average quality grown elsewhere. Here again is an opening of which advantage might be taken. A new feature is the growing of gooseberry and raspberry plants in some school gardens in the hills. These and other English fruits unknown to Cypriots might be grown luxuriantly in the higher altitudes by any person who could look after gardens all the year round.

As regards the destruction of pests, villagers are again described as apathetic, and blind to their interests, although insecticides and appliances are offered at low cost. Against this may be set the statement that intelligent attention is given to some of the lectures and demonstrations.

The department keeps in touch with the Imperial Institute. Various products were sent for the Cyprus Court during the year, and another show-case has been placed in it for island exhibits. Mr. Bevan and his diminished staff are to be congratulated on having maintained, with such success as is at present possible, a strenuous campaign in the principal fields of Cypriot industry, during a year of depression and of perhaps exceptional difficulty.

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# Commerce and Industry.

## REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

### ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, November 20.*

**The Government and the Banca Nationala.**

A few days ago the State applied to the Banca Nationala for a fresh loan of 500 million lei, intended for the purpose of settling the outstanding accounts due to various local banks and to manufacturers for goods delivered. This would have the effect of somewhat relieving the prevailing monetary stringency, so bitterly felt by trade and finance. The bank has refused to grant the loan on the ground that it would involve a further issue of bank-notes, and in consequence would further depreciate the national currency; but, on the other hand, the Bank has declared its willingness to assist the banks and merchants with direct credits to the extent of the amounts which they have to get from the State.

M. Take Jonescu, Minister of Finance *ad interim*, is not satisfied with the bank's decision, considering it as a slight on the Government, and further negotiations are in progress. The Government Press views the bank's attitude as a political move, because the majority of the directors of the Banca Nationala belong to the Liberal Party. In view of the fact that the Banca Nationala is a privileged State bank, it will be interesting to follow developments.

**Control of foreign deposits in lei.**

The measure recently taken by the Government of appointing a committee to control the deposits in lei owned by foreigners at local banks has been the main topic of the week in financial and political circles. This measure has provoked objections from abroad, and the French Minister at Bucharest has made friendly representations to the Government in this connection. The Government point out that this measure already exists in other countries for the protection of the rate of exchange of the country's currency against speculation, and further assert that it is not meant as a restriction on foreign property but merely as a control in order that the transfers ordered from abroad from one bank to another should be based on purely commercial transactions and not used for speculation, which has been the case hitherto. The disastrous depreciation of the leu, brought about by this speculation, has harmed not only the *bona-fide* foreign owners of lei but also Roumania's external trade, and is felt just as keenly in the manufacturing countries like Great Britain and France. The threat of suppressing the quotation of the leu on the Paris Exchange is hailed here with favour, for thereby it is thought that the leu will cease to be an object of speculation.

**The Banca Natiunei.**

The experts appointed by the Tribunal to check the books of the Banca Natiunei are still continuing their investigations, and only after the termination of this work will it be known whether this bank can be granted a moratorium or will have to be liquidated. A great deal will also depend on the general meeting of shareholders which is to be held shortly.

M. Take Jonescu has proposed at a meeting to which were convened the representatives of the principal local banks that the Banca Natiunei should be liquidated slowly, as it possesses many valuable properties and also considerable assets. A slow liquidation, with the co-operation of the principal local banks backed by the State, will presumably in due course cover all claims from foreign and home creditors. By this process the prestige of the Roumanian banks will be saved, as otherwise the impression might be falsely conveyed abroad that the other banks are also affected by the Banca Natiunei's failure, which in reality is not the case. The representatives of the various banks have agreed in principle to this proposal.

*Bucharest, November 27.*

**Trade with Germany.**

Many local merchants, seeing that they could not trade with countries with inflated currencies, had begun to place their orders in Germany, Some of these orders have been delivered, but to their astonishment the merchants have lately been informed by German manufacturers and merchants that from now on German goods will also be sold against francs or the pound sterling.

**War Losses.**

The Department of War Damages has terminated its work in collecting the data of war damages sustained by private persons and the State in the old Kingdom. The total amount claimed is about 4,800 million lei, taking as a basis the value of the damaged articles in 1916. As, however, only 3 milliard lei have been provided for the old Kingdom, all claims over 3,000 lei will be proportionately reduced.

**New Import Regulation.**

As a result of the demand of the different Chambers of Commerce for the reduction of imports to a minimum, the Government, on studying the matter thoroughly, came to the conclusion that complete prohibition of imports even for a certain period would be out of the question, owing to the fact that almost every branch of trade needs certain articles of general utility which cannot be produced in the country or are produced in inadequate quantities. A special Committee of experts is now studying the subject, and is considering practically every article to be imported. Imports are to be classed in three categories: 1 () Articles which will be entirely prohibited; (2) Articles of general usefulness which will be free of restrictions and without any additional tax; (3) Articles which are not produced in sufficient quantities by home manufacturers will be subject to a somewhat higher tax.

It is hoped that the new import regulation will abolish completely the system of permits and authorisations, which has caused so much unpleasantness and has served to restrict trade in general.

**M. Titulescu's Mission in Paris.**

According to the latest telegraphic information, M. Titulescu's mission seems to be progressing favourably. In the first place, it is reported that the exact number and value of Treasury Bonds in circulation will be ascertained. Holders of these Treasury Bonds will be called upon to make the corresponding declaration to a consortium of Bankers consisting of the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, the Banca Commerciala Italiana of Milan, and the Bank of Roumania, each of them being duly represented in Bucharest. It is assumed that this syndicate will actually replace the Treasury Bonds by a new issue, and will also be entrusted with the redemption of the new Bonds in due course. M. Titulescu further hopes to obtain facilities of payment for the Roumanian merchants who are unable to meet their bills in foreign currency at the present rate of exchange. He is reported also to have secured a loan of 150,000,000 francs on the security of the gold production of the Transylvanian State mines.

**Miscellaneous News.**

The Government has decided to reduce the import tax on jute cloth from 300 lei to 20 lei per 100 kilograms.

A beginning has been made in the restoration of horses by Germany under the terms of the Peace Treaty. The first consignment has arrived, and from five to eight trainloads are to be despatched monthly.

### YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, November 23.*

**The Financial Problem.**

How to make the Budget balance is a serious problem for Yugoslavia. Dr. Kumanudi, Minister of Finance,

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is determined on drastic measures to restore the Budget equilibrium this year. The estimated expenditure is 6,257,577,804.86 dinars, and the revenue from ordinary sources falls short of this by some milliards. As a first step the estimates of all the Ministers were returned to them to be cut down, and the pruning knife was generously employed. In addition to this Dr. Kumanudi proposes to increase the revenue by 30 per cent. by new taxes.

His proposals include a heavy increase in direct taxation. A number of taxes are to be doubled, among them the income tax. In this country the employer pays the income-tax on his staff's incomes, and thus employers will find themselves faced with an increase of something like 30 per cent in their wages bill, for although the actual salaries are maintained almost at the pre-war level, they are brought up to a satisfactory level by sundry allowances, and the Government taxes the allowances as well. The new tax is meeting with such powerful opposition that some modification of the original proposal is bound to take place.

The next innovation is a property tax. This is acknowledged to be a desperate expedient, and is for one year only. In reality it is a tax on capital, and will involve the organisation of special and expensive machinery for its administration. Finally there is the project for another financial loan. The recent loan of 500 million dinars for expenditure on railways and other means of communications was a tolerable success, but this new loan is to be for a milliard, or just double, for the equally praiseworthy object of the reduction of a mass of the uncovered paper money in circulation.

It will be of interest to give the items of revenue set forth in the estimates. These are as follows (in dinars) :—Customs, 417,810,000 ; octroi duties, 390,000,000 ; profit on money, 810,000,000 ; war invalids tax, 36,065,750 ; State lands, 61,656,369 ; temporary property tax, 597,112,384.61 ; extraordinary surtax, 400,000,000 ; various revenues, 14,655,750 ; direct taxation, 1,806,162,550 ; State farms, &c., 1,295,305,593.50 ; sundry revenues, 29,311,877.75 ; tax on turnover, 400,000,000 ; total, 6,257,577,804.86 dinars.

It is also not without interest to note the appropriations of the various Ministries, which are as follow : Main State administration, 598,487,881.35 ; Justice, 185,677,576.90 ; Education, 459,924,493.30 ; Religion, 81,619,291.20 ; Interior, 138,054,647.15 ; Public Health, 185,603,764.95 ; Foreign Affairs, 34,312,197.50 ; Finance, 829,266,857.40 ; War and Marine, 1,489,356,657.40 ; Public Works, 273,098,216.75 ; Communications, 831,081,742.60 ; Posts and Telegraphs, 238,254,284.65 ; Agriculture, 114,156,187.60 ; Mines and Forests, 206,464,051.00 ; Commerce and Industry, 40,688,995.06 ; Social Policy, 414,111,489.85 ; Agrarian Reform, 55,514,979.10 ; Constituent Assembly, 907,540.60 ; reserve credits (special), 81,000,000.00 ; total, 6,257,577,804.86 dinars.

It is easy to criticise this, but in reviewing Yugoslav finance, as well as Yugoslav politics, the local conditions should be known and borne in mind. That the War Ministry accounts for nearly a quarter of the total expenditure gives a handle to those who raise the cry of "Serbian militarism," but the plea raised here is that the young State has a very long frontier, it has no friends among its neighbours and some avowed enemies, and its existence would not be worth a day's purchase unless it were prepared to defend itself.


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## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, November 27.*

### Exchange and Reparations.

There have been some big purchases of levas by foreign and local banks during the last week, and the consequence has been that the rate has gone up and down with startling rapidity. On November 21 the pound sterling was worth 685 levas, on the 23rd. only 590, and the 24th. 660, and at the moment of writing it is hovering between 630 and 650. On the whole the tendency has been for the lev to rise in value, and although the purchase of levas to pay for tobacco has been the main factor in the upward rise, the belief that Bulgaria may be granted a delay in the payment of reparations has also had an encouraging effect. No more is yet known as to the delay, but a decision will probably be come to before the end of the year. The Government anticipate a delay being granted, but whether thay have weighed sufficiently the probable "price" of such a delay, is open to doubt. The Allies are not going to grant a delay of three or five years without being sure that at the end of this period, they will be able to exact some kind of an indemnity. The Government must envisage being called upon to provide for budget equilibrium, higher taxes, reforms in connection with the Customs, and a strict exercise of economy. These four matters may be said to be the principal matters which will come up for discussion, should a delay in the payment of reparations be granted, but naturally enough there are other reforms, such as complete freedom of export, which will also have to be considered. In fact the granting of a delay in the payment of reparations will open up an entirely new vista in the financial life of the country, and may prove the turning point in the financial depression which has at present settled over Bulgaria.

## GREECE.

*Athens, November 26.*

### A New Bank.

An application has been received by the Minister of National Economy for approval of the formation of a Commercial and Agricultural Bank in Thessaly. The new bank will have a capital of 6,000,000 drachmae, and its head office will be at Volo.

The Xanthi (Western Thrace) branch of the Bank of Athens has been re-opened.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, November 24.*

Permission was granted by the Greek authorities to a British firm to bring down twenty waggons of barley from Ushak to Smyrna, and after considerable delay on various accounts eight waggons reached Smyrna. The remainder are now held up on the plea that 25 per cent. must be retained for the Greek military requirements. This procedure has entailed a considerable loss to the British firm who had sold the twenty waggons for immediate delivery and are now unable to fulfil their contract.

There is a large demand for photographic apparatus in Algeria.

Algeria has an extensive market for coal, coke, and patent fuel.

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## THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF PALESTINE.

Lecturing at the London School of Economics on November 28, Mr. Leonard Stein (Political Secretary of the Zionist Organisation) said that as the combined result of war, misgovernment, and a gradual dessication which had been going on for about two thousand years, Palestine had been in 1914 little more than a stagnant backwater. The mass of its population had been apathetic and unprogressive, and such enterprising spirits as they had received no support from the corrupt and sluggish Government. German and Jewish colonies were efforts on a limited scale which showed what would be possible under more favourable conditions. The war had brought a virtual cessation even of such economic activity as there had been, and though under British administration efforts had been made to restore the damage done, Palestine had not yet fully recovered its equilibrium; its economic condition was still in some respects subnormal. It was mainly an agricultural country; according to the official statistics for 1919 sixty-one per cent. of the population of Western Palestine were engaged in farming, while in Trans-Jordania no other occupation existed of any importance. The principal cereal crops were wheat, barley and millet. The comparative outputs for the last two cereal years (in metric tons) had been 1919-20:—Wheat, 45,000; barley, 25,000; millet, 15,000. 1920-21:—Wheat, 75,000; barley, 51,000; millet, 30,000. These figures related only to Western Palestine; for Trans-Jordania no reliable statistics existed. Palestine was not self-supporting in the matter of wheat, but imported from the Hauran while on the other hand, there was an export of the high grade barley grown in the Gaza district, which in 1913 had amounted to nearly 9,000 metric tons. There was also a small exportable surplus of millet. Palestine produced a considerable quantity of fruit and vegetables; these were mainly reserved for local consumption; except that about a million water melons annually were exported to Egypt, Syria, and other Mediterranean markets. The principal fruit crops were oranges, olives, grapes, and almonds, of all of which there was usually an exportable surplus, the olives being exported in the form of oil and soap. Of oranges about 17,000 metric tons had been produced in 1920-21 as against 13,000 metric tons in 1919-20. Before the war there had been an export trade which had amounted to 456,000 boxes in 1905, and had grown to 1,608,000 boxes in 1913. More than half of this had gone to Liverpool. Subsequently the trade had declined but probably this was only a temporary setback. Vinegrowing and wine production were almost entirely in the hands of Jewish growers. Before the war about a million gallons per annum had been produced, eighty per cent. being dry red wine. About 6,600 gallons of Cognac were also distilled.

Speaking of shipping the lecturer said that the coast of Palestine possessed in Haifa a natural harbour of the first magnitude. In 1913 steam shipping entered and cleared amounted to 1,238 vessels totalling 1,961,000 tons. For 1919-20 the corresponding figures were 357 vessels and 466,000 tons. For 1920-21 they had grown to 720 vessels and 809,000 tons. As the result of the transfer of the Austrian Lloyd vessels to Italy, the Italian flag predominated in Palestine ports; the British flag came second.

Looking to the future the lecturer said that the present economic development of the country was far from being the measure of its recources. These still remained largely untapped, and Palestine was to-day entering upon a new stage of development; the dead hand of Ottoman misgovernment having been replaced by an enlightened and progressive administration under British auspices. That definite change was being accompanied by an equally important concentration of Jewish idealism, energy, and capital in the spirit in which nations were made, and in a degree disproportionate to the intrinsic merits of the country from the purely economic point of view. Palestine's resources might now be expected to be developed with more than normal rapidity. Agriculturally there was room for much greater development; petroleum might be found in substantial quantities. The Jordan with its descent from seven feet above sea level to thirteen hundred feet below it was a latent source of water power. Among other industries, it should be possible to develop fruit preserving, tomato canning and the extraction of essential oils.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.*

(*Particulars of tenders marked* (*D.O.T.*) *are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade,* 35, *Old Queen Street, S.W.*1.)

**Egypt.**

Ropes, canvas, etc.—The Director General Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Alexandria, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of ropes, canvas, bunting, oils, paints, and general miscellaneous stores (including asbestos, chemicals, brushes electric lamps, files, &c., for the first half of the financial year, 1922-23. December 21 (D.O.T.)

**India.**

Gully-cleansing machine.—The Corporation of Calcutta invites tenders for the supply of a motor-driven vacuum gully-cleansing machine for the purpose of carrying out experiments with this method of gully and cesspit-cleansing. The tank should be cylindrical in form, and of a capacity of from 400 to 800 gallons, depending on the principle adopted for cleansing the gullies, &c. Tenders in duplicate, enclosed in sealed covers and superscribed "Tender for Motor-Driven Vaccum Gully and Cesspit Cleanser" are required and tenders must remain open for acceptance for a period of at least two months from the date of opening. Tenderers must deposit Rs.600 in the Corporation Treasury as earnest money before the tenders are opened. January 10.

**Bulgaria.**

Cotton Waste.—The Directorate of Railways and Ports, Sofia, for the supply of:—10,000 kgs. of coloured cotton waste, estimated value at 20 leva per kg., 2,000,000; and 2,000 kgs. white cotton waste, estimated value at 25 leva per kg., 50,000. Tenderers must accompany their offers by samples of the material quoted, weighing about one kilogram, which will be used to check the consignment on arrival. The estimated value is 2,050,000 leva and tenderers must deposit 5 per cent. of the amount of their quotations as a guarantee, to be eventually returned to them. Delivery required as follows:—One half in four months and the balance in six months, c.i.f., Black Sea or Danube port. Payment terms: Half against documents, the suppliers putting up a bank guarantee against this sum which will be freed against arrival and final acceptance of the goods, the balance also being paid on final acceptance of the goods. December 30 (D.O.T.).

**Morocco.**

Hospital.—The Public Works Department of Morocco at Rabat invites tenders for the construction of the first lot of the civil hospital at Casablanca. Applications for the form of tender prepared by the Administration, giving detailed estimate of quantities, should be addressed to the Director-General of Public Works at Rabat, and such applications should be accompanied by technical and financial references. December 15.

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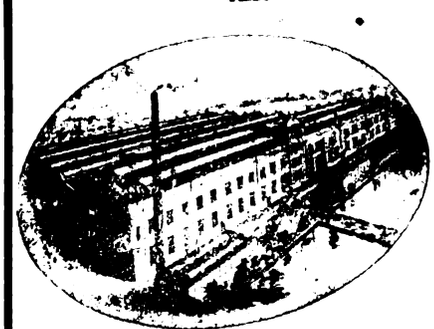

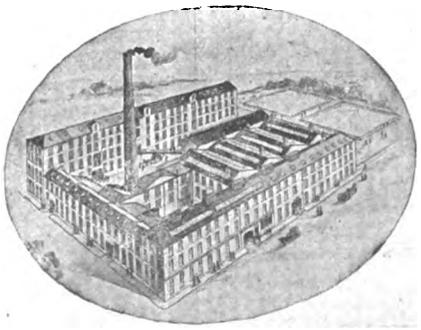

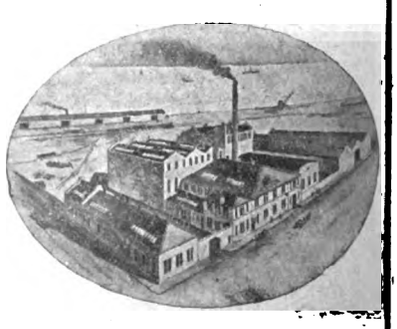

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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

## DIESEL ENGINES.

In the early days of the Diesel engine, although its advantages in simplicity and principles of operation and low fuel consumption were recognised, it was felt that the disadvantages at the time incidental to it, such as the high compression necessary to ensure the production of a temperature sufficient for the ignition of the injected fuel, were such as would outweigh its utility for some time to come. Needless to say, those disadvantages and difficulties have been overcome satisfactorily, and the Diesel engine of to-day is a thoroughly practical and efficient prime mover.

The immediate outcome of the feeling mentioned, however, was the introduction of the semi-Diesel engine, in which a heating device in the shape of a hot-bulb as extension of the cylinder is used. This engine has developed along lines of its own, and is also, like its forbear, a highly efficient piece of machinery.

In a Diesel engine, of the 4-stroke cycle type, the adjuncts usually comprise a two-stage air compressor, an air-injection device, a compressed air container, and a fuel tank. The operation is simple in the extreme. As the engine piston starts on its first downward travel, the air admission valve is open to the atmosphere, and allows air to pass into the cylinder. On the return stroke of the piston all valves are closed, so that the piston compresses the air in the cylinder to a pressure and from 450 to 500 lbs. to the square inch. The result of this is that the air becomes highly heated, the temperature rising to about 1,000 degs. Fahr, when the highest pressure is reached. When the piston is at the top of its stroke, or slightly before, according to the "timing," the fuel-injection valve is opened, and liquid fuel in the shape of fuel oil, tar oil, or some other heavy hydrocarbon is forced in to the cylinders, where, meeting the highly heated air, it automatically ignites and burns. When the correct supply of fuel has been forced into the cylinder the fuel valve is closed. Under the impulse of the ignited gases the piston is forced downwards, the heat energy of the fuel being thus converted into useful work. Arrived at the bottom of the stroke the piston commences to move upwards, and as soon as it does the exhaust valve is opened and the moving piston drives out the spent gases. As soon as the top of the stroke is reached the air valve again opens, as the four stroke cycle has been completed. For the sake of simplicity of description no mention has been made of the air compressor, fuel pump, or injector. Technical readers are well aware of these, but they would be confusing, perhaps, to a layman.

**Semi-Diesel Operation.**

In the four-stroke semi-Diesel engine the first downward stroke of the piston draws air through the air inlet valve into the cylinder. On the return stroke of the piston the valve is closed, and the air in the cylinder is compressed but not to so high a pressure as in the case of the Diesel engine itself. Before the piston is quite at the upper dead centre the fuel charge is driven by the pump into the chamber known as the hot bulb or hot ball, which is kept at a full cherry-red heat. As the piston reaches its upper centre the fuel is turned in the compressed air with explosion-like rapidity; the temperature and the pressure in the cylinder increases, and the piston receives a power impulse, the gaseous mixture expanding during the second downward stroke of the piston. On its return stroke the exhaust valve is opened, and the piston sweeps the gaseous products before it and through the valve, thus completing the working four stroke cycle.

Before the engine is started the chamber of the bulb must be heated with a torch or by some other means to a dull red heat, after which the successive explosions of the fuel oil will keep it sufficiently hot. In some types of engines a thin copper tube is run into the bulb so as to meet the spray of fuel. This small pipe can be readily heated up to facilitate starting, and it keeps constantly at a high temperature whilst the engine is working, as it quickly absorbs heat from the walls and hot gases. It is thus possible to start an engine of this type before the entire bulb is heated, and any tendency towards misfiring whilst the engine is running is eliminated. It generally requires from 10 to 12 minutes preliminary heating to get the bulb itself up to the correct temperature for starting, and when starting use is made of compressed air furnished by a small independent air compressor worked by hand or by an electric motor or petrol engine.

**Auxiliary Machinery.**

The whole subject of the development of the Diesel engine is of extreme interest, and one of the most satisfactory features in connection with it is that British engineers are not only keenly alive to the importance of this prime mover, but are actually leading spirits in its development. A very large number of firms have joined the ranks of the manufacturers of Diesel and semi-Diesel engines, and W. H. Allen, Sons and Co., Ltd., of Bedford, inform me that they have just secured, from that eminent Belfast firm, Messrs. Harland and Wolff, a licence to manufacture Diesel engines under the Burmeister and Wain patents.

These engines will be made in the Queen's Engineering Works, Bedford, and will be turned out to jigs, tools, and fixtures under a system of detailed inspection to secure accuracy, interchangeability, and rapid production. This work, I understand, will be carried out in special fitting and erecting shops which are fully equipped with every form of labour saving device, and have also the latest appliances, so that the engines may be tested as nearly as possible under actual working conditions.

The engines will be made in sizes to conform with present-day requirements, and the firm are specialising more particularly in the supply of Diesel electric generating sets for auxiliary and other purposes on board ship. They hope shortly to be in a position to supply auxiliary air compressors made under the same licence, and they inform me that they are laying themselves out to provide the other auxiliaries which go to form the complete equipment of a ship's Diesel engine room. I hope at some early date to have an opportunity of going over the Bedford works of this firm, and of describing them in these columns. I gather that they are turning out every class of Diesel accessory and auxiliary machinery including Diesel engine driven generators; auxiliary air compressors; motors for driving compressors; motors for sanitary, ballast, bilge and cooling purposes; centrifugal pumps for all purposes and also the various types of motors required in connection with refrigerating machinery, steering gear, hoists, and all descriptions of winches.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Seed Oils Lower.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate request at unchanged prices. West Indian crystallized has remained firm at 38s. to 41s., while Czecho-Slovakian at 20s. is unaltered. White Java is 6d. lower at 46s. 6d.

Coffee.—The market has been steady. Costa Rica has risen 10s. to 140s., while Indian at 110s. is unchanged. Nairobi at 105s. has shown no change. Futures are :—December, 49s. 3d. ; March 50s. ; May 50s. 6d. ; July 51s. 6d. ; and September, 51s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—A steady tone has characterized the market this week. Indian linseed is 3d. up to 17s., while La Plata at 16s. is unchanged. Rapeseed is the same with Toria at 18s. 6d. and brown Cawnpore at 17s. 9d. Cottonseed is firm with Indian at 9s. 3d., Sakellarides at 11s., and Egyptian black at 11s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Prices are unsteady. Linseed oil has shed eightpence at 26s. Rape oil is lower with the crude variety at 46s., and refined at 52s. decreases of 2s., and 1s., respectively. Cotton oil is down with refined common edible 3s. less at 40s., Deodorized is unchanged at 50s. Turpentine has shed 1s. at 70s.

Oilcakes.—Business has been dull, and all prices are unchanged Linseed cake is 27s., and cottonseed cake is quoted at 200s. Arachis cake is the same at 220s. as also palm kernel at 160s.

## ORANGE GROWING IN PALESTINE.

Jaffa oranges, famous for their sweetness and general excellent quality, are the leading item in the export trade of Palestine, and are of special interest in the commercial status of a country which normally imports from four to five times as much as it is able to export (says a recent American consular report). The average grades go to Egypt and other eastern Mediterranean markets, but England is probably the most important market.

In the last good year before the war the export crop of Jaffa oranges amounted to approximately 1,500,000 cases, which required something over 4,000,000 feet board measure of lumber for crating and boxing. When the export trade was resumed in 1919 and 1920 the season's exports amounted to 647,000 cases, and for the year ending March 31,1921, 830,000 cases. The crop for the season of 1921 and 1922 is expected to exceed 1,000,000 cases in all.

The lumber used for making orange cases is an item of considerable relative importance in the import trade of Jaffa. Before the war lumber for this purpose was imported mainly from Australia and Roumania, and since the war some Swedish and American lumber has been brought in, but the Roumanian source of supply is again available and is favoured because of the comparative cheapness with which the lumber may be obtained.

While the dimensions of the boxes used are not exactly uniform the average is as follows : Length, 68 centimetres (26.77 inches) ; width, 32 centimetres (12.59 inches) ; height, 27 centimetres (10.62 inches). One partition is used. The thickness of the ends and partition is 16 millimetres (0.63 inch), and the thickness of the tops and bottoms, 7 millimetres (0.28 inch).

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## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., Smyrna, report as follows under date November 1 :—

In the report we issued on August 1, last, we estimated the yield of sultana raisins at about 31,000 tons. Considerable uncertainty existed for a time about the condition of the grapes owing to the insufficiency of the rainfall in the past winter and the unusual heat which set in during the months of July and August and which undoubtedly caused some loss of fruit. The vines had blossomed copiously in the spring, and the earlier forecasts had been reckoned on the expectation of a production of some 40,000 tons, a result which under more normal atmospheric conditions would certainly have been attained.

The statistical position up to October 31 is as follows, our estimates being based on the returns of the Tithe Department and shipments actually effected (the figures representing Turkish kintals) :—Total sales on the Smyrna market 323,800; total sales Carabournou sultanas, 5,000 ; total sales on the Vourla market, 100,000, total 428,800. Estimated stocks remaining at Smyrna, Magnesia, Alascheir, Axar, Nymphio and Vourla, are 172,000 ; the total being 600,800 Turkish kintals, equal to about 33,000 tons.

Shipments since the opening of the season to this date have been the following :—To London, 459,830 boxes against 268,581 boxes in 1920 ; to Liverpool, 317,340 boxes against 184,399 for last year and to Outports 78,627 boxes against 42,063 for 1920 ; total boxes 855,797 against 495,043 for last year, equal to about 11,000 tons and 6,200 tons respectively. About 12,500 tons were exported to the Continent, United States, Canada, and Australia, compared with 5,000 tons in 1920, making a total of 23,500 tons as against 11,200 tons.

Figs.—The forecast we made in our report of August 1, of a probable yield of about 22,000 tons has not been realised. Total arrivals to October 31, amount to about 163,000 bags, equal to 16,000 tons. Stocks on the market, in the interior of the country, and held by shippers against out-standing engagements, can be reckoned at a maximum of 2,000 tons, thus making the result of the production about 18,000 tons, against 22,600 tons in 1920. Some figs of very inferior quality still remain in the Meander Valley but this grade is only suitable for distillery purposes, and cannot be taken into account for export. The deficient yield is entirely due to the mild and dry winter and to the intense heat which prevailed in the summer months, which prevented the orchards bringing to full development and maturity all the fruit which they carried. Rains also, in the course of October, damaged some quantity of fruit, which, through fermentation, underwent a deterioration of quality which does not permit of its being exported with safety. The quality of the crop as a whole has not been satisfactory, and fine sound figs have commanded a premium through the season. The grading of natural figs has been inferior to that of 1920. Shipments for this season have been as follows :—To the United Kingdom. :—To London, 8,957 Sk-ton cases ; 35,527 boxes, 147,634 bags. Liverpool, 5,475 Sk-ton cases ; 11,079 boxes, 68,011 bags. To Outports, 505 Sk-ton cases, 1,293 boxes, 23,782 bags. Total,14,937 Sk-ton cases, 47,899 boxes, 239,427 bags. Equal to about net tons 5,800.

To the United States and Canada :—25,175 Sk-ton cases ; 35,602 boxes ; 187,566 bags ; equal to 7,430 net tons. To the Continent, Australia, &c., estimated shipments are about 3,000 tons. This brings the total shipment to-date to 16,230 net tons ; Estimated stocks Smyrna and Interior, 2,000 tons ; estimated result of yield say 18,230 tons. Of the stock at present visible of about 2,000 tons it can be safely stated that within the next fortnight no figs will be left on the open market. Twelve months ago, stocks available in Smyrna and in the interior of the country amounted to about 5,500-6,000 tons. To all intents and purposes therefore, business can be considered over for the season. A few small lots may be expected to come forward at intervals from the Meander Valley, but the quality will be inferior and only suitable for local distillery.

Black Raisins.—Owing to the state of war prevailing in the Tchal districts where these raisins are mainly grown, no supplies have been sent to market from those parts. The total quantity which will be available for export will not exceed this season some 1,500 tons, representing the produce of Phocea and the Island of Icaria. Existing stocks are at present estimated at about 3-400 tons, but very small supplies are actually available on the

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market at Smyrna.

General Remarks.—Fruit shippers have been operating during the present season with considerable caution. The volume of business in sultanas taken up in June and July for forward shipment to the U.K. and Continent, aggregating about 5-6,000 tons, was done progressively at continually advancing rates, owing to the apprehensions which existed at the time about the eventual result of the yield. G. A. Q. sultanas which started at 80s.c-.i.f. were progressively dealt in up to 100s-c.i.f. some sales towards middle of August having been concluded at 110s.-c.i.f. for shipment by first steamer. The heavy flow of arrivals, advancing exchanges, and a declining market during September, undoubtedly favoured these forward operations. It is reported, however, that some shippers who failed to secure their exchange in time on their operations with Germany, have, with the subsequent collapse in German marks, found their anticipated profits converted into disastrous losses. The sharp fall in prices which took place early in September has stimulated consumption in the United Kingdom, and although the volume of shipments has been considerably heavier than last season supplies are being steadily absorbed and the market has an improving tendency. So far as the Continent goes, the position is unsatisfactory. Many shipments for Germany are being diverted and offered for sale in Holland and Belgium, where markets are overstocked, and prices have all along been slumping badly.

With regard to figs, business is generally worked on a forward basis, and undoubtedly the sharp advance in sterling and dollar exchange saved the position for packers, who otherwise could not have come out of their deliveries except at a loss in view of the higher range of prices which prevailed throughout September especially for sound conditioned fruit suitable for layer packing.

Reference has been continually made in our weekly reports to exchange fluctuations. With the existing uncertainties on this score, shippers have had a very difficult situation to cope with, and, in most cases, have preferred to secure their exchange from day to day or on each successive deal rather than expose themselves to sudden and sharp reactions which would jeopardise profits. Doubtless some shippers, more speculatively inclined, have profited by the advancing rates of exchange, by taking up business for forward delivery which at the time of sale, was apparently unprofitable. Exchange uncertainties still continue, and so long as no political settlement is arrived at in these parts an improvement in this respect cannot be anticipated.

## ROUMANIAN CROP REPORT.

We are indebted to Messrs. Watson and Youell's Shipping Agency Ltd., of Roumania, for the following report dated November 30 :—

The weather during October continued dry and warm during the daytime but cool and sometimes cold at nights, with occasional hoar frosts on the mountains. Slight rains fell in North Moldavia, Bukovina and Bessarabia during the first fortnight and fairly heavy rains fell in Transylvania towards the end of the month. The prolonged drought broke early this month and general penetrating rains fell almost continuously for about three weeks. The wind veering into the North, the temperature has fallen to below freezing point at nights, with occasional snow or sleet. Detention of steamers at Black Sea ports has occurred through heavy gales recently.

Autumn ploughing and sowing have been possible in Bessarabia and Transylvania, and the early sowings look very well, but in other parts of the country field work had to be discontinued on account of the dryness of the land. The recent rains have done a lot of good and will permit of ploughing and sowing being resumed all over the country. It is to be hoped that the weather may be sufficiently mild for good progress to be made.

The Government have decided to increase the selling price of wheat in order to encourage cultivation on a larger scale. The maize crop has been gathered in excellent condition and is of superior quality, but the crop is reported to be much under average. The fodder crop is also under average and a shortage for home requirements is feared. The veterinary reports are satisfactory on the whole, some cases of foot and mouth disease are reported in Transylvania and in the district of Muscel. There is a considerable export of cattle going on at present to Constantinople, Palestine, Greece, Italy and Marseilles, but chiefly to Constantinople. Prices have risen, especially in Transylvania.

The water in the Upper Danube has risen 4½ feet allowing much belated loaded grain lighters to arrive at overseas shipping centres from up the river. The lowest depth of water in the Danube on the 23rd inst. was 23½ feet which occurred at the 13½ miles post. Over the Bar at Sulina the European Commission of the Danube have been able to maintain the pre-war depth of 24 feet since early in September. The repairs to the Bridge over the Borcea opposite Cernavoda, according to the latest official report, are to be completed early next month, and it is expected that the first train will make the crossing on the 6th proximo.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce* —Bacon : (Continental), 140s. 6d. cwt. (Canadian), 117s. 6d. cwt. ; (American), 95s 6d cwt ; butter : (Danish), 230s. 6d. cwt. ; (Australian), 160s. cwt. ; (New Zealand), 192s. cwt. ; cheese : (Canadian), 109s. cwt. ; (New Zealand) 101s. cwt. ; lard, 73s. cwt. ; eggs : (Danish), 43s. 6d. per 120 ; (Styrian), 22s. per 120 ; chillies, 167s. 6d. cwt. ; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 7½ lb. ; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 97s. 6d. cwt. ; coffee (Costa Rica), 152s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt. ; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt. ; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt. ; (Santos, superior), 59s. cwt. ; ginger (washed Cochin), 67s. 6d. cwt. ; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb. ; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb. ; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb. ; pimento, 2½d. lb. ; raisins (Valencias), 140s. cwt. ; sultanas (Smyrna), 125s. cwt. ; currants (Vostizza), 80s. cwt. ; currants (Amalias), 60s. cwt. ; sugar : (Tate's cubes), 54s. 9d. cwt. ; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 10½d. cwt. ; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 3d. cwt. ; (West Indian crystallized), 40s. 3d. cwt. ; (centrifugal), 15s. 6d. cwt. ; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb. ; sago (small pearl), 26s. 6d. cwt. ; sago flour, 16s. 9d. cwt. ; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 18s. 9d. cwt. ; (bran, Rangoon), £6 5s. ton ; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb. ; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb. ; tea : Indian (common to good common), 16s. 9d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 7d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 10½d. lb. ; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1d. lb. ; (medium to good), 1s. 7d. lb. ; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb. ; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb. ; wheat (English white), 49s. 3d. qr. ; (Australian), 52s. 6d. qr. ; barley (malting), 62s. 3d. qr. ; barley (feeding), 42s. qr. ; oats, (English), 32s. 6d. qr. ; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 25s. 6d. qr. ; maize (La Plata), 33s. 4½d. qr. ; flour, 44s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton ; antimony (English Regulus), £36 10s. ton ; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb. ; copper (standard), £66 16s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £76 5s. ton; gold bars, 102s. 11d. oz. ; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 110s. ton ; hematite (mixed number), 116s. 3d. ton ; galvanized sheets (24 G), £18 5s. ton ; lead (soft foreign), £25 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 38s. 9d. unit ; nickel, £192 10s. ton ; platinum, 382s. 6d. oz. ; plumbago, £20 ton ; quicksilver, £10 7s. 6d. bottle ; silver bars, 37,5-8d. oz. ; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 10s. ton ; tin (standard), £161 2s. 6d. ton ; wolfram, 12s. 3d. unit ; zinc sheets, £35 ton ; tin plates (20 by 14), 21s. 6d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids : Boric, 66s. cwt. ; oxalic, 9d. lb. ; citric, 2s. 5d. lb. ; tartaric, 1s. 4½d. lb. ; ammonia (sulphate), £14 7s. 6d. ton ; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton ; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon ; bleaching powder (35 per cent), £15 10s. ton ; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt. ; cream of tartar 126s. 3d. cwt. ; Potassium : Bi-chromate, 8d. lb. ; chlorate, 6½d. lb. ; caustic, £32 10s. ton ; nitrate, £40 10s. ton ; permanganate, 1s. 1d. lb. ; prussiate yellow, 1s, 2½d. lb. ; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton ; Sodium : Crystals 140s. ton ; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton ; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb. ; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 3s. 9d. ton ; chlorate, 4d lb ; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 5s. ton ; hyposulphite £17 ton ; prussiate, 8½d. lb. ; nitrate, £14 16s. 3d. ton ; glycerine, (crude, 80 per cent.), £80 ton ; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £110 ton ; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb. ; quinine 4s. oz. ; red lead, 39 5s ton ; white dry lead, £42 5s. ton ; white ground lead, £55, 15s. ton ; sulphate of copper, £29 10s. ton ; sulphate of iron 5s. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8½d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 8½d lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 8½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 7 3-8d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6, 3-8d. lb. ; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7, 1-8d. lb. ; 80 to 89 lbs., 7½d. lb. ; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb. ; 60 to 69 lbs., 5, 1-8d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; 5,1-8 ; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb. ; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb. ; Bulls, (first), 5, 1-8d. lb. ; (second), 4d. lb., ; Kips (first), 7½d. lb. ; (second), 6, 1-8d. lb.; (third), 4d. lb. ; Calcutta Market, Prices in rupees per 20 lb. :—Arsenic hides (cows), Agras, 7 to 12 ; Durbanghas, 4-8 to 6-8 ; Patnas, 4-8 to 6-8; Salted cows 4 to 7-8. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 5-8 ; Skins : Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb. ; goat 240-270 per 100 pieces ; Bombay Market :— Dressed buffs, 10 to 14 annas per lb. ; dressed cows, 10 to 14 annas per lb. ; goat and sheepskins, 1-4 top 1-12 rupees per lb.

*Miscellaneous* — Cotton : (American), 12,00d. lb ; (Egyptian) Sakel), 20-40d lb ; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £10 2s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £17 7s. 6d. ton ; palm kernels, £17 16s. 3d. ton. Oils : Linseed £27 2s. 6d. ton ; olive (Levant), £78 10s. ton ; palm, £36 2s. 6d. ton ; rape (crude), £48 5s. ton ; soya, £32 15s. ton ; petroleum, 1s. 4d. gallon ; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon ; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton ; coconut (Ceylon), £42 10s. ton ; cotton (crude), £35 10s. ton ; ground nut, £46 10s. ton ; Rubber : Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 10½d. lb. ; smoked sheet, 10½d. lb ; fine hard Para, 1s. 2½d. lb.

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# Company Meetings.

## ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

The Thirty-Fifth Ordinary General Meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, was held on November 29, at the Bank, 27, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C.4.

Mr. Raoul Hector Foa (Chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. Geo. H. Soul), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, after referring to the loss sustained by the company through the death, during the year, of Mr. H. A. Richardson, a director, and also to the decease of a former colleague, Mr. J. Howard Gwyther, said :—As regards Egypt, the chief field of our activities, the whole of the situation has been overshadowed by politics. The delegation, headed by Adly Yeghen Pasha, which has been over here for some months to settle the relationship which is to exist in the future between Great Britain and Egypt has, I grieve to say, left our shores without having, apparently, definitely arrived at an arrangement, but I hope and trust that a *modus vivendi* satisfactory to both nations will ultimately be reached. The prosperity of Egypt largely depends upon the amount of money accruing to that country from the sale of its cotton. There have been since this time last year very considerable fluctuations. At the end of November, 1920, f.g.f. Sakellarides was about 40 dollars a kantar ; on March 4, 1921, the price was 22 dollars ; on September 30 last it was from 56 dollars to 57 dollars ; and on the 11th of this month it stood at from 37 dollars to 38 dollars, a kantar being equal to 99 lb. avoirdupois. Under date October 13, our cotton manager in Alexandria wrote :—" The fellah has taken advantage of the unexpected rise in cotton and shows the greatest good will in parting with his cotton, so that, with an average demand from outside, the end of this season should see the interior warehouses bare of the staple." It is to be remembered, however, that since the date of this letter there has been a considerable fall in cotton.

During the period under review the imports of manufactured articles into Egypt have been on a very much smaller scale than in preceding years, and the warehouses in Egypt, overflowing with unsold merchandise then, now certainly contain far less of this than they did a year ago.

Your directors have gradually extended the number of branches. Our bank is now working at Assiut and Suez in Egypt, at Omdurman in the Sudan, and at Nazareth in Palestine. We have, at last, been able to secure a site for premises in London large enough for our needs, and these will, I hope, be ready for our occupation within six months from to-day.

In Palestine we are proud to be able to say that we have been of considerable use to the Government in the country, but commercial development there is a plant of slow growth.

Banking profits have diminished all over the world, and from a variety of causes. We cannot expect to be an exception to the general rule. Our deposits have been somewhat reduced. One third of this is due to the disappearance of one Government account which we knew was only of a temporary nature, and the rest, is, no doubt, owing to the withdrawal of money by clients who had to make good the shrinkage in commodities, or other values. There have been very few important variations in the items in the balance-sheet. The totals of the two sides of the balance-sheet are down from £18,000,000 to £14,000,000, reflecting the shrinkage in business which has followed upon the inflation brought about by the world war.

We have great pleasure in being able to declare a final dividend of 15 per cent., together with a bonus of 2½ per cent., both free of income-tax, but our satisfaction is to a certain extent qualified by the fact that we have had to claim back some of the excess profits duty which we had previously paid to the Government. Your directors continue to do what in their power lies to keep up the reputation which the bank has for so long enjoyed, and Sir Marshall Reid will in a few weeks be visiting most of our branches, thereby exercising a supervision over the general business of the bank, being brought into close personal contact with our many good clients.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

## INDO-BURMA OILFIELDS.

The First Annual General Meeting of the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920), Ltd., was held on December 1 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Denbigh, C.V.O. (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, after dealing with the figures in the balance sheet, said :—Turning now to the general operations of the company the first and most important item I will deal with is the change made by the directors in the programme of the company from what was outlined in the prospectus issued when the company was formed. You will recollect that the prospectus declared the policy of the company to be the development of its Yenangyaung well sites. The Yenangyaung field was well known as an oil producer and it was from that field that most of the oil in Burmah had been derived. Like all other companies during the year 1920 this company had great difficulty in getting delivery of the machinery and plant ordered by it and in the meantime the local staff were able to give more attention to what I may refer to as the company's outside areas, particularly Yenanma and Padaukpin. As a result of a detailed examination of these areas they strongly urged the Board to drill trial wells on them. After giving the matter the fullest and most anxious consideration and believing it to be in the best interests of shareholders to get oil at the earliest possible date your directors authorised work to be started at Yenanma. The first well drilled came in with a production of 6½ barrels per day at 690 feet against the prospectus estimate of three barrels. Seventeen wells have been drilled in the neighbourhood of No. 1 well, and the results are set out in the technical adviser's report which accompanies the directors' report. Four further wells are being drilled and the results may be received at any time. You will note that oil has been struck in every well, the six best giving results of 12, 14, 18, 25, 30, and 45 barrels per day respectively. Results from three wells have been cabled since the report was issued: No. 20, which produced 11¼ barrels per day, No. 21 producing 18 barrels and No. 22 producing 30 barrels. Including these the average for the producing wells so far drilled is just 11 barrels initial yield per well per day against the prospects estimate of three barrels average production.

Coming now to the Padaukpin Area, work was commenced in No. 1 well in January 1921 and in No. 2 well some little time later. It was subsequently discovered, as the result of a large scale survey that the centre of the dome was situated on an area of 1.8 square miles contiguous to the company's original area. This area was the property of a Burmese Syndicate from whom the company's managing agents obtained an option to purchase at the price of £17,500, and I am glad to say that they have now turned the whole of this area over to the company at the price they paid for it, subject only to the same royalty as is payable in respect of the original area. Five sites were located on that area and No. 3 well struck the oil at a depth of 1414 feet, the yield being 63 barrels per day. No. 1 well was drilled to 1950 feet when on account of bad caving-in it was decided to abandon it. No. 2 well has now reached a depth of 782 feet. No. 4 well a depth of 1,450 feet, and may strike the oil at any time. No 5 has reached 705 feet and No. 6 100 feet. The rig is erected on No. 7 Well.

The next matter to which I would like to refer is the question of the refinery. On making careful search for a suitable site, it was found that the Yomah Oil Company had already acquired the best site for a refinery which could be discovered anywhere in the neighbourhood of Rangoon. That company had already ordered a considerable amount of material, and eventually it was decided to join with them in the erection of a co-operative refinery. The first unit of this refinery is nearing completion. The refinery is laid out on the most modern lines and is capable of extension up to 4,000 barrels capacity per day.

Regarding the question of profits I am assured that taking a moderate view the company can, beginning early in the New Year count on earning profits of £10,000 per month, which sum will be progressively increased as production increases. With regard to the future programme, work will proceed with the present plant at Yenanma and Padaukpin continuously. The company's experts have the fullest confidence in the future of the company and so has every member of the Board.

The report was unanimously adopted.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## NEW SHIPS FOR THE NEAR EAST.

Chief among Eastern trade developments should be the appearance in the late spring, or early summer, of the two new P. and O. liners Moldavia and Mongolia, says *The Times*, while a directors' report shows that the company hopes to obtain delivery of the Maloja and Mooltan towards the end of the year. Each of these four mail ships is named after a vessel destroyed by enemy action during the war. The Ballarat, launched more than a year ago and intended for the P. and O. Company's service to Australia *via* the Cape, is expected to be delivered within the next few weeks. Then, at the beginning of the year, the new liner City of Simla is to make her maiden voyage in the new service of the Ellerman and Bucknall Line between the Continent, the United Kingdom, and the Far East, and is likely to sail, according to present reports, with most, at any rate, of her accommodation filled. The revival, on December 21, of the same company's pre-war passenger service between London and South Africa is another interesting development.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 27).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Maidan for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21) ; s.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, December 24) ; s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 31) ; s.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 7) ; s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 11) ; s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 21).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 21) ; s.s. Sittang for Rangoon (Middlesborough, January 7).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—A steamer will sail on December 30, from Liverpool, for Patras, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila.

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Antinoe for Gibraltar, Piraeus, Smyrna and Constantinople (London, December 16) ; s.s. Tyria for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Swansea, December 24).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Asturian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 17).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Florence for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 16) ; s.s. City of Baghdad for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21) ; s.s. City of Bristol for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of London for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, December 12) ; s.s. City of Paris for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab, (Liverpool, December 30).


**ANCHOR LINE**

**First-Class Passengers only.**

**LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.**

**KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt**

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

PASSENGER SAILING DATES—

CASTALIA, JANUARY 6.
MASSILIA, JANUARY 20.
ELYSIA, FEBRUARY 10.
CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10.
OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.

**Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,**
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.


*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glentara for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 22) ; s.s. Glenariffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 5) ; s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 19).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Mandalay for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 14) ; s.s. Pegu (new steamer) for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 28).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Eumeus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, December 15) ; s.s. Ningchow for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, December 15) ; s.s. Demodocus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore etc. (Glasgow, December 15) ; s.s. Theseus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, December 15).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Aviemore for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 10) ; s.s. Venice for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza (Liverpool, December 17).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Luque for Casablanca, Gibraltar, Malta, Famagusta, Beyrout, Haiffa and Jaffa (Liverpool, December 12) ; s.s. Sitra for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, December 23).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Andalusian for Tangier, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, December 10).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Kaisar-I-Hind for Bombay (London, December 16) ; s.s. Soudan for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 30) ; s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, December 30).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 15) ; s.s. Mudura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 16) ; s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 30) ; s.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 6) ; s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 21)

*Prince Line.*—S.s. Glenelg for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haiffa, and Beyrout (Manchester, December 17).

## ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.

The report of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields Ltd., for the period ended March 31, the date having been altered from June 30 to March 31 so as to coincide with Roumanian official requirements, states that the issued share capital of the company is £1,432,294 in fully-paid ordinary shares of £1 each. The issued debenture capital is £563,200 in 10 per cent. convertible debentures of £100 each. In respect of this amount, £178,120 has yet to be received, the final instalment being payable on April 30, 1922. On March 31, last, prior to the debenture issue, loans and advances by bankers amounted to £200,500 ; they have since been reduced to £79,910, and the further moneys to be received on debenture account provide for the liquidation of this debt and the discharge of the remaining liabilities of the company. The old 6 per cent. debentures have been exchanged for the new issue, which has, therefore, become a first charge upon the company's undertaking. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, December 9, 12 noon.

## MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

The report of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company for the year ended March 31 states that the company's share of the surplus profits of the company's and State lines, less Indian income-tax and supertax, amounted to Rs.29,34,756, which has been paid by Government and remitted at 1s. 3,3-16d. per rupee, realizing £185,715. The share of the profits from the Mysore State lines was Rs.53,885, realizing £3,709, thus making a total of £189,424. Interest on investments amounted to £32,533 making a total of £221,958 (as compared with £484,184 for 1919-20). The final dividend for the year is 25s. per cent., and a bonus of £1 per cent. is also proposed, making with the guaranteed interest, a total distribution of 7 per cent. for the year. The reserve fund has been raised to £500,000.

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## THE OIL WELLS OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

According to a recent American Commerce Report the Gbely oil wells in Slovakia are the largest in the Czecho-Slovak Republic. The oil output consists of the so-called "heavy" oils, which have a very low freezing point, no paraffin or asphalt, and a very small portion of benzine and kerosene. On account of its nature, the oil is especially adapted for the manufacture of lubricating oils. The monthly output of refined oil was 6,000 quintals* in 1919, 8,000 quintals in 1920, and about 10,000 quintals in 1921. Therefore, it is far too small to meet the requirements of Czecho-Slovakia, for lubricating oils. The supply from Gbely relieved the demand of the country for oils and greases in 1918 and 1919, when there was no possibility of import. At that time the whole output was placed at the disposal of the State railways. It is now manufactured into what is known as "Vulcan" oil, oils and greases for compressors, motors, cylinders, and transformers, as well as into the clear and colourless oils for sewing machines, typewriters, etc. The first boring was made in 1913 at Gbely by the Hungarian Government. The Czecho-Slovak Government has continued the work, but finds itself handicapped at present in further prospecting because of the high cost of making borings.

* *Quintal* = 220.46 *pounds.*

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 28, 1921 :—

Condition of Crops.—November 25—Damage to rice owing to drought in Western Bengal. Central Provinces and Punjab prospects unchanged. Bombay prospects fair, except in parts of East Deccan, where rain was badly wanted.

Markets.—November 24—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 409 December-January; Rs. 408 March. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to November 18, 1921, were 370,000 bales as compared with 163,000 bales in the same period of the last year. Bombay Piece-goods market closed from November 17 to 19, and after that very quiet; local goods moving quietly but steadily. November 25—Calcutta jute market very quiet. November 26—Hessians slightly steadier with slight advance in rates; Heavies very quiet. At tea sale on November 22, good selection from Assam and Dooars. Cachars and Sylhets fair. Prices advanced for all grades except dusts; common and medium grades advanced 9 pies to 1 anna per lb. Fine teas firm to slightly dearer. Full prices for improved qualities and teas with any cold weather flavours. 381,280 packages sold to date at an average price of 9 annas 3 pies per lb. November 22—Shellac market firm in earlier part of the week with advanced values. T.N., Rs. 165. In latter part prices easier at Rs. 160. November 25—Special Straits quality rice, Rs. 495 for December new crop.

Government of India have sanctioned for exports to all destinations 100,000 tons of balance of 1921 rice crop. Survey for Agra-Bah-Batesar line of 46 miles by State Railway's Officer sanctioned. No change in bank rates.


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# Stock and Share Markets.

## FIRMER TONE GENERALLY.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday Evening.

While business has been very restricted owing to the uncertainty regarding the Irish negotiations, the general tone has been better than might have been expected, on the strength of the belief that a solution of the problem can still be found. The idea of a Moratorium for Germany has been received with a certain amount of favour and has also contributed to a more cheerful tone.

**Conversion and War Loans Strong.**

Gilt-edged securities have been firm. The Conversion Loan has jumped ½ at 64,11-16, and War Loan Fives show an advance of 16 at 88¾. Fundings and Consols are steady at 73½, and 49,7-8 respectively. In Near Eastern securities which rank among British Funds, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. at 68½ and Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 at 62 are unchanged, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are ½ up at 69½.

The market has shown no definite tendency for foreign securities. French securities have been a little brighter, the 5 per cent War Loan being 1½ up at 35. German 3 per cents. are again dull and have dropped to 2,13-16. Chinese securities are still on the dull side and Brazilians are unsteady. The Japanese 4 per cent. 1899 issue and the 4 per cent 1910 issue have each shed 2 points and now stand at 60.

Greek securities are firmer. The 5 per cent. 1884 Loan has gained a point at 34, as also the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan at 34. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan at 31, and the 5 per cent. Funding Loan at 33 are unchanged. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is the same at 34.

**Industrials Weak.**

Rather more business has been passing but prices generally have been on the decline. Textiles have improved with Courtaulds 9d. up at 35s. 3d. Armament shares are still unsettled in spite of their rally last week. Armstrongs are 1s. down at 13s. and Vickers have shed a like amount at 8s. 6d. Guest Keens have lost 1s. at 27s., while Cammell Lairds are unchanged at 11s. A quiet tone has prevailed in Shipping Securities. P. and O. Deferred are unaltered at 280, while Furness Withys are 3d. up at 22s. 6d. Cunards have dropped 3d. at 17s. 3d., while Royal Mails are the same at 79.

**Burmahs Stronger.**

A brighter tone has been in evidence in the Oil market during the week. Burmahs have gained 1-16 at 5¾, and Mexican Eagles at 3,29-32 are 19-32 up. Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B have shed 1-16 at 1½ while Oilfields of Egypt have remained at 3s. 6d. In the Roumanian section, Roumanian Consolidateds have lost 3d. at 7s. 6d., and Steaua Romana have shed 6d. at 7s. 3d. Phœnix at 6s. 6d. are 3d. down, while Dacia Romanos at 13-16 are 1-8 up.

Mines have been more cheerful with De Beers 5-16 up at 8,3-8.

**Banks Firm.**

Banks have remained firm. Agricultural of Egypt 3½ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 54, and the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are the same at 55½. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unaltered at 6½, but National Bank of Egypt shares have dropped 5-16 to 18¼. Bank of Athens shares at 2, and Ionian Banks at 3¾ both remain unaltered. Both Chartered of India and National of India remain the same at 15 and 37½ respectively. P. and O. Banks are 1-16 up at 11,3-16. Imperial Bank of Persia remain at 5,1-8, while Bank of British West Africa are ¼ lower at 4¼.

Land shares have been variable. Béhéras are unchanged at 8¾, while Béhéra Prefs are 1-16 up at 3,3-16. Egyptian Delta Lands remain at 6s. 9d., but New Egyptians are 3d. lower at 21s. 9d. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are the same at 10½d., while Sidi Salems have lost 1-16 at 15-16, and Union Foncieres remain unchanged at 2,7-16. There is no improvement in Sudan Plantations, which remain at 2¾.

**Rubbers Steady.**

The Rubber Market has shown a good tone during the week, and all quotations have improved. Business is still very limited, a few special shares only being favoured.

Among miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters have cast 1-16 at 6,5-8; Egyptian Markets at 18s. 3d. are unchanged while Egyptian Salt and Soda at 32s. 6d. has gained 3d.

## BUILDING REVIVAL IN ALEXANDRIA.

Some activity is noticeable at the present time in the building trade in Alexandria, particularly in the erection of private villas in the suburbs, states H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt. United Kingdom firms desirous of offering supplies of building materials can obtain the names of contractors and importers of such materials in Egypt on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest. Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £ ... | 25.22½ | 99½-99¾ |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 275-285 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 20.43 | 870-920 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4 -1.4-1.32 |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.4-1.4-1.32 |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 57.15 75.60 |
| *Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | — |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 730-750 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 4.86 2-3 | 4 04½-4.05½ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 55.32-55.80 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 365-375 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 94½-94¾ |
| Sofia ..... | Leva to £ .... | 25.22½ | 620-720 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 50 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 11,500-12,500 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 12,500-13,500 |

* No Quotations. In some cases quotations are nominal.


FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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# Cotton & Cotton Goods.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester, December 2.*

The tone of the market during the past week has been distinctly dull. No feature of importance has presented itself and business on all sides has been within very narrow limits. Rumours of financial trouble at home and abroad have proved disconcerting and the political situation throughout the world is dead against trade developing. In both the spinning and weaving sections more machinery is gradually being brought to a standstill. With regard to cloth hardly any business has been transacted for Egypt, the Levant and Constantinople. Here and there a few small lots in suitable makes have been sold but prices generally have proved entirely impracticable. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have been somewhat easier and buyers have had matters all their own way. Demand for piece goods for India has not resulted in very much business, and manufacturers on the whole have had a dreary week. A few odd sales in light cloths have taken place. Standard makes have been practically neglected. Trade with China has been nearly at a standstill. Sales of any weight have not been mentioned. South America has continued quiet. A little more business has been about for the home trade. American yarns prices generally have favoured buyers. A few export numbers have been in request for India.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date November 30 :—

Another very dull week has passed, and the heavy clouds of depression overhanging the trade still show no signs of an immediate dispersal. Patience and optimism are still called for to a large degree, and one has to look ahead, and explore all the surrounding circumstances deeply, before one can feel that one's faith in the ultimate revival of the trade is justified. Dealings in actual cotton on our market this week have been on a very limited scale ; sale figures have dwindled to a low ebb, and prices show a decline. There has been quite a marked enquiry for white cotton, but the business resulting has been most disappointing. Sudan, once again, claims a comparatively large share in the total—the result chiefly of " following on " out of old lots, which are now offered at attractive rates as compared with what was being asked for the same cotton only a week ago. The same hand-to-mouth policy is still in evidence on the part of spinners, and oddments, and box-bales, at knock-out prices, seem to be the only kind of cotton which really finds favour. Spinners are still very lugubrious in their outlook, and from Manchester comes a doleful tale of featureless, dragging markets. It is not entirely without significance, however, that whereas organised short time for the Egyptian section was not even proposed, in the American section, where it was actually put to the vote, the necessary majority was not obtained. From this it is not surprising if some people suggest that things in the spinning world are not quite as black as they are sometimes made out to be. Further enquiries are reported from India, and they are nearly all for quick delivery. In fact, it would appear as if that country was not short of stock, but as if very little was required to induce it to replenish. Will the necessary impetus be forthcoming ? If it were, events might move very rapidly in Lancashire, for, although most spinners are carrying large stocks of yarn, there is no doubt that a very large percentage of them have little raw cotton. The American crop bogey, which has been used so often to sway and unsettle the futures markets of the world, should receive its quietus on the 12th proximo, when the Washington Agricultural Bureau will issue its final report C.i.f. business has shown a distinct falling off during the period under review. Total sales 1.150 (includes 260 bales Sudan). Quotations show a reduction of 75 points on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 20.50d.


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## BRITISH EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

### Compulsory Levy for Spinners.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester.*

Owing to it having been found impossible for the Liverpool Cotton Association to collect the levy of 6d. a bale on cotton imported into this country for the purpose of raising a fund to finance cotton growing in the British Empire, the question of promoting a bill in Parliament to make the levy compulsory was considered at special meetings in Manchester on December 1. At the ordinary monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, it was decided to refer the matter to a sub-committee. The question was also dealt with at a meeting of the spinning members of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, when it was decided to support the bill in Parliament. If legislation to this effect is carried, the levy of 6d. a bale upon all cotton used in this country will raise about £100,000 a year and if this is done the Government has promised to make a grant of about £1,000,000 towards the work of the British Empire Cotton Growing Corporation.

## LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE WAGES.

### Further Reduction.

(*From Our Own Correspondent*).

*Manchester.*

The wages of the operatives in the Lancashire cotton industry are about to be revised. Last June there was a three weeks' strike against a reduction but eventually the workpeople had to submit to a fall of 60 per cent. on list rates, which meant a drop of 3s. 10d. in the £ on current wages, and a further reduction of 10 per cent. on list rates in the last week of this year. The agreement was for six months and it was arranged that at the end of that period it would be in order for either side to apply for a further change. Owing to the severe trade depression, and the unprofitable state of the industry, it is taken for granted that the employers will not lose any time in seeking a further reduction. It will be necessary for them to give three months' notice, and it is probable that the trade union secretaries will receive a demand at the end of this year or early next. It may be mentioned that although there is some irregularity in the lists on which the operatives are paid the wages now ruling are about 150 per cent.. above the level existing at the outbreak of war in July 1914. On behalf of the employers it is contended that until wages are considerably reduced it will not be possible to compete against other countries in the leading consuming outlets of the world.

According to a Bucharest correspondent of *The Times*, Roumanian stocks of benzine are exhausted and the production of the next three months is already booked. As regards paraffin, large quantities have already been exported, and imported orders from abroad are pouring in, engaging future production. Prices show the following increases :—Paraffin, export price from 0.90-1 lei per kg. in August to 1.80-2 lei ; heavy benzine, from 1.90-2 lei per kg., to 5-6.50 lei ; light benzine from 3-3.50 to 7-8 per kg.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 553—Vol. XX. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *A Near East Conference.*

The Conference of the British, French, and Italian Foreign Ministers, proposed by the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, for the purpose of discussing the Near Eastern problem would not seem to be likely to take place as soon as had been expected. The Angora Treaty is understood to be the obstacle; but it is not quite clear what useful purpose will be served by a further exchange of views on this subject between Great Britain and France. The chief concern of both Powers should be a settlement of the Turkish question. Their last attempt resulted in the Treaty of Sèvres, which is now a dead letter. It will be time enough, when Great Britain, France and Italy have decided upon the terms of a new and feasible settlement, to inquire whether the Angora Treaty prevents France from supporting her Allies in carrying out the settlement. If it should, and if in the meantime the Franklin-Bouillon enterprise has not been disavowed by the French Chamber, it will then be necessary to decide whether Great Britain and Italy will have to act without French co-operation. France's hands will only be tied, if the Allies are called upon to coerce Turkey. It may be that the new Treaty will be accepted eagerly by all the Turks, Nationalists included, and there will be no question of coercion.

### *The Need for Action.*

At present Great Britain and France are only complicating the *impasse* by exchanging views on the Angora Treaty. That precious document and the blunder that brought it about have been denounced everywhere, even in France; but the French politicians responsible for it are not going to admit their mistake, if there is the least chance of the Chamber's endorsing their policy. M. Briand is taking care that the Foreign Affairs Commission shall postpone its verdict as long as possible, and much valuable time is being lost by the British Government's attempt to put off a Near Eastern settlement until the Angora Treaty is out of the way. Only a speedy peace with Turkey will obviate the worst effects of France's betrayal of the unfortunate people who trusted to her protection; for if there is still war between Greece and Turkey when the Nationalists take complete control of Cilicia, they will deal with their Greek and Armenian enemies in the reoccupied territory according to custom. The only course that may save these people from the fate now awaiting them is for the Allied Powers to satisfy the Nationalists that they need no longer regard themselves as fighting with their backs against a wall. With the withdrawal of the Greek army from Asia Minor and with the prospect of being left in possession of strictly Turkish territory the Turks may be brought to realise that not even in their own preverted view is anything to be gained by getting rid of any further section of their dwindling population. But to bring about this most desirable state of affairs the Allied Governments must act, not merely talk or exchange views.

### *Trouble in Crete.*

There is a familiar ring in the announcement that trouble has broken out in Crete; but this time it would seem to be devoid of international significance. Official statements speak of armed deserters attempting to enter Canea, in order to enforce their demands, and being repulsed by troops and by shells from an armed transport. As the island is the stronghold of Venizelism, timorous folk in Athens would naturally, at the first report of trouble in Crete, conjure up visions of a fresh Venizelist revolution. But according to one explanation the trouble is connected with a feud between a battalion of naval reservists and the population of Canea. The naval reservists would presumably be of Royalist complexion; in Canea will probably be a quite fair sprinkling of M. Venizelos's disbanded special police who earned for themselves a bad reputation on the mainland. It will be remembered *inter alia* that the murderers of M. Dragoumis, done to death by his soldier-police escort in one of the main streets of Athens, escaped to Crete. An attempt to settle old scores might easily be made; but it is certain that they will not be tolerated by the Government.

### *The Position in Egypt.*

The fears that the failure of the Egyptian and British Governments to arrive at an agreement regarding the future of Egypt would give rise to something in the nature of a non-co-operation movement in Egypt show signs of being realized; but we still hope that better counsels will prevail. It will not, of course, be lost sight of in Egypt that Sinn Fein appears to have succeeded where the Egyptians failed, and there will be a tendency to attribute success in Ireland to the greater violence employed. This, however, would be an entirely erroneous reading of the Irish negotiations. Quite apart from the different circumstances in which the Irish drama has been set, it should be realized that the Sinn Fein delegates abandoned some of the claims on which the chief stress had previously been laid. The mistake made by the Egyptian Delegation in London was that it refused to recede from a single item of the extremist

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programme settled by popular clamour in Egypt, and, worse still, belied all the hopes entertained on the strength of its membership that it would enter into the negotiations in a conciliatory spirit and in a receptive state of mind. The Delegation's letter in reply to the British Government's draft convention proves that they were prepared to do nothing of the sort. It should, therefore, be a matter of honour for Egypt to try to succeed where Adly Pasha failed.

### *An Adriatic Incident.*

An unpleasant incident, which shows that bad feeling between Slav and Italian over the question of the Adriatic is not yet dead, is reported from Spalato. Two Italian officers were there assaulted by a number of Yugoslavs, and one of them was slightly wounded in the head. So far we have had no Yugoslav explanation of the occurrence; so that we do not know what led up to the trouble. But it is very satisfactory to note that the Yugoslav officials acted at once in the most correct manner, the Governor of the province calling on the Italian Consul and offering an official apology and assurance that measures had been taken for the arrest of the offenders. With so much soreness still lingering between the peoples of the two nations, such incidents, it is to be be feared, have to be expected, but if their officials will always act as correctly, as promptly, and as firmly as the Yugoslavs have done in this case, it should be possible to avoid any serious trouble.

### *Prince Said Halim Assassinated.*

Prince Said Halim, who was Grand Vizier of Turkey at the time she entered the War, and retained that position until 1917, when he was removed to make way for Talaat Pasha, was last week assassinated in Rome, where he had been staying since his release from Malta. The crime appears to have been carefully planned, and though the Police have not yet made any arrests in connection with it, they seem to have formed the opinion that the man who actually shot the Prince was an Armenian. Should this theory prove correct, it will be impossible to avoid coming to the conclusion that the leniency shown in the case of the murderer of Talaat Pasha has emboldened those responsible for the present crime. The murdered Prince was a prominent figure in the Committee of Union and Progress, of which he was at one time Secretary-General; but it is probable that he was a tool rather than one of the directing forces of the Committee; and he certainly was a man of liberal ideas for a Turkish statesman. In Egypt, where he was in a kind of exile for some years, he was well liked by Europeans who were brought into contact with him; and though his attitude in the days immediately preceding Turkey's entry into the War was disingenuous, it is probable that he was far less responsible for what took place than the men who had determined to force Turkey into the wrong path, for their own gain.

### *The Cilician Refugees*

The Archbishop of Canterbury, having received appeals on behalf of the Cilician refugees from the Armenian Bishop in Egypt and the Armenian Archbishop of Smyrna, placed them before Lord Curzon, who has sent a reasoned reply which should be studied by all those people who think that this country could effectively intervene in the matter. Briefly, Lord Curzon points out that it is not in the power of this country to transport the refugees to a place of safety and take charge of them there. "It is a practical impossibility to accommodate them in Cyprus, Egypt, Mesopotamia, or Palestine," says the Note, "and there is no money to defray the very heavy expenses of their maintenance, even if the necessary accommodation were to be made available. Our previous experience in Mesopotamia has shown that they cannot, or will not, support themselves." And the Note recalls that the Government were recently criticised for their refusal to raise the unemployment allowance here in respect of children, and points out, only too truly, that "there are thousands of people on the verge of starvation in this country." These are incontrovertible facts, and they afford a sufficient explanation of the Government's refusal to shoulder fresh burdens and responsibilities which could not justly be regarded as theirs. The announcement that a French officer has been appointed Chief of the Gendarmerie Mission in Cilicia, and that he will be assisted by four other Frenchmen will cause satisfaction in this country as well as in Cilicia.

### *Death of Kutchik Khan.*

It is reported that Kutchik Khan, who has for some time been a power in northern Persia, and a source of embarrassment to the Teheran Government, has been captured by Cossacks and beheaded. If the report be true—and we see no reason to doubt it, in view of the desertion of the Jangali leader by his former lieutenants—it will mean a considerable enhancing of the Government's prestige, and will also, in all probability, set free a fresh force to assist in settling the account with Simko, the Kurdish chieftain. Without wishing to depreciate the courage or skill of the Persian forces, it is impossible to avoid expressing a mild surprise at the success that has lately attended their efforts to suppress brigandage and rebellion; for in the past such successes were rare and came only at long intervals. It would be interesting to know whether the Sardar Sipah is the driving force behind the new movement, or whether it is supplied from outside—and if so, from what direction.

### *The Prince's Tour.*

At Bharatpur the Prince of Wales completed the second section of his long journey, during which he has been the guest of a succession of Indian Rulers. He has seen some of the most wonderful sights, and enjoyed some of the very best sport, that the world can offer; he has been welcomed with enthusiasm by populations which have not yet begun to talk politics; and he has now passed on to what is rightly regarded as the very heart of British India, for it is the people of the United Provinces who in the long run decide the fate of the new ideas originating in Bengal, or Madras, or Bombay. The inclusion of Bharatpur in the programme was particularly satisfactory, for the Maharaja is the recognised head of the Jats, perhaps the finest of all the races of Northern India. Three centuries ago the English merchants in Agra described them as "a resolute folk," and resolute folk they have often shown themselves to be—in Flanders and elsewhere. One does not see or hear much of "slave mentality" in a Jat village, and now that they are beginning to take an active part in public life, they may be expected to contribute to the common stock a fund of sturdy good sense by which all India will be the gainer.

### *The Arrests in India.*

Last week we noticed the action taken by the Administration to restore liberty to ordinary Indians by suppressing the organisations of bullies known as "volun-

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teers." The immediate sequel has been the arrest of some of the most prominent extremists in the United Provinces, who formally challenged the Government by declaring themselves to be "volunteers"; while in the Punjab some arrests of leaders have followed on a breach of a different law. So far these arrests have not led to any untoward results, and at this distance it looks as if the psychological moment for action has for once been taken. Lajpat Rai in the Punjab, and Motilal Nehru in Allahabad may be described as the leading local representatives of Mr. Gandhi's ideas, but their position is not to be compared with his, for while each has a band of more or less devoted adherents, neither can be said to have made any particular impression on India as a whole. If we may rely on the silence of the cables, Mr. Gandhi himself is still carrying out his decision not to set on foot an active policy of disobedience at this juncture, and without his leadership it is not likely that much serious mischief will result.

### *The Influence of Environment.*

Of the agitators who have been arrested, the most interesting is Lajpat Rai, a man of whose mentality no convincing explanation has yet been put forward. This year, as we have said above, he has been an ardent supporter of Mr. Gandhi's characteristic ideas, unworldliness, renunciation, and seclusion from the western taint. Last year he published a rather interesting book in which he demolished these ideas one by one, and preached the gospel of national salvation through the increase of material wealth with an unction worthy of Chicago or Montreal. In 1920 he was urging India above all things not to be self-complacent, but to drink more deeply of the stream of European culture : in 1921 he is allied to the party which will not even allow naked Indians to wear European clothes. His sincerity in all this has not been questioned, and the most probable explanation of the rapid change is that he is unusually susceptible to his environment. The preface to his book is dated " New York, U.S.A." and its doctrine is characteristically Western ; on the Congress platform in India, he has echoed the sentiments of his associates , we have still to learn the effect of a period of unwonted silence and reflection.

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening*

### The Irish Settlement.

It has been an amazing week. On Monday morning we were in the depths of gloom at the anticipated immediate breakdown of the Irish Conference. On Monday afternoon the negotiators sat for over four hours; at eleven on Monday night the Irish delegates returned to Downing Street, and Tuesday's papers went to press with the most pessimistic headlines. But before the public had opened its morning papers on Tuesday, evening editions were out announcing " Irish Peace—Official." What had happened was that after a two hours' conference at midnight on Monday, Mr. Lloyd George assented to the alteration of a phrase, and at half-past two in the morning the Sinn Fein delegates signed the document.

The *Morning Post* of Tuesday announced that the Conference was already dead, but that the Government had not the pluck to publish the news. A few hours afterwards the terms of the agreement were generally known. The sensation of relief was so great that there was no real disposition to criticise details. A few people boggled over the term " Irish Free State ; " one or two constitutional lawyers made the point that by calling the document a treaty the Government had conceded, even though only the moment, the independence of Ireland, since only an independent State can conclude a treaty. The point is of little more than academic importance, for the independence is specifically resigned in the articles of agreement. The oath of allegiance, which had given much trouble, and which was the last point settled, was closely scanned ; it differs so slightly, however, from those taken by the Dominions that little criticism of its wording is likely to be heard. It is pointed out, in this connection,and I think with justice, that if Irishmen meant to repudiate the treaty at the first opportunity, they would not have been so careful, almost too meticulously exigent in fact, over the terms of the oath ; it is precisely because they mean to keep it honestly, and because in that sense an oath binds the soul, that they have disputed its wording.

### After-Effects.

The news was received with profound relief on both sides of the Irish Sea ; it seemed incredible that a problem which has agitated English politics for seven hundred years, and which had become steadily more critical, should at last be settled. Those who have been in touch with the negotiations point out that roughly the terms are those put forward by Sinn Fein last spring, plus the oath of allegiance, on which the British Government rightly insisted ; I need not emphasise the point, because the terms which have now been agreed were set out in this column six months ago.

The after-consequences of the Agreement may now be glanced at. In England it will help trade, which has been held up by the uncertainty attaching to the question of peace or war in Ireland ; and it will enormously enhance the prestige of the Government. The settlement is a supreme personal triumph for Mr. Lloyd George, and presumably marks the culmination of his extraordinary career ; even his opponents admit that his Government is now safe for some years, and several of them are ruefully admitting that the success also justifies the Coalition principle, since no single party could have achieved it.

The Coalition principle in fact is to be emphasised when Parliament meets in state next Wednesday to satisfy the Treaty. The King will open the new session, and Lord Morley, the veteran English Liberal, and Lord Dunraven, the veteran Irish Conservative, will move and second the Address in the Lords. The former is an honoured old man of 83, who has not been seen in public since he resigned office in 1914; the latter is three years younger. It is possible that Lord Londonderry, as representing Ulster, will criticise the part Lord Birkenhead has taken in the settlement, but there is no doubt whatever that, if and when challenged, the Lord Chancellor will give back a Roland for an Oliver.

Politicians are already talking about a General Election early next year. It is too soon to say yet whether their prognostications are correct. The Government will naturally be sorely tempted to go to the country, since they would sweep the polls, but there are two considerations against that course which they will have to weigh. In the first place, the country does not see the need of an election, and business men are naturally averse from a month's interruption of trade at the very time things are improving ; in the second place the Conservatives want the House of Lords reformed, which means in effect the repeal of the Parliament Act, and they want it done next session. The ordinary elector cares not one jot about the House of Lords, and sees no necessity for any change ; but questions of constitutional machinery always excite politicians, and the Conservatives are after all the largest party in the Coalition.

### The Position in Ireland.

It is more difficult to summarise the position in Ireland. The Treaty has to be ratified by the Sinn Fein Parliament (whose Gaelic official title I am incapable of spelling correctly), as well as by the British Legislation and also by the Irish Cabinet. But difficulties have

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already appeared, and it will apparently be impossible to avoid a split. The Irish negotiators—Mr. Arthur Griffith, Mr. Michael Collins, and Mr. Gavan Duffy—intend to honour their signature: Mr. de Valera, who was a member of the first Conference, but not of the second, will divide against them. He has also always been bitterly opposed to anything short of complete independence, which was recognised by some men on both sides as impossible. It was because he took that attitude that the first negotiations broke down, and when he was omitted from the second Delegation, he did his best to wreck its chances of success by his telegram to the Pope. He now intends to wreck the settlement if he can, his idea of a settlement being an agreement in which one side should concede everything and the other nothing.

It is difficult to say how great a following he will attract. The best authorities in Irish affairs believe that he will muster forty per cent., and Mr. Arthur Griffith sixty per cent., of Irish political opinion; in that event the Agreement will be ratified, but the new Irish Government under Mr. Arthur Griffith will have to reckon with an extremist Opposition under De Valera. It is suggested, however, that its real strength in the country is not so great as in the existing Sinn Fein Parliament, which is an *ad hoc* body elected in 1918 under the pressure of national crisis, when the extremists were at the height of their power.

It was to the possibility of this split, no doubt, that the Lord Chancellor referred when he remarked that the Irish negotiators who returned to Dublin were "taking their lives in their hands." They will not have a very easy time, as they are confronted with the certainty of a Hertzog movement of irreconcilables similar to that which agitated South Africa after the Union; but it is generally assumed that any such movement would be doomed to gradual decay.

Ulster has taken the news of the Agreement sullenly rather than passionately. She had undoubtedly reckoned on the negotiations' breaking down. The Ulster Parliament has been more reticent than the Belfast Press, which has used a good deal of strong language; but Ulster's rights are safeguarded, and it is hoped that in time she will adopt a more generous attitude.

One point further should be mentioned. It is generally expected that the King will open the new Irish Parliament. It is not forgotten that his noble speech at Belfast last July was the origin of the change of policy which led to the Truce and the Conference; and although he has not exceeded his constitutional function, it is common knowledge that he has taken an active interest in the negotiations, and it would be difficult to overestimate the tactful influence which he has brought to bear. The time, however, has not yet come to write the inside history of the last six months; but I may add that it is hoped in many quarters that the Duke of York will be the first Governor-General of Ireland, and that the Royal Family will often pay long visits to the island.

**Washington.**

The Washington Conference has been practically forgotten during the greater events at home. Its proceedings have not been very exciting, and it is still uncertain whether Mr. Lloyd George will go. It is semi-officially announced that he will not, but the little birds that perch on the chimneys of Downing Street are said to have winked their eye when the announcement was published. Of course it may only have been the soot, but it may equally well have been that they did not quite believe the denial.

**The Reform of London Government.**

The Commission which was set up to consider the reform of London Government has now begun its work under the chairmanship of Lord Ullswater, who is more familiar to us as the late Mr. Speaker Lowther. One does not envy him his task. The London County Council wants to extend its boundaries and enlarge its powers by taking in such places as Wimbledon, Sutton, and Watford, and other dormitory suburbs where people are Londoners by day and of a different local allegiance by night. The outer suburbs, on the whole, do not wish to be incorporated—for one thing, it might mean higher rates, and for another thing, they have their local councils, in which the Wimbledon butcher, the Sutton baker, and the Watford candlestick-maker become civic dignitaries. On the other hand, a central authority would be more efficient than these small bodies, which often overlap and continually wrangle. The Commission will have to digest a mass of conflicting evidence from the various opposing interests.

**Hospitals and Debt.**

The hospitals are again in difficulties, and the papers are full of correspondence and appeal. It is possible that an attempt will be made to get the Government to take things up next session, since the voluntary system has resulted in practical bankruptcy and the closing of beds and wards; and I notice that one critic has pointedly remarked that the four millions a year which the Government spends in administration at the Ministry of Health could be expended to much better purpose in rescuing the hospitals. The difficulty, of course, is that Government control means bureaucratic administration, and bureaucrats, as other low organisms of nature, multiply like mites in a cheese wherever they are introduced; and further, Government control would almost certainly reduce the flow of private charity.

**Female Football.**

An amusing controversy has broken out as to the advisability of women playing football. It appears that several teams have been formed, mostly of tea-shop girls, and these young ladies play the "soccer" game regularly, before admiring crowds of young men, and it is suggested that the latter see a good deal more of these Amazons than our grandmothers would have approved of. Apparently the attraction has become so great that it has diminished the spectators at the ordinary games, and the Football Association—which is the official headquarters of the male game—has become alarmed. It has issued a manifesto denouncing the young ladies, and there has been a chorus of statements to the effect that the new fashion is bad for the game, bad for the young ladies, and bad for their future children. To this the female footballers merely answer that they intend to go on playing, that football is better for their complexions than paint and powder, and that the people who denounce them are a lot of old fogeys.

**The Week's Books.**

"The Empire at War" (Oxford University Press), by Sir Charles Lucas, is the first volume of what will prove to be a standard work. Sir Charles, who is a well-known authority on the history of the British Empire, traces in this preliminary volume the steps by which the colonies gradually outgrew the military and naval protection of the mother country, and in time volunteered to take their share in the common burden of defence. The earliest instance quoted of Imperial co-operation is in 1655, when a force of volunteers was raised in Barbados and other West Indian Islands to assist Cromwell's expedition against Hispaniola.

"The Tragic Sense of Life" (Macmillan) by Miquel de Unamuno, a Spanish professor of philosphy at Salamanca, is an attempt to reconcile Catholic faith with scientific reason. It is well written, and is obviously the fruit of long thought, but it is not a successful reconciliation of the opponents. It should be said that what the author calls "the tragic sense of life" is the consciousness of the futility of death, and he therefore endeavours to prove the immortality of the soul. What he actually succeeds in doing is to prove that he ardently desires immortality, which is not quite the same thing.

"Anglicanism" (Macmillan) by the Rev. Hensley Henson, consists of the lectures given by the Bishop of Durham a year ago at Upsala, Sweden. He analyses the history of the Church of England, criticises the Enabling Act which, in his opinion, is practically tantamount to Disestablishment, attacks the Anglo-Catholic movement, and gives reasons for believing that the Church in its present form is not likely to last very long. But he admits that two hundred years ago Bishop Butler thought the same.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, November 26.*

**News of the Negotiations.**

A few hours after my last letter had been posted there came the news that the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations had been broken off. One of the vernacular papers immediately published a special edition, but it was not until the next day that the news became widely known. Neither on that occasion nor on any subsequent day, however, would the uninformed visitor to Egypt have realised that anything unusual had occurred. I can hardly recall a week since the end of the war when things have been so stagnant in Egypt. Life has meandered along very placidly; there has been little business afoot; and politics have been less discussed. There was a slight recrudescence of interest yesterday, when it was rumoured that the negotiations had been informally resumed with the Delegation through the British Embassy in Paris, but those Egyptians who are in the confidence of the Cabinet unanimously stated there was no foundation for any belief that such negotiations, if they were going on at all, would have any material result.

The position, as this letter is written, is that the negotiations have been concluded, and that Adly Pasha is bringing the British offer back for presentation to the Sultan, but has meanwhile allowed it to be understood that the Egyptian Official Delegation has refused the terms offered. The Foreign Office has posted the text of the British project to Cairo, accompanied by the Egyptian Delegation's reply to that offer, and a British "explanatory note," which it is believed will set out why the British Government was not able to agree *in toto* to the claims of the Egyptians. The Delegation is expected back on December 5, and it is probable that these officials documents will be published soon after its return; and until the explanatory note reveals the attitude of the British Government towards Egypt, it is highly improbable that there will be any developments whatsoever. Even Zaghloul, who is maintaining a wise silence at this juncture, will not move until he sees how he can best exploit the situation to his advantage. He has given us a hint that he might favour a hostile reception for the Delegation, but he has to reckon with authorities who are determined not to let him play with fire.

**Looking Forward.**

Probably the week December 4—11 will see important developments. It is known that the Cabinet will resign soon after the Delegation's return, but if the terms contained in the Explanatory Note referred to above give the Egyptians a hope of ultimate independence, it is probable that there will be little difficulty in securing the formation of another Cabinet. Indeed, there are already signs that certain groups have an eye to the high offices of the future, and it is not unlikely that these ambitions will prove a strong card on the side of the British authorities. But if, contrary to all expectation, the Explanatory Note should make it clear that the Nationalists have no hope of realising their aims within any reasonable period, the sequel will be embarrassing to everyone in Egypt. There is a greater distrust of the British Government than ever; and were it not for the factional issues involved, which bid fair to prevent the Egyptians' uniting on a basis of common hostility to England, it is probable that the British Government would find itself in a very delicate position in Egypt.

Thus it is apparent that the whole situation hinges on the context of the Explanatory Note. Its contents are secret; but there is every reason to believe that it will offer terms which will not be found impossible of acceptance by a section of the Egyptians. In that case, a Cabinet will be formed. We have seen enough during the last seven months to know that a strong Egyptian Ministry can crush disorderly opposition to it, and if the next Cabinet can make out any Nationalist programme at all it may be relied upon to pilot the Ship of State through the intervening period till negotiations can be resumed. In any case, actual physical trouble is not deemed likely. Such opposition as may be revealed will probably take the form of hindrance of the governmental machine. It is not believed that the threatened policy of non-co-operation will be instituted, for several reasons, including the recent collapse of that movement in India. The only dangerous possibility lies in the fact that the local authorities, by hasty action, might precipitate untoward events. The authorities are in a difficult position, as they have to maintain order; but as far as can be seen there is no intention on the part of anyone of creating disorder. Tact is necessary; but if it is exercised, there is every hope that the crisis will be safely weathered.

**The Pleasure-Makers.**

Fortunately, there is one thing that the political situation cannot control: Egypt's weather. For the past few days it has been simply perfect. Bright clear mornings, with just a nice nip in the air, warm noontides, and cool evenings, with nights that make dancing one of the joys of living. Cairo is gradually getting into a social whirl of select dances, Italian opera, two race-meetings weekly, bazaars and increased private entertainment. Cairo tennis enthusiasts momentarily are jubilant over the sound trouncing administered to Alexandria's champion singles' and doubles' players by the Cairo representatives in the Bally Cup, which was fought out at Alexandria last week-end and resulted in a victory for Cairo by nine matches to six. The final round of the Cup is to be played in Cairo next March.

**A Notable Conference.**

Under the Chairmanship of the Right Rev. Bishop Gwynne, Anglican Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan, an unofficial conference of representatives of various Christian demonstrations of the East and the West was held recently at Helouan, near Cairo. The object was to discuss ways and means for promoting unity amongst the Christian Churches, and eventually those present formed themselves into a Brotherhood with the object of working in co-operation for the desired unity. It was decided that any attempt at fusion would be useless, and, after some discussion, it was agreed to endeavour to facilitate co-operation between the Churches rather than to make an effort to incorporate the different denominations in one homogeneous whole. The spirit of the Conference and of the speeches was one of mutual help; consistency of ideas rather than formal amalgamation. As the different speakers pointed out, the goal was the thing to be achieved. The movement as yet is entirely unofficial, but it is highly probable that in the near future some official status will be given to it.

**The Sultan's Movements.**

H.H. the Sultan and the Sultana will return to Cairo on Thursday next. Some sections of the Ministries

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have remained in Alexandria, and it is improbable that they will return to Cairo prior to the return of the Official Delegation.

## SUDAN.

*Khartoum, November 22.*

**Official Movements.**

H.E. The Sirdar and Governor-General arrived in Khartoum from leave on the 5th inst. The train was in on time at 5 p.m. and His Excellency was welcomed by a representative gathering of officials and notables of the various communities, who were presented by Mr. R. H. Dun, Chief Justice.

It is reported that the appointment of Mr. C. E. Lyall, O.B.E., as Civil Secretary will shortly be gazetted, and that he will be succeeded as Governor of Kassala by Mr. C. P. Browne, the present Governor of Berber.

**Birth of Princess Fawzieh.**

The following telegram was received by the Sirdar on the 5th inst., from His Highness the Sultan.

The blessing of Almighty God has been once more vouchsafed to us in that he has been graciously pleased to grant to us a daughter, born in the ninth minute of the third hour of the blessed fifth day of Rabia el Awal of the year 1340. We have named the child Fawzieh and we send you this message to enable you to publish the good news and to record the name of our child in the same manner as that of our Prince, and to announce it to all officers and men of our Army and to our subjects, the people of the Sudan. We pray God that he may make the birth of our child a source of blessing and happiness to our country and to our people.

to which His Excellency replied as follows :—

On behalf of all ranks of your Highness's Army and of all the people of the Sudan, I have the honour to express to your Highness the joy and delight with which I have received your Highness's gracious message containing the good news of the birth of a daughter to Her Highness The Sultana. I earnestly pray that the protection of the Almighty may rest upon both, and that under His blesssing the life of Her Highness the Princess Fawzieh may be prosperous and happy. I shall announce the auspicious event formally to the Army and the people of the Sudan in a Special Gazette.

The Sultan has telegraphed his thanks.

**Armistice Day.**

On Friday November 11, the third anniversary of the conclusion of the Armistice, a service of prayer and thanksgiving was held in All Saints' Cathedral, Khartoum, which was filled from end to end. The service opened by the singing of the hymn "O God our help in ages past," and included the XXIII. Psalm. At eleven o'clock, the hour from which the Armistice took effect, there was a period for silent prayer, and the Bugles and Drums of the 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers, posted outside the Cathedral, where they could be heard not only within the building but all over Khartoum, played the "Last Post."

**Municipal Matters.**

The inauguration of the new Khartoum Municipal Council will take place about the second half of next month, and it is stated that the names of the members will shortly be published. It is to be hoped that the new body will take steps to carry out repairs to the Khartoum roads, which are in a deplorable condition, and to reform certain of the municipal services which appear to be inadequate to the needs of the residents.

The Government housing scheme for officials has been progressing well. Of the houses under construction in Khartoum under the "Jackson Housing Scheme" thirty-five are already occupied, and a further six are nearing completion.

Seven prominent Nazirs and Sheikhs of the Red Sea Province arrived on November 12, on a visit to Khartoum. They were received by the Governor General on the 15th inst, and have been taken round the sights of the capital, including the Gordon College, Law Courts, etc., returning to their several homes on the 18th inst.

The Headquarters of the Customs Administration will move from Sinkat to Port Sudan on November 26.

As a result of heavy rain a wash-out occurred on the night of October 28 between Thamian and Erheib stations on the Port Sudan line.

It is notified that the Tonga Talodi road was opened to wheeled traffic on November 1.

Commandant Grossard, with the French Members of the Wadai Durfar Boundary Commission and accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel H. D. Pearson, arrived at El Fasher on November 18.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, November 30.*

**Political Undercurrents.**

The underground crisis, of which the public heard rumblings for some time past, culminated last week in a report that M. Pashitch had tendered his resignation to the King, and everybody was wondering what would happen next and whether M. Pashitch would be again entrusted with the task of forming a Cabinet, or whether M. Protitch would be given a chance to try his experienced hand in driving such a mixed team as he is generally credited with endeavouring to break in. But the storm blew over, for the Radicals and Democrats realised that if they quarelled, both would probably be out in the cold for a long time. Such opinion as was not jaundiced by bitter party feelings was sick and tired of these rumours of crises, which recalled the days of the summer before last, when the situation was very similar and the two main parties were fighting for the possession of the portfolio of the Interior, which has a much greater importance out here than with us. It is, indeed, a political trump card; for the Minister who holds it exercises tremendous political influence throughout the country; and it is more sought after even than the portfolio of Finance. At the same time, the vigorous personality of its present, and former, holder, M. Pribitchevitch, provoked the hostility of his opponents. Two years ago M. Protitch resigned and broke up a coalition because he could not get on with him, and now the Radicals do not like him at all. As for the Opposition parties they simply cannot bear him.

**Radicals and Democrats.**

But counsels of reason are now prevailing in Belgrade. The Radicals and Democrats have agreed to bury the hatchet for the sake of their joint existence, and report has it that M. Pribitchevitch will accept the portfolio of Education again, as he did in the early part of the year. So Dr. Davidovitch, the Democrat leader, and M. Atsa Stanoyevitch, Chairman of the Radical Club, have been in earnest conversation and have decided to make a long-standing coalition, to sink all petty differences, and to select ministers who can get on with each other without rubbing each other too much the wrong way. At the same time, they will proceed to a programme of legislation on the most pressing matters, such as the Budget, on agriculture, on Government officials' pay, and the administrative division of the country. It is interesting to note that Dr. Davidovitch suggests for the latter law releasing members from an obligation towards their party, allowing each to vote according to his conscience, with responsibility only to his own constituents.

**The Mohammedans.**

Meanwhile, the Mohammedans are considering their action. They are afraid of M. Pashitch's policy of dividing the Turkish Mohammedans of Macedonia from their Slavonic co-religionists in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is certain that they will formulate new demands as the price of their continued support. There is at the same time a report that Stepan Raditch and his followers are coming to Belgrade. One member, in an interview, stated that they were suspicious of that "old reactionary" M. Stoyan Protitch, but as a republican party, they had leanings towards the Republican Party of Serbia. All the parties are in a state of excitement. The Republicans of Serbia, few in number, have been having a "congress."

**Dr. Kumanudi on S.H.S.**

The Minister of Finance, Dr. Kumanudi, has recently

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made a reassuring statement, and his figures should be borne in mind by those amateur critics who are constantly sneering at the attempts of the young State to put its affairs in order. The Minister reminded his audience of the vast sums that were of necessity expended in restoring the damage of war. Towards indemnity, the country has so far received 10,000 horses from Germany, and nothing else. But they have been compelled to expend no less than 350 million dinars a year in pensions alone for wounded and crippled soldiers, a fearful burden at once on the manhood and finances of the country. Besides that, all railway bridges and culverts throughout Serbia have had to be restored, an urgent job, for the last act of expiring Austria-Hungary was typical, the destruction of Serbia's railway system. He attributed at least a large share of the cause of the fall of the dinar to the behaviour of a number of banks, who have been exporting sound "valuta" on a large scale. Also, he insisted on the necessity of reducing the number of officials, a welcome sign, and also of the army. He considered that the internal loan had been successful, but that it was necessary to conclude a foreign one, in order to construct the railway to the sea, which is a necessity to the country. Dr. Kumanudi pointed out that several Government institutions and industries which should be revenue-producing are in fact run at a loss, and suggested that they should be leased to foreigners, which would be a satisfactory change from their past xenophobe policy, which has done them the reverse of good abroad.

**"Bozhe Pravde."**

The Viceroy of Slovenia has ordered that the three hymns of the triune people be sung in churches, that is, the Serbian hymn, "Bozhe pravde" ("God of Justice") sanctified on the blood-stained fields of Macedonia, the Croat, "Lijepa nasha domavino" ("our lovely homeland"), which was written by a Serb, and the Slovene, "Naprej zastava slave" ("Forward the Standard Glory"). But Archbishop Yeglitch, of Liubliana, has requested the Government to issue an order that only the Serbian hymn be sung in churches, for that is the only one which is a hymn in the true sense of the word, the others being but national songs. "Bozhe pravde" is a very beautiful and impressive hymn, recalling the splendid anthem of the Tsars of Russia, and it is satisfactory that it is a Roman Catholic archbishop and a Slovene who has made the request, so that M. Raditch and his friends cannot claim it as another instance of "Serbian tyranny."

**The Balkan Committee.**

The recent resolution of the Balkan Committee has attracted less attention here than its parents probably anticipated. The Yugoslavs who have heard of the Balkan Committee do not know who appointed it, and members who are known have not a sympathetic press, at least in Zagreb. The voice is the voice of the Balkan Committee, but the words are the words of Stepan Raditch. As a matter of fact, all Yugoslavs regard the question of their internal organisation as a purely domestic matter, for which they require foreign help solely from purely party purposes, and if any foreigners care to join in party questions out here, so much the better for the parties in question. But they have a habit of resenting outside interference in domestic matters, however well meant.

**"News" of England.**

English public affairs continue to occupy considerable space in the Zagreb press. We find reports of the conference at Washington, the Cilician question, with a portrait of Lord Curzon, not too flattering; and two columns on the libel action of Lord Alfred Douglas, which interests the public on account of the great popularity of Wilde, translations of whose works, in Latin and Cyrillic print, are always exhibited in all booksellers' shops.

**Yugoslavs Abroad.**

It is generally known that there is a large colony of Yugoslavs in the United States, and a substantial one in South America, especially in Chile and the Argentine, but it is not generally realised that there is a quite important colony in New Zealand. According to official figures published in April, there were at that date 867 Yugoslavs there, but this figure cannot be accurate. It is known that in 1919 there were 1,700, but 400 of these returned after the liberation, and no less than 325 naturalised themselves British subjects: the census shows only 24 women, which is remarkable, especially as the Yugoslavs keep very much to themselves and seldom intermarry with the nationals of the country in which they settle. Of this colony, it is a noteworthy fact that there is but one Serb, Mlada Yovanovitch, from Belgrade, who keeps an inn in Auckland; of the others, there are two Slovenes and the rest are Croats and Dalmatians, This great preponderance of former Austrian subjects is eloquent tes timony of the dissatisfaction of Yugoslavs under the old régime, especially among the Dalmatians, who are a vigorous, sea-faring folk, whose country was kept in a state of poverty and backwardness by the Hapsburg policy. Most of these Yugoslavs live in or near Auckland, and there are from thirty to forty in Wellington. The majority are engaged in agriculture, mining, and in various crafts. The richest is reputed to be Mato Ujdur, a rubber merchant, of Auckland.

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*Zagreb, December 7.*

**The Political Situation.**

The political crisis continues, but the Government has not yet resigned. M. Pashitch is having difficulty in coming to terms with the Democrats, and the stumbling block is mainly the Ministry of the Interior. He has been having "conversations" with all sorts, with the Peasants and with the Mohammedans, and, it is reputed, with the Clericals of Slovenia and even with the Raditch party. The Radicals would certainly be glad to form a Cabinet without the Democrats if they could, but as these two are the main so-called bourgeois parties, their interests are really identical, except on personal matters, which play so important a part in politics out here, and are one of the chief curses of the country.

**"Association" in Croatian.**

The detailed interest that Croats take in British affairs is surprising: a Zagreb paper recently gave a detailed account of the football match between Tottenham and Newcastle, with a free interspersal of English words, some of which are already acclimatised; it is amusing to read that the "arena" was "overcroroded." In a short sentence of only twenty-five words, we find the following anglicisms:—"Newcastle-Spuri u White Hart-lawe," "Tynesideri," "strategiju," "backa," "off-sideom." The Croat terminations to English words give them a fantastic dress, but the whole passage is eloquent of the Croatian interest in British institutions in general and in sport in particular.

**Winter Again.**

After two mild winters, so that snow is almost a novelty to young children, Zagreb is now subject to arctic conditions. After three days of black frost and icy northerly gales, a heavy fall of snow occurred, which the municipal authorities dealt with promptly, clearing the streets, and especially the narrow, crowded, and horribly uncomfortable Ilica, with commendable celerity. Sleighs with tinkling bells appeared and glided picturesquely over the snow, while hundreds of men, women, and children brought out toboggans and slid happily down the hilly streets on the north sid of the town. There is every prospect of a long and severe winter, and at the same time of a fuel shortage; and to add to everything, prices are rising all round and only snow is falling.

**Wolves by Zagreb.**

The arctic weather has had the effect, extremely unusual for Zagreb, of bringing wolves into the neighbourhood of the town, a convincing sign of an unusually hard winter. A couple of peasants from the village of

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Oborova were attacked, but succeeded in beating the brutes off, so they cannot be desperate yet; for only a properly armed and strong man can hope to defend himself against the onslaught of a hungry wolf, and that too only if he is not caught unawares. In the long drought they came down to the villages near the hill-country near the sea and from the mountains of the Lika, and destroyed a number of sheep. At Belgrade, when the snow lies long, they get bold, and come as close as Topchider, finding cover in the woods of the Koshutniak. But it is very many years since wolves have been recorded from the neighbourhood of Zagreb.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, December 4.*

### Opening of Parliament.

On November 28, the King, who was accompanied by the Queen and the Crown Prince, read the opening speech of the new session of Parliament. After referring to his great satisfaction at finding himself amidst the nation's representatives, his Majesty went on to say that times are so grave that the country claims the collaboration of the prominent men of all parties, and it is, therefore, desirable that Parliament should have them re-united in patriotic action. He then touched on the expressions of joy and loyalty which reached him from all quarters of the country on the occasion of the birth of his grandson, Prince Mihai; and continued :—

The result of your work during the eight months of the preceding session was but the first step on the road of the reforms necessitated by the present time. The consolidation of our State in its new form is such a gigantic task that for a long time to come it will have to be the chief preoccupation not only of the nations's representatives but of all the live forces of the country. If, however, the difficulties of the problems which have to be faced are stupendous, we can consider ourselves fortunate that our labours can be carried on in peace and propitious conditions, considering present times. Thanks to the measures which have been taken in time by my Government, internal order is completely assured, so that even the last of the exceptional measures which are still in force, owing to circumstances through which we have passed, will also be removed shortly.

Our relations with the Allied countries during the time of war continue, and will continue, to be very intimate and cordial. New alliances have been completed with the neighbouring countries with whom we have political and economic interests in common. The relations between Roumania and the States with whom we have been at war are on a way which will lead very rapidly to normal conditions.

Special care must be devoted to the definite settlement of our financial situation by carefully controlling the State's expenditure as well as by completing the necessary measures for the application of the laws which should ensure the State's revenues, taking into consideration all needs.

The Franchise Reform, the basis of which has been introduced in the Constitution of 1917, and for which my Government submitted to you in the last session the necessary Bill, will have to be completed on the basis of the admitted principle of direct, secret, and obligatory universal suffrage, with proportional representation of minorities..

Your time having been devoted to the Agrarian and Fiscal Reforms you could not take up the Military Reform Bill. My Government will submit to you in this session the Bills which are prepared to put our Army on a solid foundation, so that it shall continue to be the safeguard of ou existence and welfare.

The Speech is considered here rather sober and curt in face of the numerous problems of the day. It touches only a few of them, and even these with great caution, while others seem to be purposely omitted in order to avoid embittered parliamentary discussions.

### The Absentee Opposition.

The striking feature of the opening of the Assembly was the total absence of the members of the Opposition from their alloted seats ; but they were seen in large numbers in the public gallery. At the next day's sitting, however, the members of the Peasants' Party resumed their seats in Parliament, in accordance with the arrangement which has been made with the Government. In explanation of this arrangement M. Lupu, one of the Leaders of the Peasants' Party, declared that in view of the obligations taken by the Government, embodied in the King's Speech, namely that the Franchise Reform Bill will be passed and that Martial Law, censorship and other exceptional measures will be abolished, they considered it their duty to attend the sittings of Parliament, in order to force the Government to carry out these measures. Their presence in Parliament, however, does not signify that they approve of the Government's past acts or its programme. M. Lupu further stated that it is understood that, immediately after the passing of the Franchise Bill, this Parliament will be dissolved, and that a neutral Government will be formed to conduct the new elections for the "Constituante."

The parties that are abstaining from attending the sittings of Parliament are : the Liberals, the Transylvanian National Party, the National Democrats under M. Jorga, the Bukovinian-Democrats under M. Nistor and the Bessarabian Peasants' group under M. Inculetz. In other words, it is just those parties that have been negotiating lately for the purpose of forming a coalition in order to come to power, but whose negotiations have so far not succeeded, for reasons mentioned in my previous letters. They have, however, issued a more or less identical *communiqué* to the effect that after the threatening declarations made by the Premier recently concerning their attitude, they consider it a moral impossibility to take part in the work of such a Parliament.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, December 5.*

### The Disbandment of Conscripts.

By December 10, Bulgaria will possess no soldiers, gendarmes, or frontier guards, other than those enlisted on a voluntary basis. The Conference of Ambassadors at Paris have instructed the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control at Sofia to see that all "conscript" soldiers at present serving with the various branches of the Armed Forces are demobilised at once. Ten thousand men, who were principally employed in the Gendarmerie and Corps of Frontier Guards, are affected by this order. Thus on December 10, Bulgaria will have 6,200 men under arms, who will be distributed between the Army, Gendarmerie, and Frontier Guards. These 6,200 men are all voluntary recruits, and have to serve six continuous years with the colours. The military clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly laid down that the length of service should be twelve years, but permission has been granted for the period to be reduced by half. The Minister of War, M. Thomoff, views the situation with grave apprehension, as he considers that 6,200 men are totally insufficient to police the frontiers and interior of the country, and in addition to perform duties such as Palace, prison, and bank guards, looking after guns and horses, etc. M. Thomoff does not think that any more voluntary recruits will be obtained, but it is right to point out that when the volunteers only numbered 3,500, the same view was expressed by the then Minister of War.

The salient feature about the case is, however, that by the end of next week the Government will not have enough armed force at its disposal to quell any disturbance that may arise. The Communists have tried very hard to enrol themselves in the Army, but the authorities have so far managed to prevent them. It is nevertheless more than probable that the Communists will endeavour during the coming months to take advantage of the impotent situation in which the Government finds itself. The Roumanian Communists have of late shown some activity, and in the future it will not be difficult for their Bulgarian brethren to cross the frontier and assist them in any acts of violence which they contemplate. This is only one aspect of the situation ; the internal one is even more grave, as, although Bulgaria is essentially a non-communistic country, a small handful of desperate men, unhindered by armed force, can make things decidedly unpleasant for the rest of the population. The Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control at Sofia preserves a discreet silence as to its own views, but almost any individual officer will admit that he regards the total disbandment of the Bulgarian Army,

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and its substitution by a few thousand poorly trained and ill-disciplined volunteers as a step which is quite capable of leading to serious consequences. The Great Powers appointed an Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control to Bulgaria, and it is understood that on several occasions the Commission has pointed out that the military clauses of the Neuilly Treaty are not practical, and recommended that they should be revised. It is not known what reply was given to these recommendations, but it is known that not one high Allied military officer has come to Sofia to investigate personally the situation, and if there is trouble in Bulgaria, the Allies, and not the Bulgarian Government, will be entirely to blame.

**The Return of the Princesses.**

Great was the surprise of Sofiotes when on Saturday, December 3, they learnt that the Princesses Eudoxia and Nadejda were back in Sofia. Their Royal Highnesses who arrived on the previous evening from Munich, travelling by the Simplon Orient Express for the latter half of the journey, were met by their brother, King Boris, at the frontier station of Dragoman. Their return is hailed with general satisfaction, both on account of their own popularity, and also on account of the joy that is felt for His Majesty, who will now be freed from the hermit-like existence that he has led for the last three years.

The Princesses left Sofia for Hungary in the autumn of 1918, and afterwards joined their father at Saxe-Coburg, where they have spent the greater part of their semi-exile. It is not yet known whether their stay at Sofia is to be of a permanent nature or not, and as the Heir Apparent, Prince Cyril, has not accompanied them, it is thought that they will probably pay a long visit to the King, and afterwards return to Munich. Inquiries made at the Palace yesterday elicited the information that the Princesses were in good health and had passed an uneventful journey. Travelling *incognito*, they were escorted from Munich to Sofia by Colonel Courtoclieff, Grand Marshal of the Court, and their arrival at Sofia was devoid of all ceremony, the news of their return only leaking out on Saturday afternoon. The same evening, small knots of people were to be seen gathered about the Palace, in the hope of catching a glimpse of the princesses; but their hopes were not realised, and although it was rumoured that, in company with the King, they would attend a Red Cross ball given that night at the Officers Club, here again the wishes of the populace were doomed to diasppointment.

**Electioneering Activities.**

According to a recent statement of M. Daskaloff, Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Government are going to make great efforts during the coming year in order to acquire increased popularity in the country. M. Daskaloff said that a decision of the Agrarian Union obliges each Minister to make a tour in the provincer three times a year. On these occasions the Ministes will be provided with a special train, which will stop at every important station, so as to permit of a speech being made to the assembled multitude. Other methods will also be adopted to win favour with the peasants, and particular stress will be laid on the fact that former Governments have never taken the people into their confidence, whilst the present Agrarian Administration has no secrets from its followers and has for its war-cry "Government by the People." The Opposition parties are meanwhile not idle, and many of their leading men are "stumping the country." Their view is that the peasants are becoming discontented with the Government owing to the lack of law and order, and also owing to the corruption that is so rife amongst State employees. Brigandage is certainly very much on the increase, but it is hardly fair to blame the Government for this, as the absence of a sufficiently strong Army and Gendarmerie prevents the authorities from pursuing the unruly elements of the population. As to corruption amongst State employees, this matter was dealt with in my last week's letter, and until a great number of the present employees are dismissed, there is no hope for a diminution in the amount of corruption. The peasants come mostly into touch with minor Government officials and it naturally does not please them if they have always to employ a gentle form of persuasion in order to get their business carried out.

**Miscellaneous News.**

The Bulgarian Government has consented to accept the care of 3,000 Russian refugee children. The League of Nations will arrange for their food, and M. Gentizon, the Balkan correspondent of the *Temps* will represent the League in Bulgaria, in regard to the welfare of the children.

A serious fire broke out at the Military Arsenal, at Sofia on Saturday evening, December 3. The extent of damage is not yet known, but it is believed that several million cartridges and a quantity of old war material have been destroyed.

## GREECE.

*Athens, December 3.*

**The Winter Season.**

A cold snap followed by two days' severe rain heralded the approach of winter, and from now until the end of February we must look forward to a less genial climate than that for which Southern Greece is noted.

The winter, which usually opens the season of gaiety and festivities, has this year set in very quietly and without the *éclat* with which last season was announced. One by one the *Thés dansants*, as offered by the various larger hotels, are recommencing. The indoor theatres and cinemas are now in full swing, and the numerous gambling houses offer their distractions to those who prefer the green table to the mild excitement of the dancing floor. A great difference, however, is to be noted between the spontaneous gaiety of last year and the very subdued and quiet demeanour of Athens at the present moment; it is almost as if the Athenian populace wished to deprive the Englishman of his noted record of taking his pleasures sadly! Possibly the approach of Christmas and the ensuing period of jollity, culminating with the Carnival, may produce a brighter atmosphere.

**Contraband of War.**

The Commander of the auxiliary cruiser Yperochi has reported to the Ministry of Marine that as a result of the perquisition made at sea off the island of Cephalonia of an Italian cargo boat, a considerable quantity of war material has been seized. This includes 3,000,000 rounds of ammunition of Mauser rifles, and nine aeroplanes of Italian make. Investigations have proved that this material was consigned to Adalia, where it was to be handed to the Kemalists. A Turkish major on board who, it is said, is a nephew of Mustapha Kemal, was arrested.

The Italian cargo boat was conducted to Piraeus under escort of the t.b.d. Lion.

**The End of the Strike.**

The strike of the electricians and tramway employees definitely ended on Sunday last, and Athens has regained its normal aspect once again. At a general meeting of the tramway employees, the Committee of Administration was deposed and a new Committee elected. This presented itself to the Minister of Communications and requested him to regulate the question of wages on the basis of the proposals formulated by him.

From certain indications it would appear that the ringleaders of the strike, who had received such severe sentences, are not likely to serve the whole, and will in all probability be shortly released.

**The 1922 Class.**

According to statistics compiled at the Ministry of War the return of the mobilisation of the 1922 Class has been entirely satisfactory. It is understood that the number who have answered the call exceeds any previous maximum. The newly incorporated regions have given their full quota, all their men coming under the category having answered the call enthusiastically.

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**General News.**

A Royal Decree has been signed by which the tramway fares on certain routes in Athens have been increased. The price of electricity is also increased by 30 lepta per kilowat, this being applicable only to hotels and commercial houses of all descriptions, private houses being exempted. A slight increase in the fares has also been effected on the Athens-Piraeus electric railway.

On Thursday a delegation of the French colony in Athens and Piraeus placed a wreath of flowers with the French colours on the monument erected in the Piraeus cemetery in memory of the French sailors who fell in Athens on December 1, 1916. A wreath was likewise placed there by the Franco-Hellenic League.

3,000 Greek and Armenian refugees from Cilicia have arrived at Chios, their landing at Cyprus not having been permitted. 400 of these will remain in Chios, and the remainder will be sent to Smyrna.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, November 29.*

**Elusive Hopes.**

Whatever hopes there may have been of a settlement in the near future of the Turco-Greek conflict have now dwindled practically to vanishing point. At one time it appeared as if there was some prospect of the National Pact being stretched at certain points in such a manner as to provide a basis for discussion that would have been acceptable also to the Greeks. That prospect quickly vanished, however, although differences of opinion on the subject caused a serious political crisis in Angora. In spite of official assurance to the contrary on the part of the Angora Government, there can be hardly any doubt that the resignation of Hamdullah Subhi Bey, Minister for Education, and of Omer Lutfi Bey, Minister for Public Works, were due to political differences with the majority, who cling obstinately to a concrete interpretation of the National Pact. Jelal Bey, Minister for Justice, and Hassan Fehmi Bey, 2nd Vice-President of the Great National Assembly, are also reported to have tendered their resignations, but to have withdrawn them in deference to the insistent desire of the Assembly. Whatever the details of the struggle may have been, however, it is now pretty well beyond doubt that the advocates of the Pact, the whole Pact, and nothing but the Pact, have won the day, despite the lamentable economic conditions to which the whole of Anatolia has been reduced by the crushing exactions for the benefit of the Army.

At the same time, according to the most recent reliable information on the subject, the negotiations between the Italians and the Angora Government have reached a deadlock; although it was recently stated that Signor Tuozzi had been so far successful in his task in Angora, that he was about to leave in triumph with an agreement in his pocket. To judge from the present situation, it is quite possible that Signor Tuozzi was about to leave as stated, but because further discussion appeared useless, and not because the matter had been brought to a successful conclusion. It is now stated that the Angora Government is refusing to agree to the Italian demands for concessions, and the Italians have refused to accept the Turkish demand for the abolition of the Capitulations. These details may or may not be accurate; but the fact remains that Signor Tuozzi is meeting with serious obstacles in his attempt to conclude what would be, after all, if official statements are accepted at their face value, a very limited agreement indeed.

**The Franco-Kemalist Agreement.**

The Turkish press this morning published jubilant articles, illustrated with photographs, concerning the entry of the Kemalist army into Adana, and the transfer of the administration to Kemalist officials. Muhieddin Pasha, who is in command of the Kemalist troops, has acquired a reputation for humaneness, and there may, therefore, be some hope that the "guarantees" given by the Angora Government will be fulfilled. The non-Moslem population of Cilicia, however, places no faith whatever in the promises of the Angora Government, and is in a state of complete panic. Thousands have already fled, leaving their homes and shops filled with furniture and merchandise, rather than face any risks. In view of their past experiences, it was unlikely that they would do anything else, especially as, convinced of their security under the "Protector of Christianity in the East," they have been rather indiscreet towards their former tyrants, from whom they thought they had been freed for ever. Now that the "Protector" can offer them nothing more than a promise couched in half a dozen words such as would be insufficient to clinch a bargain in marbles between two small boys, their panic is only equalled by their bitter indignation.

The expectation that the Soviet Government of Moscow would require explanations with regard to the conclusion of a friendly agreement with a "bourgeois capitalist and imperialist Power" has been fulfilled; but Yusuf Kemal has telegraphed an emphatic assurance to M. Tchitcherin of Turkey's fidelity to the Treaty of Friendship concluded in Moscow in March, and to the Treaties concluded at Kars in October. Whether these explanations will be regarded as satisfactory by the Bolshevist allies of the Angora Government remains to be seen, but it is worthy of note that the Bolshevist representative in Angora, the former schoolmaster Nacharanos, has suddenly found it necessary for the betterment of his health to undertake a journey in winter from Angora to Moscow. It is possible that it is for these reasons that the Angora Government is unwilling for the moment to make any further advances to the "capitalist and imperialist" Powers, and has therefore put the brake on the negotiations with Italy. Once the French are safely out of Cilicia, it will be interesting to see how much farther the suddenly renewed "secular friendship" between France and "Turkey" will stretch.

**Monsignor Barry Doyle.**

On November 24, Monsignor Barry Doyle, formerly Roman Catholic Chaplain to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was presented with an address and a handsome diamond and amethyst ring by "British and American Friends" in commemoration of his elevation to the dignity of Domestic Chaplain to the Pope. Speeches were made by Mr. Ryan, First Secretary at the British High Commission, who is of the same faith as Monsignor Barry Doyle, and General Sir Charles Harington, and Colonel Hughes, Senior Chaplain to the British Forces in Constantinople, who are both Protestants. The initiative for the presentations came from certain "other ranks" who are not Roman Catholics, and the attendance at the gathering was eloquent testimony to the wide popularity of the British Army Chaplain whom the Pope has been pleased to honour at the original instance of Monsignor Barry Doyle's former Commanding Officer, Colonel Bonham Carter. The speeches made upon this occasion were all deserving of more than passing notice, but space prevents more than a brief reference to certain striking passages in that of Monsignor Barry Doyle himself. Referring to religious tolerance, the speaker paid a very warm tribute to the complete freedom enjoyed by Roman Catholics all over the world under the British flag, and stated that it was the proud boast of British Roman Catholics that they would not change their political status for that of any other nationality in the world. Monsignor Barry Doyle's speech raised the occasion above the level of local interest, and raised hopes amongst all who heard it that a thorny problem, which has vexed

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the United Kingdom for centuries, may after all be solved to the satisfaction of all the nations concerned.

## ALBANIA.

*Tirana, December* 5.

**The Commission and the L.O.N.**

The three members who compose the Commission, accompanied by the Secretary, Count de Pourtales, arrived in Albania on November 23, and, after visiting Tirana and Scutari, have left the latter town in order to inspect the Northern and Eastern frontiers of Albania. The presence of this Commission is a source of much satisfaction to the Albanians, who are thereby assured that they will have impartial and just witnesses. Col. Schaeffer, of Luxemburg, is intimately acquainted with the Orient, having been a long time at Constantinople; the two other members are Major Meinich (Norway) and Professor J. Tederholm (Finland).

**Serbian Withdrawal.**

The Serbs have withdrawn, in accordance with the decision of the Council of the League of Nations, on the right bank of the River Drin, in the direction of Luma; but they are still in occupation of a large area within the north-eastern frontier, among other parts in the sub-district of Bunja. Nevertheless it is hoped that before the 10th inst.,—the date fixed for the evacuation of Albanian territory and withdrawal beyond the neutral zone—the Serbs will have conformed with the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors. I learn, however, that the Belgrade Government is reported to have sent a note to the Ambassadors to the effect that it cannot evacuate the neutral zone, giving as its reason that it cannot keep its troops on the frontier of this zone during the winter. The Conference has replied that the zone must be unconditionally evacuated.

**The Metropolitan of Koritza.**

The presence of the Commission of the League of Nations has been turned to advantage in getting rid of the Greek Metropolitan (Bishop) of Kortcha (Koritza) Monseigneur Jacob. This personage, who is titular Bishop of Durazzo, has been in Koritza some five years, as an agent of Hellenism, provided with ample funds. Some time ago the inhabitants of the town and district demanded his expulsion; but the Albanian Government hesitated to take such a step, for fear of giving rise to rumours prejudicial to Albanian interests. The presence of the Commission simplified matters, for the Government placed at its disposal all the documents proving the intriguing of the Bishop against the local government and the Albanian nation.

The Bishop left Koritza last week, and embarked at Valona. No hostile demonstration against him was permitted by the authorities; but the people are delighted to be freed from a nightmare which has lasted too long.

**The Greek Schools.**

Since the beginning of the scholastic year 1921, no Greek school has been re-opened at Koritza, where, on the request of the Orthodox followers all the once Greek schools of the country have been made into Albanian schools. The Greek *lycée* of the town has also been suppressed, and the students attend instead a Franco-Albanian *lycée*, under the direction of a Frenchman, who will shortly be assisted by two others from France. Professor Récoing has also been lecturing for two years. It should be added that the Greek schools in Albania—as everywhere in Turkey—were under the administration of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, Turkey allowing no Albanian scholastic foundation, and are consequently a survival of the Turkish régime; and it is on the strength of these institutions that Greece has made her imperialistic claims.

**The Future of the Orthodox Churches.**

It is well known that the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople only acquired his power and jurisdiction over all Christians of the Eastern Rite on the day when the Turks entered Constantinople, and Sultan Mohammed II gave him unlimited sway. Since that time the Sublime Porte has been unwilling to recognise any other ecclesiastical authority for the Orthodox, and the Bulgarians had great trouble in securing their Exarchate which, moreover, was only recognised by Turkey through the insistence of Russia. The Albanians and the Vlachs (Kutsovlachs, Zingari) have not yet an autocephalous church, that is to say, one independent of the Patriarchate. Moreover, according to the organic laws of the Patriarchate, every country which ceases to be part of the Ottoman Empire, ceases at the same time from the religious point of view, to be attached to the Patriarchate. Thus Greece herself has a Synod, likewise Roumania, and Serbia has a Chief Metropolitan. Evidently, therefore, Albania will break the bond that unites her with the Patriarchate of Constantinople, and she will place her Orthodox churches under the jurisdiction of an Orthodox but Albanian Synod.

**Independence Day and an Amnesty.**

The national fête of November 28—Independence Day proclaimed in 1912 at Valona—was celebrated throughout Albania with uncommon enthusiasm. It was really the first time that the country could celebrate its complete independence in the little fatherland, freed at last from foreign dominion.

On this occasion an amnesty was decreed for political delinquents, which allowed the parents of Marko Gjoni to return to Mirdita, where, since the departure of the Serbs, complete quiet has reigned. Marko Gjoni himself is still in Serbia as the guest of the Yugoslav authorities.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, November* 28.

Great excitement has been caused here by the publication in the local Greek papers of a report that a British force has been sent from Cyprus to Mersina with the object of protecting the Christian minorities now that the French are handing over the territory to the Kemalists. This news has evidently been brought to Smyrna by the refugees, numbering 1,000, who arrived last night on the Greek steamer Thetis, which had been commandeered by the Greek Government for the transport of Christians fleeing from Cilicia. The Thetic refugees have also been sent to Klazomene, where the Greek authorities are putting up sheds in which to house these refugees. The British authorities have sent a vice-consul from Beyrout to Mersina, to report on conditions there, and have placed a destroyer at his disposal; which has evidently been the cause of the above mentioned Greek newspaper report.

*Smyrna, November* 29.

**Sport.**

On Sunday last the return match between the Bournabat football team and the Panionion team ended as before in a draw of one goal each.

The Boudjah Hockey Club played a match on Saturday last—"ex-Service Officers" against the "Rest," which ended in a win for the "Rest" by 2 goals to 1.

**General News.**

The Greek Hospital steamer Elsie has brought to Smyrna another 1,000 refugees from Mersina.

The Greek High Commissioner, M. Sterghiades, having had his attention drawn by Sir Harry Lamb to the fact that several British firms had failed to collect from the Greek Military Base sums due to them for goods delivered, has made arrangements whereby all these amounts have been paid; likewise several large out-standing accounts due to French firms. As regards the sums due by the Greek Military Base to Greek and Ottoman subjects, 25 per cent. of these amounts has also been paid.

A considerable quantity of heavy artillery of very modern pattern has been landed in Smyrna during the past week for the Greek Army, and a steamer is expected from America bringing 14,000 tons of wheat for the Greek troops.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, November* 14.

**The Greek Attitude.**

The High Commissioners has by proclamation fixed November 28 for the holding of fresh elections of non-Moslem Candidates to the Legislative Council. The

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Greeks are speculating whether Maronites, or other candidates not of their persuasion, will venture to offer themselves for election. If so, small account will, they say, be taken of any such action by Greek Cypriots; but such candidates shoutld bear in mind that in offering themselves they trespass on ground which is set apart for Greeks only! They belong to a category which can only number a few hundreds as against four-fifths of the population. What right has a handful like this to disregard the feelings and opinions of the Greek majority. and to presume to deal with island affairs? How could such persons be regarded as representing the people? The Queen's Order in Council (1882) which established the Legislative Chamber had in view a body which would, in fact as well as in name, represent the island. The spirit and intention of the Order cannot be carried into effect if Greeks abstain from standing and others are elected. The reasoning is peculiar, but characteristic. They omit to say that it is precisely the spirit and intention of the Order which they have themselves for years failed to carry out, thereby seriously obstructing island progress.

**Impending Reforms?**

There is considerable discussion arising out of a rumour that reforms are to be introduced into the Cyprus Constitution. Report says that wider rights are to be bestowed upon the people. As regards the Legislative Council it is said that three more seats are to be given to Greek members (the number being now 9) without any increase in the number of official members (now six; while the Turks are three). The Greeks would in that case have a majority. Greeks, it is said, are to be eligible as Presidents of the six District Courts, over which only English judges can now preside. In that case, of course, the same privilege would have to be extended to the Turkish Community, as Turks have been called to the Bar in London, and others are studying for examination. It is also believed that the financial position is to be improved by transferring from Cyprus surplusses of revenue now not so applied. The introduction of such reforms, the Greeks say, is now overdue; but in any case neither these nor yet more liberal privileges would for a moment divert their community from insistence on their claims for union with the "mother country." Such gifts are regarded as sops which are given to pacify discontent. The rumour that under the Churchill scheme Cyprus, Malta, and Gibraltar are to be administered under one High Commissioner is regarded with great dissatisfaction.

## FOR THE DESTITUTE IN TURKEY.

Mr. Allan Ramsay appeals for help for the destitute in Turkey. He writes:—"So many appeals have been made that one feels diffident in bringing to your notice the deserving case of the children of the Turkish Refugees.

"I can speak from personal experience of their pitiable plight and will not labour their unfortunate circumstances. All that has ever been said or written regarding the famine and disease-stricken conditions of Bolshevik Russia and Central Europe applies with full force to these unfortunate Turkish people, and while there may be some doubt as to whether the Russian conditions are not greatly exaggerated, there is none in regard to these 70,000 poor derelicts, mainly children, housed in the semi-ruined barracks and stables of Daoud Pasha, near Constantinople, bare-footed and in rags, without food or fuel, and whose case is the most desperate of all the stricken peoples of Europe.

"I, personally, visited this so-called Refugee Camp, in company with the Rev. Dr. Frew (D.D. of Glasgow), Presbyterian Minister, and Hamdi Bey, a Member of the Turkish Peace Delegation, at the request of H.H. Damad Ferid Pasha, brother-in-law of H.M. the Sultan of Turkey, and can vouch for the appalling conditions under which these poor wretches are existing, and to which they are gradually succumbing.

"With a ruined country and a bankrupt Government, there is nothing to be hoped for locally, and while their co-religionists in India may help a little it is to be hoped that something may be done in Britain. Whatever mistakes the leaders of their country have made, the children are innocent victims, and it is on their behalf that my appeal is made. Contributions may be sent to Messrs. Coutts and Co., Bankers, 440, Strand, London, W.C., for the British Red Crescent Society, and the Honorary Treasurer is Mr. A. S. M. Anik, 2, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C."

# CORRESPONDENCE.

## "RIOTS IN JERUSALEM."

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—Your "Notes of the Week" in your issue of November 19 (p 614) allege that the Zionist Organisation organised celebrations in Palestine on November 2. I should be much obliged if you would allow me to state in your influential review that no Jewish celebrations were held on November 2 in Palestine. At the request of the Administration we advised the Jews throughout the country to hold the day as a normal working day, to keep their shops open, etc. After demonstrations had begun by processions of Arabs, the closing of Arab shops etc., the Jewish shops were simply closed as a necessary precaution.

I should be much obliged if you would allow me to place on record our appreciation of the conduct of the police in Jerusalem on this occasion. They rendered such help as was in their power for the suppression of disorder, and behaved, with few exceptions, with the impartiality in the discharge of their difficult task that the Western world expects from a police force.

Your assumption that political aims actuated us in asking for the suspension of Mr. Storrs from his duties is incorrect; the request was made on the ground of his proven incapacity to govern.

I am, etc.,

M. D. EDER,
Palestine Zionist.

Jerusalem, November 27.

## THE SITUATION IN ALBANIA.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—Some time ago there appeared in the papers of Constantinople an official *communiqué* of the Legation of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes concerning the Serbo-Albanian conflict and the present situation in Albania. It is surprising to see that an official *communiqué* could be so erroneous as this one is. It states that the Yugoslav troops have not invaded Albania, but have only established "the demarcation line of 1918 which the Albanians had passed." If that is so, why did the Yugoslav Government—after the Allied Powers had taken the necessary steps—announce that "it would withdraw its troops from Albanian territory"? If the Yugoslav troops had not invaded Albania, what troops would the Yugoslav Government withdraw from there? This, of course, means that there were Yugoslav troops in Albania; otherwise the Yugoslav Government would simply state that it had no troops in Albania, instead of saying that "it would withdraw its troops from there."

There is no reason whatsoever to believe what the *communiqué* says about the internal situation of Albania: its statements are far from truth. The Serbian politicians look, or rather make others look, at the "Mirdite question" through a magnifying glass, so to say, so that people might think it is a very serious question, while in reality it is nothing as compared with the uprising of the Croats and Montenegrins in Yugoslavia. So, we see the Yugoslav newspapers using such terms, as "republic of the Mirdites," "oppression of the Catholics," "anarchy in Albania" and what not! But the plain truth is this. The Yugoslav Government wished to create some troubles in Albania at a time when the Albanian question was being discussed in the League of Nations, and with this in mind it had the ridiculous idea of creating an independent "republic of the region of the Mirdites"; (this region is near the Serbian frontier and is inhabited by Catholic Albanians, who make up only a small part of the Catholic population of Albania. Accordingly a suitable tool was found in the chief of the Mirdite tribe, who was given by the Yugoslavs the name of "President of the Republic of the Mirdites." But the unfortunate "president" was not successful in inciting the people of his "republic" to revolt against the Albanian Government, and was obliged to flee to Prizren, a neighbouring city in Serbian territory.

At present, Marka Gjoni is asking for the independence of the Mirdites, while they themselves have already declared that they have been and will always be loyal to the Tirana Government. If the Yugoslav Government has nothing whatsoever to do with Marka Gjoni and his claims—as the *communiqué* maintains—why did a Yugoslav aeroplane fly over the city of Shkedra (Scutari), and throw papers urging the Albanians "to save their country by joining Marka Gjoni against the Albanian Government"?

Now I ask: "How can there be an oppression of the Catholics in Albania—as the *communiqué* states—when one of the four members of the Regency is a Catholic Bishop, and when several

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Catholics, three of whom are priests, are members of the Parliament?" "Can a people or a community be oppressed by a Government in which it has a full share?"

I am, etc.,

VASIL ANDONI.

Constantinople, November 25, 1921.

### THE PALESTINE DELEGATION.

*To the Editor of "The Near East."*

Sir,—Palestine has no grievances to ventilate, which are not common to most countries, at this moment; its commerce is admittedly bad, cost of living dear, and the cost of its administration is too high for the *old* inhabitants of the country at this stage of their affairs.

If attention is given to these matters, and some improvement were to be effected, there is no reason why the blessings of the British administration should not bring their full fruit forthwith.

The political question which occupies the time of the Palestinian Delegation can very well be left in the hands of H.M.'s Government, whose sympathy for the Arabs is so well known. This question requires wider knowledge of world politics, finance, and idiosyncracies, than can be found in Palestine.

My sincere advice to these gentlemen, therefore, is to go home, and there do their best to co-operate with the enlightened and capable British administration in charge of the country.—I am, etc.

A. SEFI.

## MUSICAL NOTES.

### SERBIAN FOLK-SONGS.

Since the war already two volumes of Serbian folk-songs have been published in London, under the respective editorship of M. Manjlovitch and of Mr. Chanter; and here, to supplement their work, comes another set of songs: "Mélodies populaires serbes," by Miloïe D. Miloievitch. It is one of that very useful series brought out under the auspices of the Serbo-Croat-Slovene Society at the University of Paris, and it is published by Rouart, Nerolle, and Cie at four francs net. The songs are arranged by M. Miloievitch, and there is a French adaptation of the words by M. Emile D. Dernay.

As far as I know, only one of the songs here collected has been published before, viz., the Skoplye song called "Bilyana," which Mr. Chanter arranged in his volume published last year by Messrs. Cary. It is interesting to note the differences in the two arrangements of this song. Between the two harmonisations there is much resemblance—as was almost inevitable in so simple a melody—but the English version made by Malcolm Burr, who called the song "By Ochrida's Stream," differs considerably from the French one here. I will give the first verse of each:—

A Maiden was washing her linen white,
By Ochrida's clear limpid stream.
Then came Vintners riding by,
Vintners all from far Belgrade.

Bilyana blanchissait son linge
Aux claires sources du Vardar.
Par là passèrent trois marchands,
Les beaux marchands de Béograde.

On the whole the French version is rather more "singable," but as a language it takes more easily, I believe, to translation from the Slavic.

All the eight songs in M. Miloievitch's volume are thoroughly typical Serbian melodies, and the pianoforte settings he has made for them are done with beautiful aptness. First, there is a particularly haunting "chanson triste" from Macedonia, where the long, chromatic wail of grief suggests no possibility of comfort, ending in dark indefiniteness on the dominant. Then comes a wild gypsy air from Kraina, with strongly marked rhythm, syncopation, and repetition: it is a very joyful song, with a fine accompaniment. In the words there is nothing at all; it is simply the natural, unprompted genius of the Hungarian bursting out. "Miryana," a very characteristic love-song from Vranje, has in it most of the favourable devices of the Yugoslav folk-song—the free rhythm, the grace notes, the intervals, the super-tonic ending, and so on—and its inner meanings are extremely well brought out in the pianoforte part. Next is a very coy conversation between "le matelot et la lavandière," almost French in its arch simplicity; it was collected from the town Makarska, in Dalmatia. A tragic little song from Bosnia, called "La mère de Gjafer-bég" wanders artlessly and tenderly in and out of the keys of C major and of its relative minor, and has an intimate appeal. The Old Serbian song about the "tailleur malicieux" who skimped the robe of the girl who wished to appear in her finery before her beloved is founded on a subject common to our own country, but the melody is much more rhythmic and confident than that which the vain, disappointed ones in England used to sing. But possibly the song of deepest and most permanent beauty is the last, a Herzegovinian lullaby. Here you are right in the atmosphere of the East, miles and miles away from lands where any rocking berceuse will soothe the child; here, in the most human of all songs, you find discovered the soul of another people than your own. This melody contains all that wistful, yearning mystery which pervades so many Slav tunes; it has, moreover, the most wonderful continuity of rhythm in addition to its frequent changes of both time and key. In fact it is a song of genius. I do not know how old it is, but one can easily imagine that hundreds of years ago mothers crooned this tune to their babes, and that its healing influences are still potent. And it is especially pleasing that in this superb melody the editor has surpassed himself in the setting of it out.

This small collection of songs by M. Miloievitch is really a notable one, which will be invaluable to all students of folk-song.

ANDANTE.

Official reports have reached Delhi that the situation in the Moplah rebellion area has greatly improved. During the last fortnight 8,679 rebels have surrendered; the remainder are avoiding encounter and are being hunted day and night. The military hope to conclude operations by the end of the year.

A semi-official contradiction is given in Bucharest to the report emanating from Soviet Russian sources that Petlurist bands had been organized on Roumanian territory.

It is semi-officially stated in Athens that the insurrection in Crete is dying down.

Sir Herbert Samuel, the High Commissioner, the Patriarchs of the Eastern Churches, the Grand Rabbi, and Arab notables attended a service in the Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem on December 9, the anniversary of the deliverance of Jerusalem. There was also a military review.


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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## THE WAR AND SOME SIDE-SHOWS.

**"SOLDIERS OF THE PROPHET." By Lieutenant-Colonel C C R. Murphy. (London: John Hogg, 10s. 6d. net).**

Colonel Murphy, the author of this deeply interesting book, is the son of an officer (still living, as he writes in his last chapter), who knew Turkey as an ally of England, and fought on her side against her inveterate enemy in the Crimea. His own experience has been quite different: as Chief Intelligence Officer to our Mesopotamian Force, and Head of the first British Mission to Turkey in 1918, he may be said to have seen the other side of the medal; but he has a friendly feeling for the Turks, it seems, and writes of them with justice. Besides his war service, he has to his credit service in the Persian Gulf, before the war, as Intelligence Officer, and his acquaintance with Turkey is one of long standing. He writes, therefore, with a far wider knowledge of the Turks and their country than is to be found in most 'war' books; and, as a result, what he writes gains greatly in interest and importance..

His chapters on the Mesopotamia campaign are probably the most valuable in the book, for his position gave him exceptional opportunities to gather information and make observations; and he has been able to supplement the knowledge acquired on the field, from the British point of view, by the study of many Turkish reports, war diaries, despatches, and other documents. The value of such material to the serious student of the war need not be pointed out; but Colonel Murphy may be congratulated on presenting his narrative of events clearly, and with a minimum of technicalities, so that it is easily understood by the reader without any military training. The story of the siege of Kut is told very simply, but surely very effectively, in chapter 11, and the brief survey of the situation in Mesopotamia at the time of General Townshend's occupation of the devoted town is of particular interest. We should like to quote from it at length, but must confine ourselves to the concluding paragraph:—

> From the foregoing facts it will be seen that if General Townshend had resumed his advance immediately after the battle of Kut, he could have marched straight into Baghdad without further serious fighting, and could have established himself there before Von der Goltz had time to reach that city. After the latter had arrived, however, it is doubtful whether General Townshend could have remained there for a single day, and the tragedy of surrender would have been enacted in Baghdad instead of Kut. With the necessary reinforcements and means of transport General Townshend would no doubt have gone on at once; without them the only course was not to advance at all.

Colonel Murphy does not, of course, tell us who was actually responsible for the failure to provide "the necessary reinforcements and means of transport." The world suspects that Townshend and his force were sacrificed to the politicians' gamble; and it is safe to say that in connection with this deplorable episode the only way in which the Govermnent showed itself active and efficient was in keeping the truth from reaching the public. However—

To our mind, the least satisfactory chapter in the book is that on "The Temple of Baal," which gives a rather undistinguished description of Baalbek; but this may be because we find it as impossible to wax enthusiastic over the beauty of those great ruins as on the artistic merits of Palmyra. But when we turn to the author's description of the Turkish expedition into the Hauran in 1910, of the consequent operations at Kerak, or of those in Tangistan in 1913, we find them full of interest. No less interesting are later chapters, "The Rebellion in Oman," "A Persian City During the Great War," "The Persian Gulf in 1913-14," or "Constantinople in 1918." Some of these essays, especially the earlier ones, throw a very vivid light on the Turkish method of dealing with the Arabs, and enable us to understand, at least dimly, why the latter hate the former with so great hatred. Thus, the expedition against the Druses in 1910 may have been successful, but it surely cost the Turk dear at a later date: and when we read (p. 30) of the Turkish General, victorious at Kerak, ordering his men to dig up the graves of the former sheikhs and fling their bones to the wind, and to bury the murdered Turkish soldiers in the graves, we are not surprised to learn that: "This act of vengeance greatly enraged the Arabs, and tended to widen the abyss which has always yawned between them and the Turks." The subject of gun-running crops up here and there (but we suspect that the author could tell us a great deal more about it, if he chose to do so), and the "Tangistan" chapter gives a lively account of operations undertaken as a result of piracy and massacre in quite the old style. In his last chapter the author gives us his impressions of some people he met in Constantinople just after the Armistice, among them the Sultan, the ex-Khedive of Egypt ("who admitted quite frankly that he had backed the wrong horse") and 'Ali Haider, "the rightful Grand Sherif of Mecca." And here and there in the book are some truly Oriental tales. One of these, told to Colonel Murphy by an Arab in Damascus, "made a good allegory on the state of the Turkish Empire at that time" (1910). It runs thus:—

> There was once a merchant who lived in Damascus. His house was newly built, but it was very rickety and creaked when the wind blew. So one day he went to the landlord and complained about it.
>
> "Do not distress yourself," said the landlord. "When the house creaks it means that it is praising God."
>
> "Undoubtedly," said the tenant with mock reverence; "but I am dreading the moment when it will worship and fall down
>
> "So it was," adds the author, "with the jerry-built fabric of the Constitution. It was new and yet it was creaking. The Young Turks said it was praising God, but the Arabs knew that it was about to prostrate itself."

## THE LEVANT WATERS.

**"SWEET WATERS." By Harold Nicolson (London: Constable & Co. 7s 6d net.)**

It is round a text of Aristotle's "Poetics" which postulates "activity" as the ultimate aim of life that Mr. Harold Nicolson has woven what we believe to be his first novel, and though to this general maxim he has indeed held faithful, it is rather on a text from one of Flecker's choicest prose-sketches that the particular demonstration of the maxim is built: "the splendour and desolation of the Levant waters is something that derives into the soul." For the value of this book lies not so much in its essential theme as in its practical setting; its background of events is more important than its continuity of thought. The author has, of course, founded his story upon personal experience, and has so chosen the pictorial, incidental method to arrive at what we may presume he considers the deserved climax in the career of his hero, an English diplomatist in Constantinople. There is little subtlety in his work: the tale is a straight, purposeful one, in which the various reactions of event upon character, and of character upon event, are kept in admirable perspective.

Briefly, the story is this. At the time of the first Balkan War a young girl, Eirene Davenant, who is born of an English father, dead when the story begins, and of a fatuous, mercenary Greek mother, is cherishing the loneliness of her life in Therapia and Pera, when upon her gloomy but eager horizon appear two Englishmen. The first, Angus Field (Tonbridge and Wadham) is a weak and precious clerk at the Embassy of Constantinople. After finding that he and the girl are mildly stirred by each other's existence, he, with gullible impudence, proposes to her, and is of course refused. (He had deserved the rebuff had he done nothing more than throw "The Golden Journey to Samarkand" about his room in disgust). But the second, Hugh Tenterden, (possibly Eton, and certainly Christ Church), is all otherwise: as Counsellor of the Embassy he shows the enormously cool efficiency which commonly pervades the work of

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British diplomatists, and, having seen the worth of Eirene in nursing Turkish wounded on the battlefield, is proposed to by her, and, though his age is forty-two, succumbs. On this note, the joyful result of Aristotle's "activity," or perhaps the inevitable result of the novelist's accidents, the book ends.

It is a curious work, this story of Constantinople, in some ways a remarkable work. We have no great respect for the main motive of the author's tale; we almost long for a mistake to be made by the infallible Hugh Tenterden, despite the beauty of his name (and the consequent fact that Kent was his country, how awful to have to share it with Angus Field!); but even so we think that Eirene, who with all her passionate cleverness might surely have been a little more easily deceived, was lucky to catch him. But against these things much is to be matched. The setting of the novel is beautifully done, with a wealth of imagination and a keenness of perception that of themselves alone make the work notable; the prominence allotted to the different events is given with justness, the opening chapters and the description of an attack of sea sickness overwhelming Eirene's aunt being the only examples of a temporary loss of balance; the minor characters of the book,—Aunt Emily, a delightfully futile old creature, touched in with rare skill and malice; Bela Lukacs, a disgusting cosmopolitan Jew whose confident intrigues are ended by a table knife in his back,—Edhem Bey, a very fashionable Turk who talked Stravinsky in 1913 and yet found cause to desert in the sight of cholera in his army—and many others just as good—are drawn with precision and vivid faithfulness; and above all the onward movement of the book is continuous. The choice of this chronological method, in which a strict sense of perspective and of order had to be preserved, Mr. Nicolson has proved to be wise; but a writer less skilled technically than he would surely have come to grief.

No review of "Sweet Waters" could end without a remark on Mr. Nicolson's style. He has in this book adopted a short, sometimes a staccato, and occasionally even a pizzicato, mode of description, a mode which has enabled him to give some penetratingly fine pictures of natural scenes, to supply convincingly a condensation of remembered thought, and to shift the staging quickly. But there is a monotony in these things. One remembers that it was (wasn't it?) Mr. H. G. Wells who set the fashion of short chapters which switch from one line of the story to the other, and though we do not have his ineffable dots, we do have in panting profusion the verbless sentences and the orgy of full-stops. However, Mr. Nicolson has travelled his peripatetic journey with certainty and dispatch, and we congratulate him on his achievement. If we for our part should have preferred less visualisation and more vision, it is probably our fault; and we only carp in this unfair way because we think we could have had what we wanted, so fastidious a sense of style and so nice an insight into affairs has the author when he chooses to exercise them.

## BARBARY.

**"BARBARY: THE ROMANCE OF THE NEAREST EAST." By A. MacCullum Scott, M.P. (London: Thornton Butterworth 12s 6d net.)**

In these days of quick travel, contrasts are becoming less noticeable and sudden changes a portion of everyday life, but the three days in which Mr. MacCallum Scott takes us from London to the beginning of his travels in Barbary are as good a series of contrasts as one might hope to find. Then he shows us that, in the Roman Empire, Britain and Africa occupied similar positions, that the same great men won fame in both Provinces, that they found in each the same monuments of a race that was before the Phoenicians. There the resemblance ends, and we are treated to a record of journeyings and peoples as unlike England as one could desire. There is, compressed between the covers of this volume, all the Romance promised in the sub-title, and whether the description be of the past or of the present, of the native population or of Europeans met during the author's wanderings, the attention is never allowed to flag.

Of particular interest at the present time is the chapter on the French rule in Northern Africa and the comparison between this and our own rule in Egypt. At the outset, it appears strange to the British mind that Algiers is an integral part of France and that Arabs are recording votes which send Representatives to the French Chamber of Deputies.

Economically, the author considers the British in Egypt have been more successful, but, employing the "methods of Rome," France has constructed roads and railways, built irrigation and drainage works. Schools have been introduced and, with them, *boulevards* and *cafés*, cinemas and newspapers. Last, but by no means least important, comes the development of agriculture. As an example, before the French occupation, the Franco-African Company acquired over 300,000 acres of land between Hammamet and Sousse, on the Byzacenian Plain from which Rome drew so much wealth. Under the native administration, much opposition was encountered, but, under the new régime, vines, olives and figs have been planted, and corn has been sown, and the French town of Enfidaville has sprung up, with a church decorated with mosaics from the ancient Christian Church at Uppenna. Politically, however, the French would appear to have been more successful. Apart from the difference in races, several reasons are put forward to account for this. The military régime in Egypt had a far from good effect; but the chief causes of the French success would seem to be the bestowal on chiefs and leading men of all the privileges of Europeans, the absence of an educated proletarait, and possibly the remoteness of Turkey.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

"My Balkan Log." By J. Johnston Abraham. (London: Chapman and Hall, 15s. net.). Illustrated.

"Arabic Thought and its Place in History." By Dr. De Lacy O'Leary. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. Trubner's Oriental Series. 10s. 6d. net.).

"Ten Essays on Zionism and Judaism." By Achad Ha-am. Translated by Leon Simon. (London: George Routledge and Sons. 6d. net.)

## THE MESOPOTAMIAN MANDATE.

At King's College, London, on November 23, the Principal (Dr. Ernest Barker) read an interesting lecture dealing with the question of the political aspects of mandated territories. Among other things he said there were three classes of mandates: (a) where the Mandatory Power gave only administrative assistance and advice, (b) where it administered, and (c) where it treated the mandated area as an integral part of its own territory. Mandated territory in classes (a) and (b) might become in time an entirely independent state.

Mr. W. G. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., said the system of mandates was now beginning to work in full. With regard to Mesopotamia, last week Mr. Fisher had made a statement to the Council of the League of Nations sitting in Paris that the British Government were going ahead of the mandate, and had set up a King of Irak, who had been received by the population and crowned There was in that the germ of a new independent nation. The provisional independence of the state had been acknowledged, and a statement to that effect would go to the world and to the Council of the League. We were limited in Mesopotamia to administrative advice and assistance, and the time would come—personally he hoped it would soon some—when the mandate could be wound up, and Irak be recognised as a nation, and admitted along with Persia, Siam, and other states as a member of the League.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**
December 15 (New Style).
December 2 (Old Style).
Rabia II, 16, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar
Kislev 14, 5682 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Basil Zaharoff has arrived at Monaco.

Lady Somerleyton has arrived at the Hotel St. George, Algiers.

Lady Mabelle Egerton is leaving for Madras on a visit to her sister, Lady Willingdon.

Earl Granville, hitherto British Minister in Athens, is now in London, preparatory to taking up his new post as British Minister in Copenhagen.

Lieutenant-General Sir A. S. Cobbe, V.C., Military Secretary at the India Office, who is suffering from pneumonia, is improving.

The Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, has recovered from his indisposition, and has resumed his duties at the India Office.

Marquess Curzon, of Kedleston, left London on December 10 for Hackwood Park, Basingstoke, to join Marchioness Curzon of Kedleston.

The Duc and Duchesse de Montpensier are visiting the Duchess of Aosta of Naples, before leaving for Egypt, where they will spend the winter.

Prince and Princess Christopher of Greece will arrive at the end of the week at the Villa Kasbeck, Cannes, which they have leased from the Grand Duke Michael.

M. Stefanovitch, who has been appointed Third Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, arrived in London last week from Belgrade.

The United States has accredited a Minister to Bulgaria, Mr. Charles Wilson, formerly American Chargé d' Affaires at Sofia. He presented his letters of credence to the King of Bulgaria on December 5.

At noon on Saturday next, the anniversary of the birth of King Alexander, King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes a special service will be held at the Russian Church in Welbeck Street, Marylebone.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* states that the Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of Mehemet Ali on Prince William of Sweden, and other decorations on Swedish officials.

The marriage took place on December 1, at Kensington between Ernest L. Norton, Indian Civil Service, and Phyllis Marguerite Hannah, youngest daughter of P. F. S. Spence, of 4, Edwardes Square Studios.

The marriage was celebrated on December 5, at All Saints' Church, Malabar Hill, Bombay, between Captain Gilbert Leonard Stratton, M.C., R.F.A., and Ruthie, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mardon, of Eastwood Manor, East Harptree.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place shortly, between Major C. J. S. Le Cornu, M.C., 56th Punjabi Rifles, Frontier Force, elder son of C. F. and Mrs. Le Cornu, of Bagot, Jersey, and Violet Grace Robinson, daughter of Mrs. E. B. Atty of Southbourne.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place in Constantinople on December 14, between Captain Stephen Ayshford Sanford, younger son of Major and Mrs. Sanford, Triley Court, Abergavenny, and Princess Olga, daughter of Prince and Princess Mickeladze.

The marriage took place on November 5, at the Cathedral, Bombay, between Captain Steuart L. Symonds, M.C., only son of the Rev. B. L. Symonds, Rector of Haversham, Bucks, and Norah, younger daughter of the late Mr. E. I. Worley, Solicitor, Stoney Stratford.

An engagement is announced between Captain G. Murray, M.C., the Seaforth Highlanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Murray, Thurso, Caithness, and Phyllis daughter of Mr. and Mrs, G. Campbell Devon, Kotah, Rajputana, India.

The marriage arranged between Stephen H. Longrigg of the Mesopotamian Civil Administration, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Hemsley Longrigg, and Florence Amy, elder daughter of Mr. H. A. Anderson, C.S.I., will take place in Baghdad about the end of January.

Sir James MacKechnie, managing director of Vickers, Limited, Barrow-in-Furness, left Liverpool on December 10 for New York in the Cunard liner Scythia. Before returning to England towards the end of next month he will visit important industrial centres in Canada.

The marriage took place on December 2 at Mozuffarpur-Bihar, India, between Ralph Brathwayt Beevor, I.C.S., eldest son of Ralph J. Beevor, of St. Albans, and grandson of the late Sir Thomas Beevor, Bt., and Phyllis Margaret Ashburner, eldest daughter of Henry Oliver Minty, of St. Albans.

The marriage was celebrated on November 9, at St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund, by the Rev. W. R. Crichton, betweeen Charles Oliver Robins Mosse, M.C., Captain, 120th Rajputana Infantry, I.A., son of Col. W. O. M. Mosse and Marion Beatrice Barber, daughter of Sir Edward Fairless Barber.

The Roumanian Minister in London has handed the insignia of various orders conferred by the King of Roumania for services during the war to the following: Viscount Burnham, Mr. H. A. Gwynne, Mr. G. H. Mair (of the League of Nations), Mr. Frederick W. Emett (of Reuter's Agency), and Professor Gerothwohl.

In response to a request transmitted through Sir Percy Cox, our High Commissioner in Mesopotamia, the Archbishop of Canterbury has nominated a chaplain to minister to the civil population in and near Baghdad. The Chaplain nominated is the Rev. Frank Ford, B.A., Cambridge, at present curate of Ross, Herefordshire.


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He served in Egypt, France, and Mesopotamia during the war.

There was an informal reception at the Bulgarian Legation last week in honour of the Bulgarian Trade Delegates, Monsieur Kassiroff and Monsieur Mutapboff. Among the guests were : The Dowager Lady Boyle, Lady Grogan, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Messrs. Noel Buxton, Leland Buxton, Goad, Montague Bell, Conwill-Evans, Major Neate, Major Cumberbatch, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Mandeville, Monsieur Liudskanoff, the Staff of the Bulgarian Legation, Mr. Ledward, Mrs. Archibald Little, and Mrs. Philip Howell.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The Constantinople Correspondent of *The Times* states that Mgr. Meletios Metaxakes, the former Archbishop of Athens, has been elected Œcumenical Patriarch of Constantinople by a big majority. He was the Venizelist candidate.

Rear-Admiral John Luce, C.B. Rear-Admiral in Charge, Malta, Colonel Arthur Frank Umfreville Green, C.M.G.,D.S.O., Colonel on the Staff in Charge of Administration, and Group-Captain Charles Rumney Samson, C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C., Air Officer Commanding Royal Air Force, Malta, have been appointed members of the Nominated Council for Malta.

## OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Mr. Richard Bagot, the novelist. Mr. Bagot spent a great deal of his time in Italy, in whose service he wrote much. It will be remembered that he occasionally contributed to *The Near East.*

The death is announced of Mr. B. A. Malandrinos, who had been Greek Consul-General at Liverpool since 1893. Throughout the whole of his consular connection with the city he took an active part in the various movements for the relief of distress amongst Greeks, and he was also practically sympathetic in his support of charities of a national and local character.

The death has occurred of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Roos-Keppel, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., He was born in 1866, obtained his commission in 1886, and joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in India. He took part in the operations in Burmah between 1887 and 1889, and in 1895 was transferred to the Indian Staff Corps. After seeing a good deal of active service he was in 1907 transferred to the Indian Supernumerary List, and was afterwards appointed Chief Commissioner and Agent of the Governor-General on the North-West Frontier. On the manifestation of Afghan hostility early in 1919, he was in the position of chief political officer to Sir A. Barrett. Shortly afterwards he was appointed a member of the Council at the Indian Office.

The death has occurred of Mr. Ernest Myers, the distinguished scholar and poet. Born in 1844, he went up to Balliol in 1863, and there won the Gaisford Prize for Greek verse. His first publication was his prose translation of the "Odes of Pindar," issued in 1874. This was followed three years later by a volume of poems which included "Reveries de Voyage" and "Philhellene." In 1880 he published "Rome and Other Poems," and in 1882 he collaborated with Mr. Andrew Lang and Mr. Walter Leaf in a prose version of the "Iliad," intended as a companion volume to the translation of the "Odyssey" into prose by Messrs. Lang and Butcher. His third book of poems, "The Judgment of Prometheus and Other Poems," was published in 1886, and in 1904 he issued a collection of some of his earlier works under the title, "Gathered Poems." Mr. Myers was a member of the Hellenic Society from its foundation.


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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1921.


## THE EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

Although Adly Pasha has resigned his post of Prime Minister of Egypt, it would be a great misfortune if the Egyptian people were to adopt the view that negotiations for a treaty of "peace, amity and alliance" with Great Britain must on that account be at an end. A dispassionate examination of the Papers issued in connection with the discussions in London suggests that the negotiations broke down from lack of sympathetic understanding on the part of the negotiators, rather than from any insuperable difficulty in the problem to be solved. It should still be possible for Great Britain and Egypt to come to an agreement on the basis of the draft Convention submitted by the British Government; but in the light of the Delegation's reply to the proposal and of the wording of the communication addressed by the High Commissioner to the Sultan, it is not difficult to understand why the negotiations failed. Adly Pasha evidently did not regard himself as Egypt's plenipotentiary representative with a free hand to frame the best treaty with Great Britain that he could arrange; he was merely counsel, speaking to his brief, the terms of which had been previously restricted within hard and fast lines by popular clamour at home. The British Government, on the other hand, while anxious to respect the Milner Agreement, had not had the personal touch with the Egypt of to-day, that Lord Milner's Mission obtained as a result of their visit, and if the negotiations were carried on in what we may call the tone of the letter to the Sultan, there can be little wonder that the Egyptian Delegation assumed a still more unbending attitude as the days passed. The letter, let it be said at once, is a masterly *exposé* of the facts of the case, not a statement of which can be challenged; but whether the laying of emphasis on certain features of the situation was expedient or conducive to the success of the negotiations may be open to doubt. In fairness to the British Government it may be supposed that the Egyptian Delegation at the outset proved itself so oblivious to the underlying conditions of any relationship, past, present, or future, with Great Britain, that the tendency to emphasize these conditions was intensified. Negotiations undertaken in such circumstances were doomed to failure from the beginning. But the outspokenness of the British Government's letter may help to clear the air. There can be no question that a number of elementary points had been overlooked in Egypt; but with a new Ministry an opportunity offers to review the whole position, and the first thing to be done is to examine the terms of the suggested convention without reference to any tone alleged to have been adopted in the London negotiations or to any passages in the covering letter.

The Convention offered by the British Government accords recognition to Egypt as a Sovereign State in alliance with Great Britain. That is the status so eagerly desired by the Egyptians, and as they cannot hope to secure it except with the consent of Great Britain, it would be thought that they would not lightly reject the offer, when by accepting it they stand a much better chance than they have at present of modifying other arrangements which in their opinion clash with the main purpose of the Treaty. It must be obvious to every thinking Egyptian that the British Government is within its rights in claiming for the British Empire "exclusive rights and responsibilities" in regard to Egypt. If these rights and responsibilities did not exist, there would be no question at this time of a treaty between the two countries. No Egyptian, however, can charge Great Britain with having abused her position by exploiting the country for her own benefit. Mistakes may have been made; the higher branches of the Administration may have been too extensively filled by Britons, and too exacting a standard of efficiency may have been required. But the aim has invariably been the moral and material uplifting of Egypt, and Great Britain has sought for herself no financial gain nor commercial privilege. This state of affairs affords *a priori* evidence that, when the British Government stipulates for "an exceptional position" for its High Commissioner, and for British Financial and Judicial Commissioners, it is still seeking Egypt's good and not its own. If it be urged, as it was by the Delegation in London, that for an Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs to maintain the closest relations with the High Commissioner is to submit to the latter's direct control in the conduct of Foreign Affairs, it must be pointed out that no difficulty can arise, unless the Foreign Minister wishes to act in opposition to the spirit of the Treaty. Similarly British Financial and Judicial Commissioners will have no cause to "interfere" with the internal administration of the country, unless Egypt's own interests are threatened. As far as the Egyptians are concerned, these officials can be for the most part figure-heads, if the Government lives up to the standard that it claims to be able to maintain; but their presence at the beginning alone makes the new era possible and protects the young State from foreign interference of a really derogatory character.

We should have preferred to see Egypt treated with greater confidence or at least with greater generosity; but it has to be admitted that the British Government has not received much encouragement to this end from the Egyptians themselves. Some estimate can now be formed of the prejudice caused to Egyptian interests by Zaghloulist excesses; the extremist movement has not only compelled Great Britain to take her own responsibilities more seriously, but it has also stirred up a number of foreign Powers to insist upon safeguards which only British troops can supply. Moreover, it is impossible not to feel disappointment at the way in which the Egyptian Delegation played its part in London. The reply to the proposals of the British Government is an indifferent effort, whether regarded as a piece of dialectics or as an essay in constructive statesmanship. The effect must have been to exasperate the Foreign Office and to impart more sting to the letter addressed to the Sultan. The arguments advanced might satisfy platform oratory; they could carry no weight in a council chamber. They would seem to have been written for perusal in Egypt, rather than as a considered answer to a serious proposal. An Egyptian Government can do better than this, and we had hoped that Adly Pasha, having taken counsel of his countrymen, would find it possible to accept the draft Convention as a basis for a Treaty of Alliance. Now that he has resigned it devolves upon his successor to resume the negotiations. The terms offered by the British Government are just what the Egyptians care to make of them. They can be in their hands either merely the latent "guarantees" that the actual situation requires, or the "deed of guardianship" and the "permanent pact of subjection" that they were dubbed by the Delegation. As the former they will give no trouble to Egyptians anxious to serve their country well, and in the course of a few years will carry their own repeal. If the negotiations are not resumed, the British Government will direct the Administration on the new lines now laid down in the letter to the Sultan; but it is unlikely that on those lines Egypt will tread the path of peace or make the material progress of which she is capable.

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## ADVENTURES IN CENTRAL ASIA.

### From Tashkend to Orenburg and Back.

*By Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah, F.R.G.S., M.R.A.S.*

I was marched along what seemed an almost interminable road, until at last my captor and I came in sight of a dreary expanse of coal-fields, the appearance of which gave me much misgiving. On the road thither my brain had been working rapidly and I had tried to think out various schemes for extricating myself from the clutches of the Bolshevists. At first it had occurred to me that my escort might be bribed, but when I recalled that his sergeant was aware of the circumstances of my arrest, I at once saw the hopelessness of such a plan. If I were to hold him up with my revolver I might manage to escape, but it would certainly not be for long, and the consequences upon recapture were too dreadful to contemplate. There was nothing for it, indeed, but to accept for the moment the situation which had been created by my own rash action.

We soon arrived at a large wooden erection which was labelled in Russian and Turki "Department of Mines," and after knocking at the door, my *ispolkom* hustled me into a stuffy, low-roofed room, in which several very unkempt Russians were drinking tea and smoking. "Is this one of your men?' asked the policeman brusquely, of a fat, untidy, little man who was wearing a pair of top-boots at least three sizes too large for him.

"Do you think I know all these dogs by headmark?" he replied, drawling out his words in the most offensive manner possible, while he looked me up and down contemptuously. "Speak up, fellow, what mine are you attached to?"

"I am attached to no mine," I said. "I am an Afghan subject, and demand to be set at liberty without a moment's delay."

"What proof have you of what you say?" said the official.

"Here's my proof," said I, producing my passport, which had been made out during my visit to Afghan territory.

He scrutinized it carefully, and his manner changed somewhat. I was, of course, well aware that all Bolshevist officials had the strictest orders to treat Afghan subjects with the greatest possible courtesy.

"There seems to have been some mistake," said the official, politely enough, "but haven't you yourself to blame? What are you doing in that rig-out?"

"I arrived in Samarkand only yesterday," I replied. "I hoped to get work on the coal-fields as an overseer, and bought these old clothes for the purpose."

"So you want to be an overseer?" laughed the man. "Can you speak Turki fluently?"

"Yes," I replied, "and half-a-dozen other languages as well."

"There isn t much money in it," he said deprecatingly, "but the work isn't hard. It consists in going down the mines and seeing that the men are kept steadily at it. As a matter of fact we could do with a dozen men like yourself, and if you care you can start right away."

Now this was precisely what I had hoped would turn out, although I had intended to reach my object from a different road from that I had to traverse.

Accompanied by one of the group who decorated the office of the superintendent, I was taken across the road to another building, where I was enrolled as an overseer. Here my duties were carefully outlined, and I was given a notebook in which to jot down my reports. I found that I had to keep a careful account of the daily output of each of the hundred and forty labourers under my charge, and to see that they did not fail to reach a daily minimum of output—a minimum, I may say, at which many British miners would gasp. I was then taken down the mine shaft on a crazy lift which was not even covered in. When I reached the workings I was shown that part of them over which I was to exercise supervision. Up till now this had been done by a Russian, who was glad to be rid of the job, and who welcomed me heartily, going round with me and pointing out those workers who were recalcitrant. Faithfully to describe the appearance of these poor wretches would be impossible. I do not think I remember ever having seen such a dejected lot of men as these unfortunate serfs, the victims of Bolshevist ambition. Not only did they put in from fourteen to sixteen hours' work every day, but the rations they received were limited to a totally inadequate portion of black bread, a quantity of milk curd and water. For the most part they were silent. The guards and overseers did not understand their language, and mistaking what they said for complaints, answered them by blows with the knout. This instrument was, of course, unknown above ground in Soviet Bokhara, but the Bolshevist below ground is a demon in a very real hell.

I had presided over a portion of this inferno for about ten days when a slight accident, caused by a fall of coal, necessitated my quitting work for a day or two. Lying in the rude quarters provided for me, I confessed to myself that I had seen enough of subterranean Bolshevism. When I had recovered I said not a word to anyone, but going into the town purchased an outfit of decent clothing, and took the first train I could get to Tashkend. There is a large Russian element in this town and its streets present an extraordinary variety. At one moment the visitor is in a popular thoroughfare, at the next, almost in the country, while another step will bring him into a veritable wilderness, with vast ravines through which brawling streams take their way. It is, indeed, a most romantic place, with its time-worn mosques and *medressés* or theological colleges. Beyond its gardens we find the open steppe stretching right away to the mountains.

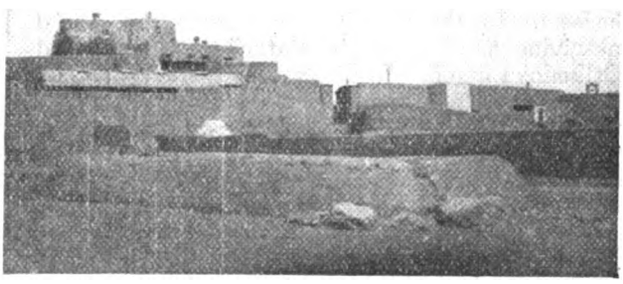

*Photo by I A Shah.*

**JAMRUD FORT, at the Mouth of the Khyber Pass.**

It was while in Tashkend that I conceived the idea of going right through Russian Turkestan to Orenburg, the great centre of Muscovite activity. I knew very well that if I went by the Tashkend-Orenburg line I should sooner or later be pulled up, and at first I actually thought of proceeding by caravan. Then it occurred to me that I might revive my old role of merchant. The Russians there, I argued with myself, must be badly off for many things, and if I could take them exactly what they wanted they would probably not investigate too deeply into my credentials. Of course I knew full well that I should lose on the deal, as the rouble is at present worth so little, but on the other hand I was most anxious to see the fountain-head of Bolshevism in Central Asia after having heard so much about it. But what to take with me—that was the question. There was one thing I knew that the Russian always required, that he could not in fact exist without, and that was—tea. I had heard that they were very short of this commodity at Orenburg, whereas plenty of the block tea, which is commonly used in Asia as a means of exchange, was constantly coming from China into Bokhara.

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I was aware that I could best make my purchase at the Bish-Agatch, or the southern part of the city, next to the Russian town, so I betook myself to the bazaar of that quarter. Bolshevism did not seem to have in any way hampered the activity of the place, and I noticed that Tashkend was by far the most orderly of any of the towns of Central Asia, with the possible exception of Kabul. I went around pricing block tea, and bought a very considerable quantity, at the same time purchasing one or two chests of the finest China tea procurable, which I thought might come in handy as a present to officials. I then went to the Passports Office and describing myself as a Persian merchant, had very little difficulty in obtaining the necessary *visa*.

Next day I took the train for Orenburg. It was by far the most dreary journey by railway I have ever made, for the train seemed to stop at least three times an hour. Not only were we held up to permit of the passage of endless coal-trucks, but numerous troop-trains passed us both going to and coming from Orenburg. The men they contained seemed to me to belong to almost every Asiatic race, Persians, Tartars, Uzbeks, and even Chinese, and I can assure you this passage of large bodies of men opened my eyes regarding the operations of the Bolshevists from a military point of view. It took us the best part of five days to reach Orenburg, and when at last I got there, I was so stiff with prolonged sitting that I could hardly move at all. I found Orenburg quite a good-sized, modern, Russian town. The approach to it is through a beautiful and well-wooded country, and the city itself is built on a broad plateau, from the level of which its spires and roofs rise in quite an imposing manner. I found quite a comfortable room in a good hotel, and enjoyed the luxury of a bath and bed.

*(To be continued.)*

## TWO FETE DAYS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

*Liubliana, December 7.*

**The Anniversary of the State.**

The birthday of the State, December 1, was observed in Liubliana with becoming ceremony and sincere enthusiasm. In the morning there were the official Thanksgiving services at the Catholic Cathedral and the Orthodox Church. In the evening there was a Gala performance at the Theatre, where the patriotic one act play *Jugana, vila najmlaisa* (Jugana, youngest of the vile) was followed by Shakespeare's "*Comedy of Errors*" in Oton Zupanshitch's amazingly clever translation, and with the quaintly mediaeval Levantine setting which has been devised for it here. At the same time the Liubliana branch of the Yugoslav Journalists' Union had arranged a festival concert at the Union Hall, the chief feature being the participation of no less than six local choral unions, their programmes consisting entirely of beautiful arrangements of national songs from all over the Kingdom. The famous Glasbena Matica, the Conservatoire Choir, was, of course, incontestably the best; but one or two others ran it pretty close. The Opera had wisely given its Gala performance (Mousorgsky's "Boris Godunov") the night before.

**St. Nicholas' Day.**

Since then we have been busy celebrating St. Nicholas' Day, observed here with all ancient pomp and circumstance. I was lucky enough to be invited to two receptions by the Saint,—to the Sokols' party at the National Club, and on St. Nicholas' Eve to the entertainment organised by the colony of natives of the Littoral (the Primorci) here in Liubliana. On that occasion the Saint (in private life formerly a well-known citizen of Trieste) made an excellent speech,—finely patriotic, humorous, and with an undertone purely tragic. The Primorci are a hospitable folk. As I glanced round the crowded hall, I was forcibly reminded that I had spent pleasant festive evenings with them already in the old days of exile during the war in London,—little dreaming then, that I should one day be their guest in Yugoslavia,—and they still in exile!

## SHAKESPEARE IN SERBO-CROATIAN.

*(By Our Belgrade Correspondent.)*

Shakespeare is as appreciated in Yugoslavia as he is everywhere. Dukat, in his "Pictures from the History of English Literature" (in Croatian) calls him the greatest dramatic genius the world has ever seen, and Miletitch refers to "Romeo and Juliet" as the greatest love-song of all ages. One of Croatia's greatest literary men, Shenoa, has translated "Romeo and Juliet," and "Much Ado about Nothing," Spiro Dimitrovitch has translated "Julius Caesar," Harambastitch has translated "Hamlet" and "The Merchant of Venice," Laza Kostitch has translated "King Lear," Badalitch has translated "Antony and Cleopatra," and the "Sonnets" have been done by Beshitch, Trnski, and Svetislav Stefanovitch. The plays are often produced in Belgrade and in Zagreb.

The translations look a little odd to us. For the benefit of those readers, not an inconsiderable number nowadays, who know some Serbo-Croat, we give the renderings of the old familiar titles. "Love's Labour Lost" is "Zalundni Trud liubavi," "The Comedy of Errors" is "Komediya Zabluda," "The Taming of the Shrew" appears as "Ukroshena Goropad," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which is quite a favourite, becomes "San letne noshi," "Much Ado about Nothing" is "Mnogo vike ni zashto," "As you like it" is "Kako vam drago," "The Merchant of Venice" is "Mletishki Trgovac," *Mleci* being the old Slavonic name for Venice. "All's well that ends well" is somewhat disguised as "Konac delo krasi," literally, "The end adorns the thing." "A Winter's Tale" is simply "Zimnya Prisha," "Measure for Measure" appears as "Milo za drago," an idiomatic translation. Very little knowledge of Serbian is requi e l to recognise "Vessele Zhene Vindzorske," "The Merry Wives of Windsor," which was not long ago advertised all over Belgrade, but an accurate knowledge of the Continental calendar is required to recognise "Vesper Sv. Triyu Kralya," literally, "The Evening of the Three Holy Kings," which is nothing more or less than "Twelfth Night."

The proper names are usually simply transliterated and spelt in the Serbo-Croat phonetic way, but some are actually translated. For instance, Sir Toby Belch becomes *Tobiya Podrig*, a literal translation of his euphonious surname, but Sir Andrew Aguecheek is more freely rendered as *Andriya Bledonos*, literally, Pale-nose. Bottom the Weaver appears as *Tkalac Prelac*, where the first word means a weaver, but *prelac* is a rare word meaning an effeminate man, and diagnosed in Ivekovitch and Broz' Croatian lexicon as a "man who spins, and mixes more with women folk than with men: often in their speech they resemble women more than men." It is a localism in Syrmia, and is derived from the verb *presti*, to spin.

The following extract from a translation of "Hamlet" by Harambashitch is worth reproducing:—

Bit, ili ne bit—pitanye je sada:
Je l' shasnije po liudski duh sve str'yele
B'yesneshe sudbe smireno podnosit,
Il' proti c'yelom moru svih nam yada,
Oruzhat se i smyelo sve dokonshat.

## ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, CONSTANTINOPLE.

We are pleased to learn that in the recent examination held by the College of Preceptors the English High School for Girls, Pera, Constantinople, did extremely well. Anahide Bahri, a pupil of the school, was placed 1st in the Honours Division of the Preliminary Grade, an two other pupils, Nevart Reizian and Nellie Menahem, were placed 6th and 7th in the same Division and Grade. These successes were secured in competition with girls from schools and colleges all over Great Britain, and they reflect great credit on the Pera school.

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### CAUCASIAN DINNER.

Madame Zarchi presided at the Caucasian Dinner, held at the Lyceum Club last week. Among the guests were Prince Michel Soumbatoff (Georgia), Mr. Mehtiev (Azerbaïjan), Lord Clifford, Mme. Bagratoumi (Armenia), Mr. Gugushvili (Secretary, Georgian Legation), Mr. and Mrs. Lo Chong, Dr. Serge Zarchi, Commander and Mrs. Thimm, Mr. and Mrs. Djakelly, Mr. Tcheidze (President of the Georgian Parliament), Mr. and Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mr. Brayley Hodgetts, and Mr. Nikita Balieff, who, with other Caucasian members of the Chauve-Souris company, gave Georgian, Armenian, and Azerbaïjanian folk-dances and folk-songs in national costume. Armenian songs were rendered by Miss Manna Karina, and Georgian ones by Countess de Tomasevitch. The Chairman said that, although the three countries now forming these republics had not always been the best of friends, they were now firmly united, and could set an example of friendship to older nations.

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

### The Entente and Turkey.

The view is expressed in some quarters that Great Britain must eventually follow France in making a similar agreement with the Kemalists. Mr. Crawford Price, however, in the *Sunday Times* of December 4, will have none of this, though he admits that "it will require the exercise of considerable diplomatic skill to undo the nefarious consequences of the Franco-Kemalist pact." He continues :—

France has sold her moral birthright for a mess of political and commercial pottage, and if the Entente is to endure in fact as well as in name she must find some way out of the impasse to which her self-centred and economically tainted adventure at Angora has led. Fortunately, there are evidences that the agreement reached by M. Franklin Bouillon is largely disapproved in France, where there is genuine concern at the implied departure from an historic French tradition. There is a slight possibility that the opposition in the Senate may in fact, lead to such modification of the Treaty as would again qualify France to take her seat on the international jury. Let us hope that this desirable consummation will be reached. But, in any case, something must be done to conclude peace with Turkey, with whom we are actually still at war, and to secure a settlement of the Eastern Question endowed with some, at least, of the elements of permanency.

We cannot request Mustapha Kemal to dictate the terms of peace, because in that case we should lose all we have fought for. The straightforward course would be to frame a treaty on the basis of the Armistice, give the Greeks moral backing, and permit them to raise the necessary funds and impose our will upon the Turks. This would be a logical development, but it seems that we are afraid of Moslem sentiment, afraid of inter-Allied discords and afraid that the Hellenic army would fail in the task—although while bereft of all assistance, it continues to hold the key position in Anatolia.

Thus we are again driven to seek salvation in compromise. Actually there are only two conditions upon which we are absolutely bound to insist—the security of the Ottaman Christians and the freedom of the Straits. To hand back the Christians of Asia Minor to Kemalist rule would be unthinkable. No paper promises have ever prevented the Osmanli from torturing and massacring their victims, and flushed with victory over the greatest powers of Europe— for they would regard it as nothing less—they would be more than usually incorrigable. As for the Straits, with Western Asia Minor in Turkish hands, freedom of transit would be a mockery.

Our minimum requirements entail at least the creation of an autonomous State under Turkish sovereignty which will englobe the majority of the Christian population. Such a State must have the force necessary to maintain itself against revolution within and invasion from without; otherwise security for Christians and Straits alike goes by the board. This is beyond the powers of a gendarmerie; it necessitates the existence of an army, and for the present the Greek army is the only machine in sight. Now, it is certain that Kemal, after his recent diplomatic success, would refuse voluntarily to sign any peace based on these lines, and it would be somewhat futile to expect the Supreme Council with one of its members hopelessly compromised to insist upon its execution.

To sum up, we cannot accept Kemal's terms; he will not accept ours, and we are disinclined to assist the Greeks to force them upon him. There would seem to be only one chance of escape from the predicament, and I venture to suggest that, this being essentially an international question, we should call in the League of Nations. The prestige of that body has increased of late, and its decisions would undoubtedly carry more weight both in Turkey and abroad, than those of the now discredited Supreme Council, which can apparently be defied at will. In this case the League would have also the power to impose its decisions, for the Hellenic army is at its disposal, and with international co-operation of the most inexpensive kind, would be assured of success. Moreover, if Christian minorities were perforce left under Ottoman rule, their fate would be an international concern and it would be the duty of Geneva to provide real guarantees for the security of their lives and properties.

### Great Britain and the Bolshevists.

In the *Yorkshire Post* of December 1 Mr. Raymond A. Coulson, writing from Constantinople, had an article upon "Bolshevik Propaganda and Great Britain." He begins by noting the growing dissension between the Left and Right wings of the Communist party since the signing of the Anglo-Russian Trade Agreement, the dispute being over the advisability of continuing Bolshevist propaganda in the East in spite of the Agreement. He proceeds :—

The main lines of the arguments are as follows: Both sides agree that the ultimate communisation of the countries surrounding Russia is essential for their continued existence. There is no Communist idealism in this. All that was abandoned long ago. It is simply that the Soviet leaders recognised that, unless they can overthrow the "Capitalist Powers" of Europe, Sovietism in Russia must fall. The motive is one of sheer self-protection. The issue is as to the best means of achieving this end. Trotsky Buckharin, Dzerjinsky, Stalin, Surits, and Radek, backed by the Komintern, argue that propaganda in Western Europe has failed, and that there is no prospect of overthrowing the Powers by direct approach. The alternative is to raise Asia against Europe. They are convinced that this can be done, and that the result will be successful. The continuance of Eastern propaganda is therefore essential to the further existence of Communism. "The trade agreement with Great Britain," they argued, "has been given a trial, and has not been any use to us. If we have a breach with England we do not lose anything. If, on the other hand, we give up Communist propaganda in the East we shall fail to achieve the necessary revolution." This party regards Britain as the key to the whole situation. They are convinced that they can overthrow Great Britain by producing chaos and revolution in India. This idea is indeed held with an almost fanatical fervour by all Communists. In brief, the Trotsky party admit the possibility of their being thrown out of Russia, and would then propose to retire into Asia. That is to say, they wish to prepare against necessity a line of strategic retreat from which they could the more effectively attack.

Lenin and his party of the Right reply that they are in no way opposed to the communising of the East and the West. But all that has been done so far has been a series of experiments, the results of which have not been happy. The situation has beome dangerous. It is necessary now to go slow, stabilise the position, and conserve the resources of Russia. Should Communism fail in Russia, it will be discredited in the eyes of the whole world, and will have no chance anywhere else. The cause stand or falls in Russia. Trotsky's military plans, and the enormous sums spent on propaganda, are weakening the country. The policy, though to be resumed later on, must be abandoned for the present. It is always easy to start a fire in Asia, but difficult to control it. There is danger that an Asiatic revolutionary movement might become a nationalist movement instead of a Communist. By going slow it would be possible to exercise control and guidance into the right channels.

Trotsky replies that England is the main factor, and can be overthrown only by pressure in the East, and that must be brought to bear as soon as possible. No, says Lenin, go very slow, even disarm suspicion by giving some proofs of loyalty to the Trade Agreement. We need Agreements with other nations. If we have a breach with Britain they will be out of the question.

The result of all this was a decision to modify the propaganda policy, and half-hearted orders to this effect were given to the Council of Action and Propaganda. The Council refused to agree, and I have the best reason for knowing that propaganda was continued actively right up to the receipt of Lord Curzon's Note. This Note appears to have shaken the Komintern, who did not realise that we knew as much as we did. They have been

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at pains to assure us that the charge was not based on fact, but the latest inside information from Moscow establishes the fact beyond doubt. The Note produced a great stir at headquarters, and renewed instructions were sent to Baku demanding the cessation of propaganda. Baku protested, but was apparently forced to comply. Whether or not the Council of Action and Propaganda will continue to refrain remains to be seen, but it may be taken as highly improbable that they will do so. There is every likelihood that they will try to continue by secret means.

## A Near Eastern Settlement?

Hope is not yet dead of a settlement in the Near East, as witness the *New Statesman* of December 3 :—

The "plain speaking" which is now in full blast between Paris and London, coupled with the equally plain exhaustion both of Greece and of Turkey, encourages us to hope at last for a settlement in the Near East. The main conditions of that settlement, if it is to be a real one, are clear. They are, as they have been from the beginning, first, an agreed policy between ourselves and France and Italy, and secondly the disgorging by Greece of the Empire that she cannot swallow. We may have a just ground of complaint against France in her conduct over the Angora Treaty, and Greece, may have a just ground of complaint against us in our blowing hot and cold on her Anatolian adventures. But complaints will not alter the facts. The Franco-Turkish agreement cannot be wiped off the slate; the Greek collapse cannot be undone. M. Gounaris, the Greek Prime Minister, in an interview in the *Daily Chronicle* the other day, appeared to suggest that it could. "Our cause," he said, "is the cause of the Allies," which means presumably that we are to perpetuate Mr. Lloyd George's original blunder of using the Greek armies to crush the Turkish Nationalists, and if necessary (it evidently would be necessary), to give them large material assistance. There is not one person in a thousand in France or Italy, who will agree to that. What we can agree is that the non-Turkish populations ought to be protected from massacre or persecution by the Turks. The new-found enthusiasm of some of our statesmen for defending Armenians is an interesting spectacle; it is welcome, and we hope it will last. But it obviously cannot be made an excuse for not handing back to Turkey what is indisputably Turkish—the whole of Anatolia. For the town and port of Smyrna, where the Greeks are in a majority, we shall probably be forced back on the solution of an international régime. With the Greeks in control, peace and prosperity are impossible, after all that has happened, either in Smyrna itself or further afield.

But *The Times* of December 8 harps rather on the difficulties in the way of a settlement. After outlining the essential preliminaries to peace-making, it says :—

A great difficulty lies in the uncertainty and elusiveness of the Turkish factor. The Greek advance has given the Turks an appearance of unity, and it is with Mustapha Kemal, as representing the strongest element of Turkish resistance, that the Allies will have first of all to deal. Mustapha Kemal will no doubt retain a considerable prestige whatever happens; but the opening of peace negotiations will reveal certain inconsistencies and irregularities in his position. He is not the Caliph in whose name agitators have cried aloud for support for the Kemalist cause throughout the Mahomedan East. It is the Sultan of Turkey who is looked up to as Caliph by the maiority of Mahomedans, and the Sultan, his entourage, and a great many Turks who acknowledge his authority are antagonistic to the Kemalists. The Sultan is in Constantinople, and the theory put forward by the agitators is that he is a prisoner of the Allies, which is untrue. At any rate, the relations between the Sultan and Mustapha Kemal will have to be re-adjusted before the Ottoman State can be regularly re-established as the result of peace.

A further difficulty lies in the very complicated relations that subsist between Mustapha Kemal and the Russian Bolshevists. There is not the slightest reason to suppose that the Kemalists are in any sense Communists, though a peculiar brand of Turkish Bolshevism has been evolved, under the name of "The Green Apple," by some enthusiastic young Pan-Turanians. Mustapha Kemal, however, cut off from the West, has been compelled to make terms with the Bolshevists who have supported him as an Ally in their attack on the West. They support him in his extreme nationalist demands. They may easily withdraw their support if he modifies his claims and so alienates his more violent followers, or if he actually comes to terms with the Allies. One result of the conclusion of the agreement with France has apparently already been to create trouble in the Kemalist rear.

## The Future of India.

In the series of letters which Mr. H. G. Wells is writing from Washington in the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Daily Express*, he is touching on many world problems. On December 9 he considered the problem of India. After stating as his opinion that all the mischief-makers in the world cannot prevent the English-speaking States (including Ireland and America) from becoming "a great predominant association," and that "no other communities have so much to give mankind," he comes to India :—

But when we turn to India we turn to something absolutely outside the English-speaking world-girdle. One of the many manifest faults of that most premature project, the League of Nations, was the fiction that it brought in India as a self-governing nation, as if she were the same sort of thing as these self-governing Western States. It was, indeed, a most amazing assumption. India is not a nation or anything like a nation. India is a confusal variety of States, languages, and races, and, so far from being self-governing, her peoples are under an amount of political repression which is now perhaps greater there than anywhere else in the world. Politically she is a profound mystery. We do not know what the political thoughts of the peoples are, nor, indeed, whether they have in the past any political concept at all parallel to those of Western civilisations.

He then points out that Western democratic methods are not necessarily adaptable to all the world, and then contrasts the Washington Conference, with its idea of concerted abstinence and withdrawal from other peoples' affairs and territory, with the Versailles Conference, of which he says :—

Versailles and the League of Nations were ridden by the idea of mandates all over the world. Where disorder or weakness reigned a single mandatory Power was to go in, making vague promises of good behaviour, to rule and exploit the country. It was the thinnest, cheapest camouflage for annexation. It was a hopeless attempt to continue the worst territory-seizing traditions of the nineteenth century, while seeming to abandon them. It was Pecksniff Imperialism. So we had the snatching of Syria, Mesopotamia, and so forth, but any soundly-constituted league or association of nations should render that sort of thing unnecessary and inexcusable.

The reason lying at the base of the British occupation of India, of the Japanese occupation of Korea, of the French occupation of Indo-China, and so forth, is a perfectly sound reason so long as there is not an association of nations. And it is an entirely worthless one when there is such an association: it is that some other Power may otherwise come into the occupied and dominated country and use it for purpose of offence. The case of the British in India—that they kept the Imperial peace for all the peoples of the land, that they warded off Afghan raiders who devastated India in the early eighteenth century, and afterwards the long arm of Russia—is a very good one indeed. The British have little cause to be ashamed of their past in India, and many things to be proud of, but they have very good cause indeed for being ashamed of their disregard of any Indian future. They sat tight and turned peace into paralysis. They did not educate enough or release enough. Always the excuse for suppression has been the fear of a rival. Well, the whole purpose of an association of nations is to eliminate the fear of a rival and all that the fear entails in war possibilities.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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**The Rupee to go Lower ?**

The position with regard to rupee exchange is again attracting attention. The rupee is weak now at a time of the year when it should normally be firm because, as I have pointed out, India's markets are to all intents and purposes closed to her at the moment. But another factor, it seems, must now be taken into account, and one also conducing to weakness, namely India's financial position. That there will be a very considerable deficit on the Budget is evident, and the effect of that on the rupee will probably be pronounced. Forecasts are apt to be hazardous, but I may say that in some quarters a considerably lower rate would not cause surprise. Viewing conditions as a who leit would appear that we shall have to wait a long time before seeing that 2s. rupee!

**The Coming B.I.F.**

Promising accounts reach me regarding the prospects for the approaching British Industries Fair. Manufacturers are showing a greater interest in it as an instrument of trade development than ever before, and already it is evident that when the curtain rises at the White City on February 27 it will disclose an extremely comprehensive range of the products of British industry. Invitations to the Fair have been sent out to buyers in every country, and in other ways every endeavour has been made to draw attention to the value of the exhibition as a medium for commerce ; and it is gratifying to be able to state that, judging by the present indications, a very large number of buyers may be expected to visit the fair. As it will evidently be held at a time of reviving trade, with a "boom " in all likelihood ahead, that means that good business will be done.

**British Overseas Bank.**

In view of the prevailing conditions the results obtained by the British Overseas Bank for the year ended October 31 can only be regarded as very satisfactory. The profits amounted to £102,326 as compared with £199,744, but the difference is very much less than that, as the latter figure represents the profits before the deduction of taxation. The dividend is maintained at 6 per cent, absorbing £60,000; £10,000 is allocated to the reserve against interests in foreign banks, and a similar amount is placed to premises account, while £57,526 is carried forward as against £35,200.

**The Shipping Outlook.**

Dealing with the shipping position at the annual meeting of the P. and O. last week, Lord Inchcape pointed out that they were passing through a period of unprecedented depression, and the P. and O. had had a poor year. Instancing some of the difficulties encountered, he cited the high price of coal in the spring as the result of Government control, the strikes of the miners and joiners, and enormous increases of wages. In this connection he referred to the way in which production costs have been kept up by the trade unions and the Wages Boards so that "the world had been unable to purchase from us." In the shipping industry wages have been slightly reduced, but are still far above what can be paid, and, added Lord Inchcape, " wages afloat will have to come down, if British shipping is to hold its own."

**Roumanian Consolidated.**

The favourable prospects for the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields were emphasised at the general meeting. The company, the chairman pointed out, possessed some of the best lands in Roumania, it had over 170 kilometres of pipelines, and " it had succeeded in getting what the directors regarded as the most valuable thing that had ever been developed in Roumania, namely the gas business " and " they were in a position when the world trade was stabilised to 'make good' to an extent equal to, if not better than, any of their competitors in Roumania." He was unable, however, to give any indications as to when the company would again be in a position to pay dividends. This depends, of course, on the exchange, in which connection there will be general agreement with his statement that Roumania will probably be one of the first countries to right itself in view of its great resources.

**Balkan Loan Negotiations.**

The satisfactory news is forthcoming from our Sofia Correspondent this week that the negotiations in connection with the proposed loan by Messrs. Balfour, Beatty and Co., are progressing favourably, and the fact that a member of that firm has gone to Bulgaria to conduct the further discussions seems a very hopeful sign. From several points of view it is to be hoped that an early settlement will be reached. It would for one thing afford definite proof to the other Balkan countries that they can safely look to this country for support ; for another it would be bound, as I have pointed out before, to have an important repercussion on British trade endeavour.

**Commentator.**

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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## EGYPT.

**Outlook Uncertain** *Cairo, November 26.*

The week has seen business go from bad to worse. It is not necessary to point out again how closely interwoven at the present time are the political and commercial situations. An improvement of the former means a corresponding improvement of the latter, and conversely. The political situation having been absolutely stagnant, business has remained stagnant also. But whereas it is sometimes a good thing for a political situation to remain quiet, a similar quietness is not an asset to business. If the commercial community could see the outcome of the resignation of the Cabinet and the publication of the official documents it could utilise the current slackness by making plans for the new situation likely to be created by that outcome. But no one knows the issue. All that is likely is that if the political situation clears business will improve; if the political problem becomes more acute business will grow weaker. It is significant that the smaller merchants who usually visit the villages to buy small amounts of raw cotton have temporarily abandoned trade, primarily because there is no real strength in the cotton Bourse at Alexandria and, secondly, because the future is so dark.

## THE SUDAN.

*Khartoum, November 22.*

**Provincial News.**

Reports from Dongola Province state that as a result of the general fall in the price of dhurra the labour situation is temporarily easier as far as wages are concerned. Daily wages now run from PT 3½ to PT 5. The drop in the price of dhurra is responsible for the cessation of work on the part of privately owned pumps. The river has kept a high level during the month of October thus simplifying the work of irrigating, and in certain places the deposits of silt have been so large as to increase the cultivable areas of the islands to a considerable extent.

The Halfa Province date market is much depressed. Very few merchants are buying, and the prices offered are very low. The date crop promises well, but the market prospects are gloomy as a considerable quantity of last year's crop is still in store unsold. Dhurra cultivation throughout the Province is good, and crops are expected to be satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

News from Kassala is to the effect that cultivation in the southern districts is promising but that the land in the vicinity of Gedaref is suffering from lack of rain. An early harvest is looked for. The Gash flood was very low in October, and irrigation was dependent on periodical flushes. On three different occasions the river entirely ceased to flow. The opportunity was seized by the Agricultural Department to dam the river and divert the succeeding flushes into the canal and secure sufficient reserves for a second watering of practically all the area under cultivation. With the exception of a few high patches the cultivation of the irrigated area is good. The Gash cultivation is well forward, and both dhurra and cotton crops are healthy and promise a fair yield. The appearance of smut is notified from Kassala, but it is early to estimate the extent of damage from this pest. A slight earthquake shock was experienced at Kassala on September 21 at 1.3 p.m. Later news from the Province states that crops are fair but damage has been sustained from birds and crickets. The latter are especially plentiful, and have almost entirely destroyed the crops in some areas.

Rains are reported to have been abundant in the Nuba Mountains, and crop prospects throughout the province are excellent.

Crop results in the White Nile Province are likely to be disappointing owing to the poor rains in September and October.

Blue Nile crop prospects are equally gloomy, the heavy rains having arrived too late to do much good.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, December 4.*

**Export of Wine.**

In view of Roumania's abundant wine crop, which is reported to be also of superior quality, the Government has consented to allow the export of wine free of duty. The barrels, in which the wine is transported, will also be free of duty, and the guarantee deposit for the return of the barrels will not be required. Exporters, however, will have to pay a statistical tax of 10 bani per litre.

**British Locomotives.**

The local Press announces that the British Export Credits Scheme Department is sending representatives to Roumania in connection with the supply of 600 locomotives for the Roumanian State Railways, and that these locomotives will be paid for with Roumanian grain.

**New Metal Coins.**

The Ministry of Finance has put into circulation metal coins of 50 bani. The 25 bani metal coins are expected to arrive shortly from Switzerland. This metal is an alloy of 94.30 per cent. aluminium, 3.41 per cent. zinc, 0.63 per cent. copper, 0.64 per cent. silicium, 0.72 per cent iron, and 0.30 per cent. of other metals. The average weight of five 50 bani coins is 1,194 grammes density 2.88, diameter 21 m-m, and thickness 1.6 m-m.

**Good Beet Crop.**

It is reported that the beet root crop this year is very abundant. It is thought that local refineries should be in a position to sell their sugar production at a price varying from 8 to 10 lei per kilogramme.

## GREECE.

*Athens, December 3.*

**Trade Decreasing.**

According to the statistics of the Ministry of National Economy, imports for the first quarter of 1921 amounted in value to 411,846,580 drachmae, as against 549,602,908 drachmae for the coresponding period of 1920. Exports during the same quarter amounted to 134,557,507 drachmae, as against 140,360,614 drachmae last year.

**Agrinion Tobacco.**

A telegram from Agrinion states that marked activity hasprevailed in the tobacco market there during the last few days. The price on account of the demand has doubled within a week. The price of aromatic tobacco is now 9-10 drachmae per oke. The largest quantities of Agrinion tobacco are exported to the United States and Belgium.

**Storage of Currants.**

The Ministry of National Economy has drawn up regulations for the working of centres for the storage of currants. This step was taken as a result of a protest of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at Patras against the very faulty handling of this commodity, of which America consumes considerable quantities.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, December 5.*

**The Proposed Loan.**

The negotiations between the Bulgarian Government and Messrs. Balfour Beatty, and Co., are going on very satisfactorily. An important member of the firm is expected to arrive in Sofia very shortly in order to discuss more fully with the Government the conditions under which the loan will be offered.

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**Contract for British Firm.**

It is gratifying to be able to state that notwithstanding the adverse exchange United Kingdom firms are still able to compete in the supply of tin. A contract to supply the Bulgarian State Railways with a considerable quantity of this commodity was obtained by a British firm which is established at Sofia.

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, December 6.*

**The Zagreb Bourse.**

The report of the Zagreb Bourse for the past year, which has only recently appeared, contains some interesting particulars. The growth of business since 1919 is remarkable. The totals (in millions of krone) are as follows (the figures in brackets representing the totals for 1919):—Banks and finance house shares, 381 (124); industrial shares, 197 (13); foreign exchanges, 1,071 (44); foreign currency, 782 (127). It is perhaps even more interesting to compare the business of the Zagreb Bourse with that of Belgrade for 1920. The totals are as follows (in millions of dinars), the first figures in each case being those for Belgrade:—Bank shares, 4, 95; industrial shares 3,49; foreign exchanges, 322,267; foreign currency, 311, 195. The difference here, too, is remarkable, for Zagreb has a great preponderance in banking and industrial securities, while Belgrade does a very much larger business in foreign exchange. The reason is that Croatia and Slovenia are much more developed industrially than the eastern and western portions of the kingdom, also, the tradition of the "saraf" probably lingers in Belgrade, where, it should be remembered, the Jewish element is the Levantine Spanish-speaking branch of that indomitable race, and Spanish may be often heard in the streets of Belgrade while their co-religionists in Zagreb look to Vienna and Budapest as their spiritual home. The Jewish element contributes very largely to the money-changing business in Belgrade and still retains much of the oriental in its character.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, November 24.*

**The Import Duty.**

The Smyrna Representatives of the High Commissioners are collaborating with a view to find a practical *modus operandi* regarding the application of the 11 per cent. *ad valorem* customs duty

The respective High Commissioners in Constantinople have agreed upon the following proceedure:—(1) Adoption of the system of valuation which was in force before the war. (2) All cases of disagreement between the Customs House and the importer to be referred to a commission composed of a delegate each from:—(a) The Customs Administration; (b) The Provisional Commission of Control sitting at the Ottoman Public Debt; (c) The Consulate; (d) The Chamber of Commerce of the nationality of the importer. This is considered to be too unwieldy a method for Smyrna, and it is proposed to simplify it by having disagreements settled by an official of the Customs House and a delegate from the Chamber of Commerce of the nationality of the importer; and in cases where these two cannot agree, the question to be decided by a referee appointed by both.

**The Question of Mortgages.**

The joint committee representing the five chambers of Commerce in Smyrna have addressed a petition to the Representatives of the High Commissioners praying that they will induce the Greek authorities to apply the Turkish Law regarding mortgages on property and goods. At the present time mortgagees are unable to foreclose mortgages, with the result that most mortgagers refuse to pay interest on their mortgages, and as they received the money when the Turkish gold pound and the £ sterling were worth about Ps.400— instead of as at now worth about Ps.800—the mortgagees already stand to lose 50 per cent. of the money advanced. On the other hand the mortgagers are allowed by Hellenic Law to increase the rent of their property from 5 to ten times the pre-war amount, so that their income is assured. There are, however, many instances where the owners of property are not able to collect any rent at all, or a very small rent quite insufficient to cover cost of upkeep of the property, hence they use this excuse for not paying the interest on their mortgages.

## BULGARIAN PRE-WAR DEBTS.

As already announced in these pages, two representatives of Bulgarian business houses have recently paid a visit to England with a view to coming to an understanding with British creditors on behalf of firms in Bulgaria who owe money in connection with goods supplied before the war. A meeting was held at Cornwall House, London, at the offices of the Clearing Office for Enemy Debts, under the chairmanship of Mr. Egerton Grey, the Controller, and as a result of the discussion which then took place between the two Bulgarian delegates, M.M.Chr. Kassiroff and Kroum Moutafoff, and representatives of the London, Manchester and Bradford Chambers of Commerce, and the Federation of British Industries a scheme was agreed upon and is to be submitted to the Bulgarian debtors for their confirmation. On behalf of the Bulgarians it was urged that there was no desire to evade payment of their debts; but liquidation at the present rate of exchange was beyond the means of the firms concerned, and must inevitably force some of them into bankruptcy. The proposal that they put forward was that where payment was insisted upon at once by a British firm, it should be effected at the exchange rate of 200 leva to the pound; but that otherwise the debts should be allowed to run on for ten years, bearing interest at six per cent. as from the date of the raising of the Bulgarian moratorium in May of this year, no interest being due for the war period. The representatives of the British creditors were not prepared to accept these terms, but finally agreed to the following scheme:—That payment should be made at 200 leva to the pound or that the debts should be allowed to run on for six years, bearing interest at five per cent. for the whole period of the debt, inclusive of the war years. It was also stipulated that Bulgarian debtors should provide some guarantee for payment. The British creditors wished to have the guarantee either of the Bulgarian Government or of the National Bank; but as no such guarantee could be given, it was left to the Bulgarian firms to make other arrangements to this end.

Both parties to the negotiations are to be congratulated on having arrived at a friendly adjustment. Much of the credit due belongs to the Controller, Mr. Egerton Grey, who paid a visit to Bulgaria to satisfy himself as regard to the actual conditions in that country. It was obvious that debts incurred when the lev stood at 26 to the pound could not be liquidated with any justice with the lev at 600-700 to the pound. A number of British firms had appreciated the position and had compounded with their debtors, realizing that it was better to make some sacrifice in regard to old debts, which had for the most part been written off, than to lose the Bulgarian market for all time. The remainder had not been ready to take a long-sighted view of the situation but their representatives at the meeting, impressed by the testimony of the Controller, who was supported by the Federation of British Industries, were induced to make the concessions indicated. For the moment, with the rate of exchange so adverse, the Balkan market may be largely closed, but there can be no doubt that it has great potentialities, and it is all important that every effort should be made to keep this market for British goods. It should, therefore, be a matter of policy with British merchants and manufacturers to make things as easy as possible at the present moment for their Bulgarian debtors. Although the payment of interest for the period of the war has been officially stipulated, the matter should be left open for discussion in individual cases. The goal to be aimed at is that all the countries of the Balkans should be set upon their feet again at the earliest moment, and no hard and fast policy should be enforced to prevent Balkan merchants from resuming their trade relations with Great Britain.

Palestine's imports for the first eight months of this year totalled £E.3,614,592, as compared with £E.3,192,355 for 1920, an increase of £E.422,237. The exports for the same period amounted to £E.502,021, as against £E631,061, for 1920, a decrease of £E.69,040.

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## YUGOSLAVIA'S MINERAL RESOURCES

### Important Copper Mines.

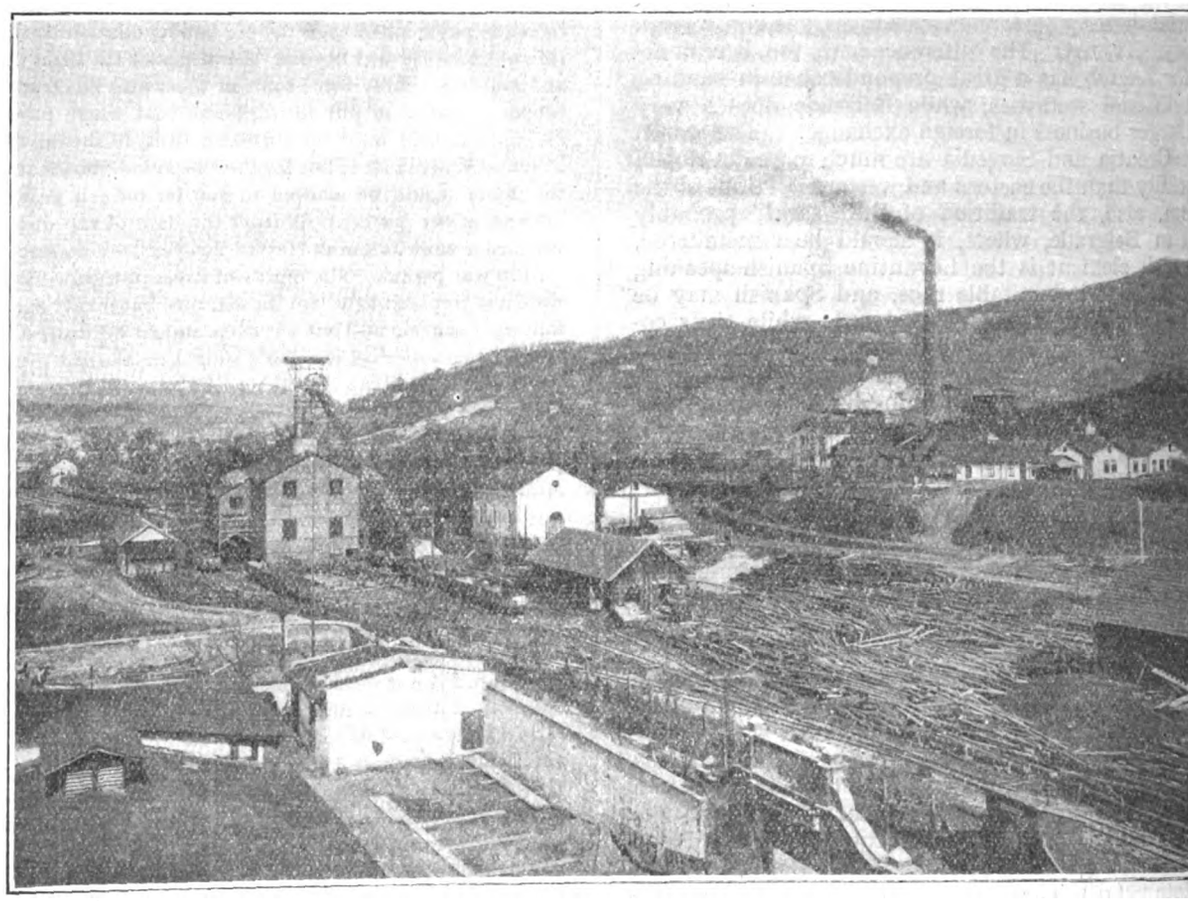
(*Conclusion.*)

While manganese ores are to be found in many parts of Yugoslavia the only centre at which there have been extensive workings is at Cevljanovitz, in Bosnia which also contains other deposits of less importance. The output of manganese ore in Bosnia in the last forty years, Mr. Wray points out, has amounted to about two hundred thousand metric tons. The economic value of the deposits in Serbia is uncertain. From 1900 to 1914 the output of the Cevljanovitz mines ranged between 7,939 metric tons in 1900, and 1,114 metric tons in 1904, the total for 1914 being 4,120 metric tons. No statistics are available for 1915, but the output for 1916 and 1917 amounted to 22,674 and 48,851 metric tons respectively, totals which show very plainly the efforts made to utilize these deposits. The report states that the reserves of these mines are believed to be considerable.

Serbia itself is the most important centre for the ores of antimony, of which there are abundant occurrences in the neighbourhood of Loznitsa, Krupanj, and Zavlaka. Mr. Wray states that antimonite occurs at Cemernitza, near Fojnitza, in Central Bosnia, possibly in sufficient quantity to warrant further exploitation. "This very old mining district," he adds "has apparently been largely worked out by successive generations of miners from Roman times onwards. In the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries they were being worked by Saxon miners. The ancient miners, however, seem to have largely worked these veins for the gold and silver they contained, and it is believed they may be profitably exploited for stilnite and possibly mercury in some places. Such a view is supported by the fact that during the purely exploratory work carried out in this district some twenty years ago unworked portions of lodes rich both in stilnite and cinnabar were met with. It is possible that deep level workings may yet lead to successful results."

Old workings in various parts of Yugoslavia show the extensive scale on which gold mining was carried on in the Roman period and the Middle Ages. Before the Balkan and European wars 300 kilograms of fine gold were obtained annually in North-East Serbia, while exploratory work has been carried out in Bosnia, "The tests made within recent years" says Mr. Wray "have revealed the presence of gold in the gravels and alluvia of the Vrbas, Bistritza, Lasva, Narenta, Rama, and Neretvitza rivers. In the Vrbas valley it averaged .648 grams per metric ton; in the Bistritza it varied from .032 to two grams; and in the Lasva valley, in the proximity of Lasva, it averages 0.26 grams per metric ton."

Since Yugoslavia possesses the famour Bor copper mines it is superfluous to add that the State's resources of this mineral are very considerable. Besides Bor there are important mines in the district of Majdanpek, which, Mr. Wray points out, has always been one of the most important mining centres of Eastern Europe. The pre-war output of the States comprising Yugoslavia of about seven thousand metric tons came almost entirely from Bor and Majdanpek. In the years preceeding the war there was a rapid increase in the production of the Bor mines. For 1907 the production was 1,220 metric tons, while the total for 1911-12 was 7,575 metric tons. It is uncertain to what extent the mines were utilised during the occupation of Serbia, but it may be taken for granted, in view of the use that was made of other mineral deposits, that very large amounts of ore were raised.



Kreka Collieries; Donja Tuzla, with important salt springs.

Deposits of lead ores exist in many districts of Yugoslavia. The principal districts are round Pliberg and to the south and east of Celovatz in Slovenia. The Misitza mines in this region are stated to have produced 45,000 metric tons during the war. There are numerous lead and zinc ore mines in Serbia, but the production has not been important.

Bauxite and kaolin are the chief aluminium minerals worked in Yugoslavia. There are important deposits of bauxite in Western Croatia, while there are rich deposits

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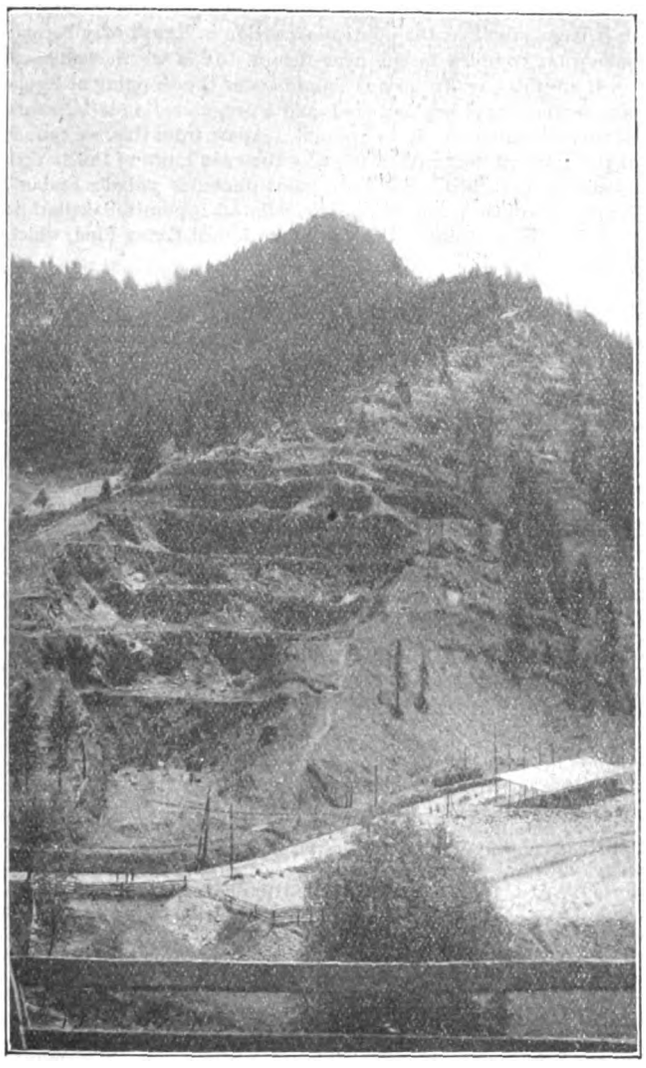
in Central Dalmatia, in the neighbourhood of Sibenik. Kaolin has been worked in a few centres in Serbia, but "many of the deposits of kaolin in Yugoslavia have as yet not been completely investigated."

Rock salt occurs in a number of localities, mainly in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Most of the production is obtained from the salt works at Donja Tuzla, in North-East Bosnia, a district from which salt has been obtained from early times. "The resources of the salt-borings at Donja Tuzla," says Mr. Wray "must be very large, judging by the fact that there is very little sinking in the ground level of the brine over so extended a period. At the present rate of increase it is estimated that the salt borings at Donja Tuzla will yield sufficient brine for at least another hundred years' working."

Considerable exploration work is now being carried out in Yugoslavia in order to determine whether oil



Hematite—ore workings, Smreka.

exists in a sufficient amount to make its utilisation worth while. "Several parts of the Serb-Croat-Slovene State" says Mr. Wray "present apparently favourable conditions for the occurrence of oil, but as yet the only area it has been proved in any quantity is in Croatia. Here the Upper Tertiary beds are extensively developed and but little disturbed. Borings made in two localities have indicated the presence of heavy tarry oil, together with large quantities of natural gas." It is obvious that should oil exist in paying quantities it would add enormously to the potentialities of Yugoslavia.

The minerals referred to in this and the previous article on Mr. Wray's report by no means exhaust the list of those to be found in Yugoslavia; but they include the most important, and for the rest we would refer readers to the report itself, which they will find a veritable mine of information. From our brief survey it will be seen that Yugoslavia is exceptionally fortunate in having at its disposal mineral resources of considerable importance, which should prove a valuable factor in the future economic progress of the State. But for that to be the case it is necessary, as we have pointed out, that conditions should be favourable for the work of development.

## BUILDING IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Commercial Secretary to the British High Commission in Constantinople in a recent report points out that to obtain some idea of the magnitude of the housing problem which awaits solution in Constantinople it is necessary to recall the conditions which existed before the war. It was then very difficult to accommodate the cosmopolitan population of the city. Many quarters consisted, and still consist of old wooden houses in close proximity to each other, and were an easy prey for fire which, in the absence of an effective fire fighting organisation, has claimed whole districts in the course of a day. The recent fire in Scutari, for instance, destroyed over 1,000 houses in twelve hours, and rendered over 10,000 people homeless. The effect of the war was on the one hand to put a stop to any attempts which were being made to ameliorate conditions, and on the other hand to accentuate the lack of houses through a great influx of refugees from South Russia and Asia Minor.

It is only during the past few months that any systematic attempt has been made to rebuild the city. At the present time various building societies and private enterprises are displaying great activity and large houses are being erected in every quarter. A recent Law passed by the Constantinople Prefecture forbids the erection of houses made wholly of wood or with a wooden exterior, and this has caused a great demand for building stone and bricks, etc.

Apart from the increased costs of production in the United Kingdom, and heavy freight rates necessary in transporting building material to Turkey, there are other contributory causes to the lack of British trade in this direction, viz.:— (1) the increasing activity of local manufacturers; (2) the absence of British architects in the city; (3) the low standard of building carried out by local architects and builders.

Houses are built of materials that would be unhesitatingly condemned in the United Kingdom, and their actual construction is faulty and in many cases dangerous. A British merchant in the building trade in the city has assured the Commercial Secretary that the majority of the newly erected houses would not pass inspection by a United Kingdom authority, but that at the same time it is hopeless to endeavour to introduce a higher standard into the trade locally. A few rich Europeans occasionally require a house built in accordance with modern requirements as regards architecture, and materials, but their number is rare, and, in general, cheapness is the first consideration.

## AGRA AND OUDH DEVELOPMENT LOAN.

The India Office has issued the following communique:—The Provincial Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh issued in September their first loan under the new constitutional arrangements, which permit local Governments to raise money on the security of the revenues allocated to them under the Reforms Scheme. The loan was described as a development loan. The objects for which the funds were required included the construction of canals, the improvement of communications, and forest and agricultural expansion. The issue took the form of limited-option (5-20 years) bonds at 93 carrying interest at 6 per cent, free of Indian Income Tax. The Government, while retaining the option of repaying the loan at par after 1931, undertook to redeem the whole amount outstanding at par in 1941. At the same time provision was made for the repayment, at the *option* of holders, of a limited amount of the loan at par each year after 1926. The terms of the issue were novel so far as Government loans in India are concerned, and evidently proved attractive. The Government of the United Provinces appealed for a minimum of two crores, but though the lists were closed before the expiry of the full period originally contemplated, over four crores are understood to have been subscribed.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended November 26, amounted to £6,416.

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# Cotton & Cotton Goods.

## PIECE GOODS TRADE WITH INDIA.

*(By Our Manchester Correspondent).*

Although recent mail advices being received from India regarding the piece goods industry are reading a little more cheerfully the position out there is still far from satisfactory, and a prominent Manchester shipper who has just returned from an extensive business trip in the Dependency, while admitting that there was some improvement in Bombay and Calcutta, stated that the position in the up country districts was still very bad. He attributed the lack, or smallness, of local demand from the consuming centres to the shortage of money among the masses owing to the poorness of the last year's monsoon, and to the fact that the benefits of the excellent monsoon just passed have not yet been felt.

With regard to the Gandhi boycott of foreign piece goods my informant said that the movement had weakened in some places, but it was still a force acting against our trade. "There does not seem much hope of new business at the moment" he said "as the ruling values in India of Lancashire goods are so far below to-day's replacing prices. Fancy and dyed goods are in the worst position, and these can be bought in the bazaars up country at something like 40 per cent below what they could be sold at in Manchester to-day, and even at these figures there is not much local business doing. The stocks of Lancashire goods in the bazaars and in dealers' hands are comparatively very small, but both the importers and the banks hold fair quantities waiting a revival of local buying." Questioned as to the future course of events he gave the opinion that a steady demand would soon create a shortage of Lancashire goods as there was very little in transit and practically no business on the books of the merchants in this country.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

*(From Our Own Correspondent).*

*Manchester, Saturday.*

Although the position of the market is still far from satisfactory the tone during the past week has been rather better. Business has not developed to any particular extent, but there are indications of prices grounding in some sections. It is apparent that producers have made up their minds that it is better to curtail production on a larger scale than accept some of the ridiculous bids which have been about. The provisional settlement of the Irish settlement has had a good effect upon traders, and if only the political situation in the Eastern countries would brighten the general outlook for Lancashire would undoubtedly be better. With regard to the cloth inquiry for the outlets of the Near East not many offers have materialised, and only limited purchases have taken place. Producers of Egyptian yarns have not met with very much encouragement. Buying has been very patchy, and special sorts have attracted more attention than common marks. Rather more cloth demand has been about for India, and some encouraging transactions have taken place in jaconets for Madras, grey shirtings and mulls for Calcutta, and fancies and specialities for Bombay. Discouraging advices have been received from China, and sales have been few and far between. South America has continued dull. In American yarns for home consumption there has been slightly more inquiry, and although wretched prices have had to be taken the sales have been rather better. A substantial turnover has taken place in bundles for India. Other outlets have not been active.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date December 7:—Extreme quiet still rules in this market; sales show a further falling off, and prices a further decline. A small general enquiry has been experienced, and the depressing hand-to-mouth purchasing, which has lately become a feature of our market, has again been in evidence. All spinners have the same thing to relate: the impossibility of selling yarn except at a considerable sacrifice, and even then they meet with competition. Yesterday a slightly better tone became apparent on the news of an Irish settlement having been reached, and rumours of a moratorium having been granted to Germany. The effect of this was merely ephemeral however, and little fresh business resulted. To-day, the market has sunk back into its previous state of lethargy, and another small decline has been registered. Manchester reports have been far from exciting. More enquiry has been forthcoming from India, but actual offers still remain too low. The exchange difficulty seems to have effectually bolted the China outlet. for the time being at any rate. Yarns for India showed some improvement at the beginning of the week, but the home trade appears quite lifeless. Further curtailments of outputs are reported, both for cloth and yarn. A letter from Egypt, which comes from a source usually very reliable, and which errs, if anything, on the careful side, gives us a figure of 4,500,000 cantars as the total receipts expected in Alexandria this season, that is, from 1-8-21 to 31-7-22. They regard these figures as ultimately "bullish," and inform us with regard to Upper Egyptian cotton that this quality is already practically exhausted.

It is possible that the political situation in Egypt may become somewhat complex in the near future. It is worth watching, for if anything really serious should occur the shipping of Egyptian cotton would be hampered, and a very live "bull" feature at this side might easily be created. Apart from this, we cannot at the moment see any reason why the even tenor of the market should be disturbed. Sales 900 bales (includes 70 bales Sudan). Quotations of Brown and Upper are reduced 25 points, Sakellaridis is reduced 75 points, with the exception of Extra Fine, which is only 25 points lower.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 5:—

Season.—November 26 to 28—a few showers in south-east Madras, Assam and north Bengal. November 29 and 30—weather dry. December 1 to 4, local rain in north-west India, south-east Madras, and Assam. Condition of Crops.—December 2—in Bengal, outlook of spring crops satisfactory, but rain required in places. Punjab and Central Provinces unchanged. December 5—in Assam, outturn of cotton poor, transplanted winter rice good, broadcast rice, tea, sugarcane, and prospects of rape and mustard normal. Markets.—December 1—Bombay cotton market firm. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 416 December-January; Rs. 408 March. Cotton Contracts Board reinstated as controlling body for cotton trade for unspecified period and first two tender days in December cancelled, first tender day now being seventh. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to to November 25 were 443,000 bales as compared with 203,000 in the same period of the last year. In Bombay piece-goods market, demand and ruling rates discouraging. Stocks on October 31 were 62,389 packages. Local goods moving slowly. December 2—Calcutta jute and gunny markets quiet but steady. Indefinite extension of short time agreement, which allows withdrawal on two months' notice, now reported definitely settled. At tea sale on November 29 quality offered was good an Dooars excellent. Prices stationary for all teas up to 1 rupee. Higher priced teas irregular. Common grades 3 pies lower. 400,751 packages sold to date, at an average price of 9 annas 5 pies per lb. Shellac—December 2, T.N., Rs. 155. December 2 Special Straits quality rice, Rs. 500 for December new crop. Freight Rates.—Conference Lines' freight rates for United Kingdom reduced to 40s. less 10 per cent. on jute basis. This has come down from 50s. which was in operation on November 20. Railway Survey.—Cawnpore-Ajmere Railway survey by State Railway officer sanctioned. No change in bank rates.

The Bulgarian Government has authorized the importation free of duty of carbonic acid, potassium carbonate, adhesive substances, nails, spirits of wine, and animal fat used in the manufacture of soap.

The production of the Jáchymov radium mines, Czecho-Slovakia, during the present year amounted to two grammes.


## THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

### INTERIM DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that an Interim Dividend of Four Shillings per £5 share on coupon No. 66 is payable on and after the 15th. December, 1921, at Messrs. Barclay's Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W. and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C. or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, form of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated Alexandria, 23rd. November 1921.

By order of the Board,

K. B. Woodd Smith, Manager.


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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

**A Wolseley Record.**

Further to my recent note regarding the wonderful performance of the 10-h.p. Wolseley car at Brooklands, where it succeeded in setting up 10 records in rather over six hours, I am now informed that extended investigation into the record book shows that it also set up five more, viz., the 400, 500, 600, 700, and 800 kilometre records, the speeds being in the neighbourhood of 132.5 kilometres per hour. This feat of achieving 15 records all in one run is in itself something of a record, I should say. Certainly it is a wonderful car, and, as I said before, the car which did the run was a standard model in all essential respects.

**A New Carburettor.**

I am informed that a new type of carburettor has just been invented, by means of which much heavier oils than heretofore can be used as fuel for motor vehicles or for any other application of the internal combustion engine fitted with electric ignition. The claim is made that this carburettor will reduce the cost of the oil used by two-thirds, by which is no doubt meant that the quantity of oil used will be reduced by that amount. If so, it would seem probable that the inventor is claiming far too much; a carburettor which would show a 10 per cent. saving over other patterns would be almost too great an advance to be believed; to claim a saving of 66 per cent. would seem to go beyond the bounds of reason. It is said that the inventor is so sure of his facts that he has applied for patents in 27 countries, and that he has also convinced a Danish aeroplane company to the extent that they are using it on their machines. Details and drawings of this carburettor are awaited with interest.

**A Recent Conversion.**

For some time past a steam driven auction dredger has been in use on the Sumas River in Washington, and recently it was converted to the electrical drive, the work being carried out in a remarkably short time. The steam plant was removed bodily and the necessary electric motors and controlling gear fixed in place. The dredger has several motors, mostly for subsidiary purposes, but the load is dealt with by a 1,000 h.p. machine of the latest type. This drives the main pump at 300 r.p.m., and the next largest motor is one of 150 h.p., which works the cutter, through a set of reduction gears. Altogether the dredger consumes 1,325 h.p., at a pressure of 440 volts on the brushes. The supply voltage of 2,300 volts is transformed down from the overhead service mains of the power co., which carry energy at 34,000 volts, by means of three 500 KVA transformers mounted on a barge which is moored to the bank of the river, but which can pay out sufficient flexible cable to allow of the dredger, which also is fitted with ample flexible connectors, being moved to practically any position. Should it be necessary to take the dredger beyond the range of the scow and its connections, the transmission line can be tapped at any required position and a supply obtained in that manner.

It appears that after the crew and workmen had become used to the new method of working, the dredger was able to handle about 600 cubic yards of average silt per hour at a total cost of a trifle over one halfpenny per cubic yard, a cost which compares more than favourably with that which obtained previously.

**Electric Locomotives.**

The advantages of electric locomotives of the battery type have frequently been dealt with in these columns, and it has been pointed out that for shunting purposes, for working trucks in dockyard, wharf and colliery systems and for handling comparatively heavy traffic for short distances they possess a number of advantages. I hear that the Blackburn Corporation has had experience with one of these locomotives, the makers of which were the English Electric Co., the engine being run on the railway siding that lies adjacent to the new electricity work at Whitekirk. A locomotive of average size, it has a haulage capacity of 80 tons, but is, of course, capable of an appreciable overload. Indeed on occasion it has handled a train of eight 10-ton loaded wagons making a total load of about 100 tons. It was found invaluable during the building of the electricity works mentioned, and hauled practically the whole of the brick, cement, timber and other materials used in the building work.

So far no accurate account of operating costs and value of work done seems to have been kept. All that is known is that it has given satisfaction, has never needed repair, can be manned by two men, and is fitted with the extremely efficient batteries made by the chloride people, with whose batteries I had experience over 25 years ago. Speaking from knowledge of these productions I am not surprised to hear that the locomotive has given no trouble; I have never known a chloride battery yet which did not stand up to its work perfectly.

**Natural Gas.**

It has been known for some years past that large quantities of natural gas were to be met with in more than one part of France, and, had it not been for the war, engineers would have been able to pay much more attention to investigating the sources of supply and to seeing how far, if to any extent, these flows were indicative of the presence of oil.

Recently, particularly in parts of Alsace, traces of oil-bearing strata have been located, and although it is not generally known, even in France, petroleum is actually being worked at Pechelbronn. Large quantities of extremely thick natural gas are being tapped for industrial and domestic lighting purposes, and well over 100,000 cubic metres of gas are delivered into storage system every 24 hours. The discovery was fortuitous, a bore having been started to find out if any underground salt bed could be tapped. This was fifteen years ago, and the work was abandoned because such salt as was found was contaminated (?) with petroleum. Later, certain engineers re-opened the old salt borings and extended them with the result that gas was found at a comparatively shallow level, and was met with in immense quantities at a little over 200 metres down. Geologists who have visited the site, and have tested samples of the soil sent up by the borers, express the belief that continued boring will result in the discovery of oil in considerable quantities which will do much industrially, to counterbalance the deficiency of coal.

**C.A.V. Dynamo.**

At the recent motor cycle show at Olympia the long awaited C.A.V. dynamo lighting sets for motor cycles were shown both on "solo" and "combination" machines. The dynamo for these installations is only 3-1-8in. diameter, but it is built on identical lines with the standard C.A.V. car-lighting models. The output is five amps. at about 1,000 r.p.m., an ample charging rate to cover all ordinary lighting requirements which may include a dashlamp, spotlight, etc. The battery, a special "C.A.V. Willard." has an actual capacity of three amps for 10 hours.

**Electricity and the Car.**

It is curious to reflect that a few years ago those engineers who held that electricity would play an important part in connection with the development of motor cars were regarded as visionaries by the majority of those in the industry. At the time there was no suggestion of putting a fairly powerful electric generating plant on the car; the utmost that could be done in connection with lighting was to fit up a more or less makeshift sort of lamp supplied with current from a more or less unreliable generator. It was not until Mr. C. A. Vandervell got to work and began to put lamps and batteries of good quality and fairly high efficiency on the market that the electric lighting of motor cars became a commercial possibility.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Oilseeds Higher.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair request at unchanged rates. West Indian crystallized has remained steady at 39s. to 41s., while Czecho-Slovakian is 1½d. down at 19s. 10½d. White Java is 6d. down at 46s.

Coffee.—Prices have remained unchanged. Costa Rica has come to business at 140s., while Indian at 110s. is the same. Nairobi is firm at 105s. Futures are:—December, 50s.; March, 50s. 6d.; May, 51s. 6d.; July, 52s. 9d.; and September, 53s. 3d.

Oilseeds.—Prices have shown a higher tendency in most cases. Indian linseed is 9d. up at 19s. 9d. and La Plata has gained 10s. to 16s. 10d. Rapeseed is unsteady with Toria 3d. lower at 18s. 3d., and brown Cawnpore unaltered at 17s. 9d. Cottonseed is steadier with Indian unchanged at 9s. 3d.; while Sakellarides and Egyptian black have both gained 1s. 3d. at 12s. 3d., and 12s. 9d. respectively.

Seed Oils.—Unsteadiness has prevailed during the week. Linseed oil has gained 1s. 9d. at 27s. 9d. Rape oil is lower with the crude variety at 45s., and refined at 51s.; 1s. down in both cases. Cotton oil is inactive. Refined at 43s. is 3d. up; Egyptian crude is unchanged at 37s.; and deodorized is 2s. down at 48s. Turpentine is firm at 70s.

Oilcakes.—Business has been weak and prices are variable. Linseed cake has advanced 20s. to 290s., and cottonseed cake has remained at 200s. Arachis cake has jumped from 220s. to 280s. during the week while palm kernal is firm at 160s.

## DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co. of Liverpool, report as follows under date December 1:—

Currants.—There has been a welcome change in sentiment, business being on a larger scale with advancing prices. We commenced the month with the cargoes of the s.s. Gerano, Trentino, and Inneroy, about 2,200 tons, and a decidedly improved demand set in, which continued during the period under review. Practically the whole stock was marketed, a large business also being transacted in old fruit. At one time the brokers' counters were bare of samples, an unprecedented experience for this time of the year. The exceptional strength of the Greek market was undoubtedly the dominant factor in the advance here, although we must not lose sight of the fact that available supplies were meagre in the extreme, as we had had no arrivals for three weeks. The trade on the whole had delayed their Christmas purchasing until the last possible moment, and this certainly helped to force up values, for buyers being caught unprepared had to pay rates demanded by holders. We close the month in very quiet fashion with business restricted. The rapid advance has certainly checked the demand, and a reaction from the highest quotations is the natural sequence, and the market may be all the stronger for the set back. Very little progress has been possible out of the last two steamers, Andalusian and Pavia, and sales reported show a reduction from high water mark. Latest quotations are:— new fruit, Pyrgos, 57s.; Amalias, 58s. to 62s.; Patras, 64s. to 68s.; Zante, 57s. to 63s.; Gulf, 64s. to 68s.; Panariti, 70s. to 78s.; Vostizza, 70s. to 85s.; Smalls Vostizza, 66s. to 80s.; and old fruit mostly 40s. to 50s.

Valencia Raisins.—All parcels of sound condition continue to be absorbed as quickly as they arrive, at full prices, ½ boxes selling at 130s. to 135s.; ¼ boxes selling at 140s. to 150s.; and seedless selling at 120s. to 125s. Poor and out of condition lots difficult to move at 90s. to 110s.

Sultanas.—Sultanas have been in active demand, and at advancing prices during the whole month, the cargoes ex Trentino, Cypria, and Belgravian selling as quickly as samples were available. Good average quality opened at 108s., quickly rising to 118s., natural qualities selling 120s. to 140s., sulphured varieties 130s. to 150s., Greeks 120s. to 130s. Further supplies ex Gulf of Suez and Luque are due, but as considerable portions of these steamers are sold "to arrive" it is not expected there will be any quantity available for the market. Red Afghans spot selling 90s., new crop, quoted 65s. c.i.f., and yellow 75s. c.i.f. Dec. to Jan. shipment.

Figs.—For the fresh consignments per s.s. Trentino lower prices had to be accepted, owing to the fresh condition, and at the reduction more interest was taken in layers and small boxes, and with additional supplies ex s.s. Cypria and Belgravian practically all were sold, the only stock remaining being Locoums, which are in over supply. Sales were, large boxes (Layers), 110s. to 125s.; small boxes and packets 120s. to 140s.; and Locoums 120s. to 140s., fine 160s. to 175s. Bags naturals in more request, and recovered in value. Prima advanced from 54s. to 57s.; genuine advanced from 58s. to 63s.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 19:—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 151,680 bags as compared with 85,445 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 143,680 bags as against 75,445 bags for 1920, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 8,000 bags as against 10,000 bags for last year.

Markets.—The demand for sultanas has been more restricted during the week, and although prices are normally unchanged there are signs of weakness which may before long influence an all round decline in values. Dealings in figs are practically over for the season, no supplies remaining up country. Exchanges have fluctuated within very narrow limits at a slightly lower level than last week.

Sultanas.—A further report dated November 26 states that the total estimated arrivals to-date amount to 155,775 bags as compared with 86,670 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 145,775 bags as against 76,670 bags for last year, and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 10,000 loads compared with the same amount for 1920.

Shipments.—The s.s. Gourko and s.s. Cressado for London and Liverpool respectively have a load of sultanas and are due in England early in December.

Markets.—Sultana sales during the week have been limited, about 250 tons having been bought for shipment to the U.K. Demand from other markets is very restricted. Although stocks show a slight increase, dealers appear under no pressure to sell for the present and prices show no material change. A few small lots of figs are on the market but quality being very inferior and prices quoted extremely high, shippers refuse to operate. Exchanges, are firmer, sterling having advanced to 760-765.

## AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Irak for the month ended October 16:—

The abnormally high temperatures which have prevailed during the summer have affected the date crop by hastening maturity. Vegetables have become more plentiful with the recent fall in temperatures. The cotton crop in a similar manner is developing large number of flowers, which, in the absence of hot winds, are being retained by the plants, but it is feared that any flowers forming after the end of September will not be sufficiently advanced to mature before the frosty weather sets in.

The Director of Irrigation reports that the level of the Tigris at Baghdad at the end of September was the lowest on record since 1906. The level of the Euphrates at Ramadi was about one foot higher than on the same date in 1920. Evacuation work on the extension of the Yusufiyah Canal is in progress. About 50 square miles have been contour surveyed. Material is being collected with a view to constructing the Buters Regulator in the current season. Repairs to that portion of the Hindia Barrage damaged by the Arabs owing to lack of proper control over the water during the disturbances of 1920 are in hand. A hand regulator for the Saklawiyah (sub-division) is under construction. About 21 kilometers of branch canals have been completed. Clearance of canals bed in the Abu Gharaib is in progress. On the Amara canals a fairly adequate supply of water for the rice crop has been available. The supply available for navigation has not been seriously diminished below that of the previous month. Navigation in the Narrows, however, has become increasingly difficult on account of recently formed shoals. Now that the rice crop is nearing maturity an increased supply of water will be available to scour out these shoals. On the Diala water supply is reported to be sufficient except on the Khorassan.

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The harvest of red rice is practically completed. This crop is almost invariably broad casted, and sown on the higher lying lands where the supply of water is frequently precarious. The condition of the red rice crop this year is believed to be, on the whole rather, below the average. The harvest of transplanted rice has just commenced. This crop is reported to be well above the average on practically all canals. Early grain and sesame, which are average crops, are being harvested. Date picking in lower Irak is now well advanced. The date crop in general is slightly above the average. The picking of sweet and sour limes and small quantities of oranges has commenced. Winter vegetables are being sown, and land is being prepared ready for the winter crops of wheat and barley.

Fodder is now particularly scarce except in irrigated areas where there is still a fair supply. The condition of live stock in general is slightly improved with the advent of cooler weather.

**Experimental Farm.**

At Baquba satisfactory progress was made during the month. The cotton experiments at this station will probably give valuable results. Maize imported from America has done well except at Baquba where about 50 per cent. of the plants have been destroyed by the Stem-borer. The lucerne crop on all farms has done well. Cotton experimental work at Kut has suffered owing to a breakdown of the pumping plant.

**District Work.**

The cotton crop started maturing during August. Part of it has already been delivered to the ginnery of the British Cotton Growing Association. Now that the price of cotton has again materially increased, and the cultivator has seen and appreciated the very considerable difference between his native cotton and that grown by him this year for the first time from seed issued by this Department, he is evincing a desire to cultivate the crop on a much larger scale during the coming season.

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon: (Continental), 140s. 6d. cwt. (Canadian), 120s. cwt.; (American), 101s. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 212s. cwt.; (Australian), 162s. 6d. cwt.; (New Zealand), 193s. cwt.; cheese; (Canadian), 106s. cwt.; (New Zealand) 98s. cwt.; lard, 76s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 43s. per 120; (Styrian), 22s. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 7½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 97s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 152s. 6d. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 61s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 140s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 127s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 83s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 60s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 54s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 3d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallized), 40s. 3d. cwt.; (centrifugal), 15s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 18s. 3d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £6 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 4d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common), 1s. 0½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 10½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 0½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 49s. 6d. qr.; (Australian), 53s. qr.; barley (malting); 62s. 3d. qr.; barley (feeding), 42s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 32s. 9d. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 25s. 10½d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 34s. qr.; flour, 43s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £36 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £66 1s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £76 ton; gold bars, 101s. 3d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 100s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 106s. 3d. ton; galvanized sheets (24 G), £18 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 18s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 38s. 9d. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 382s. 6d. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 37½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 10s. ton; tin (standard), £164 15s. ton; wolfram, 11s. 10½d. unit; zinc sheets, £35 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 20s. 10½d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 3½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4¾d.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 1s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent), £15 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 124s. 6d. cwt.; cwt.; Potassium: Bi-chromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 6d. lb.; caustic, £31 10s. ton; nitrate, £45 ton; permanganate, 11½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1¾d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent), £15 5s. ton; Sodium; Crystals 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali, (58 per cent.). £9 9s. 9d. ton; chlorate, 4d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 5s. ton; hyposulphite £17 ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 18s. 9d. ton; glycerine, (crude, 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent), £110 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 4s. oz.; red lead, £39 5s. ton; white dry lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £29 10s. ton; sulphate of iron 75s. ton.

*Hides and Skins.*—Ox and Heifer (first), 90lbs. and up, 5,5-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs. 8,5-8 d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs. 8,5-8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7¾d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 6,3-8d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 7,3-8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7,3-8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5½d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5,5-8d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5½d. lb.; Bulls (first) 5,5-8d. lb.; (second), 4½d. lb.; Kips (first), 7¾d. lb.; (second), 6¾d. lb.; (third), 4½d. lb. Calcutta Market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 7s to 12.8; Durbhangas, 6 to 7; Patnas, 5 to 6. Salted cows, not quoted. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 5. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 230 to 270 per 100 pieces.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton: (American), 11.06d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 18s. 50d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £17 ton; rape (Toria), £18 2s. 6d. ton; palm kernals, £18 17s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £29 7s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £77 10s. ton; palm, £36 10s. ton; rape (crude), £47 ton; soya, £34 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £43 3s. ton; cotton (crude), £35 10s. ton; ground nut, £46 10s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 11½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11,5-8d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 2½d. lb.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest. Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £ ... | 25.22½ | 99.00-101.00 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 270 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 20.43 | 670-740 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3¾-1.4 |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3¾-1.4 |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 53.70 54.70 |
| *Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | — |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ ... | 110 | 725-755 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 4.86 2.3 | 4.14-4.24 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 51.40-52.50 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 340-360 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 90.00-93.00 |
| Sofia ..... | Leva to £ .... | 25.22½ | 550-600 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 20.43 | 50 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 10,000-12,000 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 11,000-13,000 |

* No Quotations. In some cases quotations are nominal.


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AND

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# Company Meetings.

## P. AND O. STEAM NAVIGATION.

### Lord Inchcape on the Industrial Outlook.

### The need of National Economy.

Lord Inchcape, presiding at the Annual General Meeting of the P and O. Steam Navigation Company on December 7, said they met under happy auspices and on a really historical occasion. That morning the terms of settlement with Ireland had been published and he thought it was their first duty to congratulate His Majesty the King and Mr. Lloyd George on having at last, so far as could be seen, secured peace in Ireland after 700 years.

Since August last he had been engaged on the Economy Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government, under the Chairmanship of Sir Eric Geddes, to enquire into public expenditure, expenditure which had reached figures that the country could no longer stand. Even, he said, if he had had time to prepare a lengthy address he could have added but little to what he had preached from many platforms during the past few years.

**National Solvency our First Line.**

The nation had been greatly impoverished by the war, and if we were to regain our first line of defence, which was solvency, we must curtail our expenditure in every direction. We had launched out into all sorts of wild-cat schemes, and had made commitments which, if not modified, would lead us into bankruptcy. We realised now that we had no funds with which to build up the new heaven and the new earth on which we started three years ago. The multiplication of ministries was landing the nation in enormous expenditure, and the country was getting filled up with functionaries who were living on the people.

**A Ruinous Housing Scheme.**

Well-meaning pundits and idealists got hold of departments and launched out regardless of cost. According to a recent statement in the House of Commons, five hundred thousand houses were to have been built at a cost of 500 millions, houses which would not give a return on the capital outlay at a lower rent than £75 a year and which could not be let for more than £16. Fortunately the Prime Minister had stepped in and succeeded in limiting their number to the 176,000 which had been started; but even this reduced number would cost the country one hundred and seventy six millions and the taxpayer would be saddled with ten millions a year to make up the deficiency of rent for the next sixty years.

Education was now costing the country over 100 millions a year against one fourth of that sum before the war; teachers' salaries, based on the standard of two years ago, has been more than doubled; and the resulting pensions, if maintained, would shortly involve us in another ten millions a year.

**Only Way to Renewed Prosperity.**

It was necessary to realise that the Government and the local authorities had no fund to draw upon except what they extracted from the people. If industrial undertakings were depleted by excessive taxation less money was available for the expansion of industry, there was less employment in the country and a reduced standard of living all round. Unable to increase our revenue, our only hope lay in reduction of expenditure and to this end he did not doubt but that the common sense of the country would come to our aid. He was glad the shipping industry was now free from Government control, and, he continued, he had hopes that before long the trade of the country would have settled down to normal conditions, free to work out its own salvation, and to make profits out of which to contribute to the revenue. Government trading and government interference in trade disputes had proved disastrous, and he hoped the country had learned its lesson.

**440 Ex-German Ships Sold.**

Recalling his undertaking, a year ago, of the sale of ex-enemy ships for the Government, he stated that he had so far disposed of 440 vessels for upwards of 20 million pounds. He had very few left to sell, and would be glad when this rather troublesome and thankless task was finished.

**A Year of Depression.**

Turning to the directors' report, he greatly regretted that they had felt compelled to withhold a bonus for the past year. The dividend and bonus for the year ending September 30, 1914, totalled 15 per cent.; for the year ended September 30, last it was 12 per cent. or 3 per cent. to the bad; but, in the present condition of shipping, the directors, if they had not reduced the dividend, would have been guilty of imprudence. They had to look to the future and to husband their resources; they were passing through a period of unprecedented depression; and, in lowering their distribution, they were not alone. In common with most shipping companies they had had a wretched year; government control of coal had caused enormous prices during the spring; then came the coal strike which drove their ships to the Continent for coal, while the joiners' strike and the delays which it involved had driven steamers to the Continent for overhaul. They had had, besides, to bear enormous increases in wages, both afloat and ashore, and, to crown all, Trade Unions and Wages Boards had kept production costs in this country so high that the world had been unable to purchase from us, and steamers had been leaving this country with nothing more than ballast cargoes and often not with these and the consequent greatly lessened demand for imported raw material had made it increasingly difficult to find homeward cargoes. Some of their cargo steamers, he continued, they had laid up; but their obligation to maintain their services had prevented the laying up of their mail and passenger steamers, which had been kept running, although at a heavy loss. As exemplifying the scarcity of cargo the P. and O. Branch Line, which runs a regular service from London to Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, had, he said, in the last financial year, despatched 11 steamers capable of carrying 101,000 tons of measurement cargo, and these had sailed with 69,000 tons of unfilled space. The Board had foreseen that after the war, the company would be faced with difficulties. They refrained from recommending any large increase in their dividend and, instead of distributing cash resources, they suggested a small bonus in stock. That policy he thought would eventually prove to have been right. In order to pay for new ships they had had to realise their war loan investments at a serious loss and to write down to present market values those which they still held.

**High Wages and Unemployment.**

Under the National Maritime Wages Board set up in November 1917 wages had enormously increased. Those increases were at that time borne by the Government, for the ships were under Government requisition and the Government distributed the tax-payers' money with a lavish hand; but, once the vessels had been discharged from Government service and economic conditions had to be faced it was found that these high wages could not be paid out of commercial earnings. Wages had been slightly reduced, but were still much beyond what shipowners could afford to pay, and, in consequence, 650 British ships of 1,117,092 tons were at the moment laid up in the United Kingdom and probably as much tonnage again, if not more, in ports outside the Kingdom, with the result that thousands of captains, officers, engineers and men were unemployed; while those remaining in employment were drawing pay much above the economic rate. There was no use mincing matters—wages afloat would have to come down if British shipping was to hold its own. In the case of their own unemployed officers and engineers they had done what they could in granting half pay for a certain period; and, although this meant a considerable charge on the company's resources, he felt sure the meeting would approve of the course adopted. Dockers wages, fixed by a government tribunal in May 1920 at 16s. for a day of eight hours, had lately been reduced to 14s. a day, but the tonnage handled here per man per hour was much less than in former days and, while it cost 2s. a ton to work cargo in Antwerp, the cost in Middlesbro was 6s.

**Quality Of Passenger Services.**

Seldom, he continued, did a day pass in which he did not receive a personal appreciative letter—some consolation in these hard times. Recently he had such a letter from Lord Northcliffe, now on his way home from a tour round the world. In that letter Lord Northcliffe said the ship on which he was travelling was run with the punctuality of a clock, and that, so far, he had found nothing but efficiency in the handling of the company's ships and those of its associated lines. Such letters he invariably passed on to the captains and others concerned. He confessed to the occasional receipt of grumbling communications and these too were passed on with a view, if possible, of remedying defects.

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**Some Graphic Statistics.**

During the past year the steamers in commission of the P. & O. and its associates had numbered 444, they had traversed 15,345,081 nautical miles, had made port entries 25,315 times, had carried 13,236,981 tons of cargo, 188,575 animals, 2,111,564 passengers and had employed crews numbering 45,912. They had run without serious accident and without the loss of a single life by marine casualty. With regret, he had to record the loss by death during the year of two of their colleagues, Lord Burghclere and Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

He could not, he said, conclude without expressing the appreciation of the Board of the loyal and whole-hearted devotion to the Company of their staff, afloat and ashore, at home and abroad. No institution, he felt safe in saying, was better served than the P. and O. and its associated lines.

He was sorry to say that Sir Thomas Sutherland, who had occupied that Chair with such marked ability for thirty-seven years, was not at all well. He had seen him the other day and, though vigorous as ever in mind, he was suffering a good deal physically. He was sure they would join with him in an expression of sympathy for Sir Thomas Sutherland in his illness and in the hope that he would make a good recovery.

He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. H. N. Gladstone seconded the motion.

Mr. Grinnel Milne, in the course of some appreciative remarks, commented on the form of the report and accounts and expressed a hope that the example of some other companies might be followed in future.

Lord Inchcape, in replying, pointed out that some years ago the form of the accounts was agreed to by the shareholders in general meeting as it was considered best not to disclose to the world and their competitors the methods and details of their business.

The motion was passed unanimously, the dividend recommended was declared, and the retiring directors having been re-elected a vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, directors and staff.

## LAND BANK OF EGYPT.

The directors of the Land Bank of Egypt announce a dividend of 7s., making 10s. per share, and of £4 3s. per Founders' share for the year ended September 30, 1921. Coupons will be paid at the Comptoir National d'Escompte in London.

## KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP.

The accounts of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company for the year ended June 30, shows a credit balance, including £13,699 brought forward and transfer from reserve, of £34,243. The directors propose 10 per cent. dividend on Ordinary shares for the year, carrying forward £13,247. The directors state that trading profits show a considerable falling off. The s.s. Ismailia has been sold. Two new ships of about 5,000 tons each are being built for the service of the company. Meeting, 122, Leadenhall-street, E.C., December 20, 12.30 p.m.

## BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK.

The profit of the British Overseas Bank for the year to October 31, after allowing for rebate of interest and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, income-tax and other taxation, was £102,326, plus £36,200 brought in, making £137,526. Interim dividend on "A" Ordinary shares at £30,000 rate of 6 per cent. per annum absorbed £30,000, leaving £107,526. Final dividend on "A" Ordinary shares at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, recommended, placing to reserve against shareholding interests in foreign banks £10,000, to reduction of premises account £10,000, leaving to be carried forward £57,526. Notwithstanding political and commercial difficulties, the Anglo-Polish Bank had a satisfactory initial year. The Bank is issuing 50,000 additional shares amounting to P.M.25,000,000, and Bank Zjednoczonych Ziem Polskich (Bank of United Lands of Poland), with which close relations have been established, is taking a large participation in the issue. Close relations were established with the Dorpater Bank at Dorpat, in which a small shareholding participation has been taken, and an important increase of its activities in Esthonia is anticipated, Meeting, Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., December 16, noon.

## BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

### IX—ALGERIA.

The Acting British Consul-General at Algiers, Mr. J. K. V. Dible, in his report on the economic and commercial situation in Algeria in 1920, which has just been issued, says:—

"At the commencement of the year 1920 Algeria presented a most prosperous appearance. Although the 1919 harvest had been somewhat unfavourable, everything pointed to excellent crops in the current year, and there was a keen demand for land, which was being purchased at exceedingly high prices. Produce realising profits hitherto undreamed of, commercial exchanges in general were being effected on an extensive scale, and both farmers and merchants were doing a lucrative business.

This picture was entirely changed as the result of the economic crisis, the full effects of which were felt in Algeria by September. "Wine for instance, which had been realising 9, 10 and even 11.50 francs the degree, could scarcely be sold at two francs or even less; and alcohol, which had been dealt in up to 1,300 francs the 100 degrees, fell to 300; wool, in which sales had been effected at as much as 13,000 francs the ton, was offered at 2,500 francs; leather, skins and hides depreciated to prices 60 per cent. or 70 per cent. below those of May. The wine merchants refused to accept the prices asked for by the farmers, and consumers refused to pay the exorbitant charges demanded for all classes of goods.

"Stress must be laid on the fact that Algeria is mainly an agricultural country; the natives, who form by far the largest part of the population, are engaged almost entirely in agricultural pursuits. As already indicated, the return of cereals had not been very satisfactory in 1919, 1,1-3 million tons only having been gathered instead of the three million tons of the previous year. This deficiency would have been redressed had the corn crops of 1920 been even on an average scale; but an almost complete lack of rain, followed by sirocco, caused the 1920 harvest to be the worst that has been experienced for very many years, producing wide-spread misery, poverty and famine. To state the case vividly, during the months of September, October and November, 1919, 6,766 tons of grain and 3,153 tons of flour were exported, whilst during the corresponding months of 1920 there was no exportation; expressed from the point of view of imports, during the first-named period 154 tons of grain and 72 tons of flour were imported, whilst during the same period in 1920, 37,857 tons of corn and 5,502 tons of flour were imported. As regards the above-mentioned slump in wines and alcohol, local producers blame the Government for having permitted the import into France of 88 million gallons of wine from Spain, France being the principal purchaser of Algerian wines; they also maintain that the high rate of duty is one of the chief causes of the stagnation. However, partly as the result of the bad prospects of the present wine harvest, prices have risen during the last month."

**Improved Transport Positions.**

"A marked improvement in the transport of goods traffic was noticeable towards the end of 1920, and it is anticipated that the present corn crops will be transported without undue delays. During 1920 three Baldwin locomotives of 1-metre gauge were purchased for the Bona-Guelma line, one of which commenced to run during the month of December, 1920, whilst 50 1-metre gauge waggons were bought from the Etablissements Decauville for the same line and were put in circulation in October, 1920. The Ouest Algérien Company put in service on its Oran line the two locomotives and 36 waggons that formed the balance of an order which it had placed in 1919 with the Compagnie des Chemins de Fer de Paris a Orléans. Finally, the Paris-Lyon-Mediterranée have loaned from their service in France three locomotives of series 2,500, for express trains, and six locomotives of series, 4,000, for goods traffic, and two of the former and one of the latter were working before the end of 1920. The service of a certain number of passenger trains which had ceased to run during the war was recommenced on January 16, 1921.

"The electrification of the proposed lines between Sétif and Bougie, Medjez-Sta and Oued-Damous, Nemours and Marnia, of the line under construction between Bizot and Djijdelli, and of the existing lines between Duvivier and Oued-Keberit, Philippeville and Constantine, Bougie and Beni-Mansour and Sétif is under consideration."

The transfer books of the Burma Corporation are closed until December 31.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

*Aleppo, November* 16.

The position in this market remains unchanged except for a considerable improvement in the prices of cotton and woollen goods. The crop of cereals is good. An early recovery of business is hoped for when communications are re-established with the interior. The exports of the products of this region are restricted.

Prices ruling here are as follows (in Syrian piastres per kilogram) :—wool (washed), stocks about 3-4,000 bales, 38, (raw) 23 ; cotton 17 ; gall nuts 16 ; grain 4½ ; pistachio nuts—white 35, red 27 ; apricot stones 10.

## EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA.

The report of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the year ended August 3, 1921, states that the soda works at Wady Natron had to be stopped for several months, owing to an accumulation of heavy stocks. These stocks have subsequently been disposed of, but, owing to outside competition, at prices leaving no profit. An amount of £E80,000 has already been reserved against expenditure on the works at Moharrem Bey in previous years, and it is proposed to set aside a further sum of £E60,000, making £E140,000. It is estimated that the total cost of this new installation with all the latest improvements, will finally be about £E250,000. The factory will ultimately appear in the books at about £E100,000 only. The gross profit was £E 132,332, less general administration expenses £E5,545, interest on Debentures £E2,904, leaving £E123,883. The directors have set aside for depreciation for factories £E11,175, provision for eventualities, £E5,000, leaving £E107,708, plus £E115,520 brought in, making £E223,229. The directors propose a dividend of 4s. 6d. per share ; transferring to reserve to meet expenditure towards completion of Moharrem Bey works, £E60,000 ; carrying forward £E54,025. Meeting, Alexandria, December 23.

## AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The following was the position of the Bank's encashments on October 31 ( the figures in brackets representing the corresponding totals for 1920 ):—Existing Loans : Short Term Loans, £E28,968 (£E10,585), Special Loans with Government guarantee £E18,517, Category " B " £E3,391,080 (£E3,317,917,), Total £E3,438,565, (£E3,328,502) ; Matured Loan Instalments : Due £E302,550 (£E360,232). Special Loans with Government guarantee. £E24,029, falling due £E238,136 (£E212,493) total £E654,715 (£E572,725) Perceptions : Outstanding on January 31, £E172,760 (£E83,724), Balance £E107,631 (£E44,019), Encashed, £E65,129 (£E39,505) ; Matured Loan Instalments : Encashed, £E236,198 (£E234,073) ; Total encashments of instalments due, £E301,327 (£E273,778).

## BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION.

The accounts of the British India Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30, 1921, show balance available, after providing for depreciation and interest on Debenture stock of £137,071. The directors recommend a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year, free of tax, on shares, carrying forward £25,495, against £25,462 brought in. The directors think it advisable to conserve funds against the possibility of less prosperous years, and they therefore do not recommend a bonus for the past year.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of the Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt, will be held at the offices of the company, Alexandria, on Thursday, December 22.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**FOUNDED 1863.**

**Capital - £10,000,000**
**Paid-up - £5,000,000**
**Reserve - £1,250,000**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.
Lt.-Col. J. PROCTOR, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Sub-Directors.
J. UNGAR }
DJEVAD BEY.
HAMID BEY
NOURY BEY

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| THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G. | CHARLES DE CERJAT. |
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**CYPRUS.**
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**Aleppo. Alexandretta. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.**

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**Ashar. Bassorah. Bagdad. Mossoul. Kirkuk.**

**SALONICA. SMYRNA. TUNIS.**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East)**

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of Credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected,


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# Stock and Share Markets.

## GILT EDGED IN DEMAND.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

London, Monday Evening.

In view of the Irish settlement and the agreement at Washington in regard to the Pacific, it would seem superfluous to state that the past week has been a good one for the markets. But the full effects of these favourable developments have yet to be felt. There has been a considerable increase in the volume of investments, but interest has been mainly confined to the gilt-edged group, and the turn of the others has yet to come.

It had been expected that in consequence of the South African loan result we should have no more Colonial issues for some weeks, but this proved not to be the case, for a large loan for the Straits Settlements has since been floated, and has been a remarkable success. Why the one should have been taken and the other left is somewhat of a mystery, in view of the brilliant prospects that South Africa would appear to hold out. A possible explanation is that the public took a jaundiced view because of the apparently unfavourable outlook in general at the time of the South African issue.

**Gilt-edged Buoyant.**

Gilt-edged stocks have displayed a buoyant tendency. The Conversion Loan at 65 5-8 is 15-16 up, while War Loan Fives have gained 11-16 at 90 7-16. Fundings are 3-4 up at 74, but Consols at 48 7-8 are a point lower. In Near Eastern securities which rank with British funds Egyptian guaranteed 3 per cent. are 1-4 up at 68 3-4. Greek guaranteed 2 1-2 per cent 1898 are 1-2 up at 62 1-2, while Turkish guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 have gained 1 1-2 at 71.

Foreign securities have also been somewhat better, French stocks being a special feature on the improvement of the franc, with War Loan Fives 3½ up at 38½. German 3 per cent. have improved on the possibility that time will be allowed in regard to reparations, gaining 5-16 at 3 1-8. Chinese securities have been very firm, while Brazilians have generally advanced. The Japanese 4 per cent. 1899 is 1¾ up at 61¾, while the 4 per cent. 1910 has recovered ¾ at 60¾.

Greek securities have been steady. The 5 per cent. 1884 Loan is the same at 34 while the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is the same at 34. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan has gained a point at 32, while the 5 per cent. Funding Loan is unchanged at 33. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan has risen sharply to 37, a gain of 3 on the week.

**Industrials Irregular.**

The improvement in the general situation has not yet had much influence on this group, and a rather irregular tendency has been in evidence during the week. One cause is, of course, to be found in the passing of so many dividends, which, however bright the outlook—and the indications certainly seem to point to a substantial widening of business in the New Year—invariably has a pronounced effect, not only on the shares concerned, but on the particular group. Textiles have continued to present a fairly firm front with Courtaulds 1s. 1½d. up at 36s. 4½d. Armament shares have shown some irregularity. Armstrong's have gained 1s. at 14s., but Vickers are unchanged at 8s. 6d. Guest Keens have recovered 1s. at 28s., while Cammell Lairds are 6d. up at 11s. 6d.

Shipping securities have been harder with P. and O. Deferred a specially good spot at 294, a rise of 14. Furness Withys are 1s. up at 23s. 6d., and Cunards have gained 6d. at 17s. 6d.

**Oils Steady.**

A steady tone has prevailed in the oil market. Mexican Eagles have again been a firm spot, and are 9-32 up at 4 3-16 Burmahs have shed 1-16 at 5 11-16. Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-16 up at 1 17-32, while Gemsah Oil Reefs are 7-16, and Oilfields of Egypt are 3s. 6d. In the Roumanian group Roumanian Consolidateds are 6d. up at 8s., while Steaua Romana have gained 2s. at 9s. 3d. Phoenix have risen 3d. to 6s. 9d., but Dacia Romanos are 1-16 down at ¾.

In mining descriptions a harder tendency is to be noted in various directions. De Beers have been very firm, and are 1¼ up at 9 5-8. Some interest has been taken in Chartereds, which stand at 11s. 7½d. There has been a recovery in Tin shares, and Nigerians generally have been a bright feature.

**Banks Firm.**

Banking descriptions have been firmer. Agricultural Bank of Egypt 3½ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 54, while the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are the same at 55½. Imperial Ottoman Banks have improved to 7½, a rise of ¾, but National Bank of Egypt have shed 1-16 at 18 3-16. Bank of Athens are unchanged at 2, while Ionian Banks are unaltered at 3¾. Chartered of India are 3-8 up at 15 3-8, while National of India have gained ½ at 38. Imperial of Persia are unchanged at 5 1-8, but Bank of British West Africa are 1-8 up at 4 3-8 xd.

In Land Shares Beheras are the same at 8¾, while Béhéra Prefs are unchanged at 3 3-16. Egyptian Delta Lands are 6d. up at 7s. 3d., while New Egyptians have risen 3d. to 22s. Egyptian Consolidated Lands remain at 10½d. Sidi Salems are unchanged at 15-16, while Union Foncieres are 1-16 up at 2½. Sudan Plantations are 2 9-16xd.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 1-8 up at 6¾; Egyptian Markets are unchanged at 18s. 3d.xd; while Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 9d. up at 33s. 3d.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

*Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.*

Prices on November 25 were as follows:—Agricultural B nk of Egypt, £4½; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6,7-8; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £11-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 56½x; Behera Ord., £E 8¼; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 60; Building Lands of Egypt, £1¼; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 50; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 24; Comptoir Fin. et. Com. d'Egypte, £31-32; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 850; Credit Foncier Act, Fr., 643; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 327; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 112; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 80; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 102; Egypt and Levant, S S. Ord., 27s 3d; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3,7-8; Filature National d'Egypte, £11,7-16; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5,5-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref. £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi £4¼; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £34 ex.; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £37; Lots Turc., Fr., 28; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 250; Nungovich Hotels, £6,5-16; Ramleh Railways, £2¾; Salt and Soda, 32s. 7½d.; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr., 39½; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr., 52; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2,1-6; Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines et Rurales, £2¾.

## THE GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to September 30, 1921 (new style January 14 to October 13, 1921).

| — | Monopolies, tobacco stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery. | Piraeus Customs. |
|---|---|---|
| | Drachmae. | Drachmae. |
| Gross receipts. Sept. 1921 .... | 7,006,991 | 9,343,287 |
| Do. do. do. 1920 .... | 6,063,644 | 4,716,000 |
| Estimated receipts for 9 months (Law of Control) ..... | 21,675,000 | 8,025,000 |
| Actual receipts for 9 months, 1921 ..... | 52,558,224 | 48,285,354 |
| Actual receipts for 9 months, 1920 ..... | 48,802,856 | 43,153,049 |
| Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 9 months 1921 | 30,883,224 | 40,260,254 |
| 1920 | 27,127,850 | 35,128,094 |

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893,

The products of the sales of Naxos emery have been paid in paper drachmae since August, 1920. In the case of the Piraeus Customs, the receipts in gold are included in the above statement at par.

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## THE DARDANELLES AND BOSPHORUS.

### PASSAGE OF EX-ENEMY VESSELS.

The Allied Governments have now decided that ex-enemy vessels may be allowed to pass through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus for purposes of trade with non-Turkish ports, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, provided that they are in possession of a permit issued by the Allied High Commissioners at Constantinople. Applications for such permits should be made to the Allied High Commissioners direct, and until definite regulations are drawn up, each case will be treated on its merits.

## CZECHO-SLOVAK SHIPPING.

### COST OF THE ELBE AND DANUBE FLEETS.

The special Czecho-Slovak public works budget for 1921 comprises the amount due as indemnities for the vessels assigned to Czecho-Slovakia in accordance with the terms of the Peace Treaties. This indemnity amounts to 7,145,254 Swiss francs, or 117,696,691 Czecho-Slovak crowns, at the rate of 10.5 crowns per franc. The expenses incurred in handing over these vessels amount to three million crowns, thus bringing the total up to 120,896,691 crowns. The vessels ceded by Germany to Czecho-Slovakia for the Elbe fleet are 48 in number, with an aggregate horse-power of 19,410, together with 194 barges with an aggregate tonnage of 123,220. In addition, Czecho-Slovakia receives warehouses, cranes and similar appurtenances. Germany also supplies the Danube fleet with seven barges, whose aggregate tonnage is 5,083, in return for a payment of 338,490 gold marks which will be credited to Germany's reparation accounts. Austria is ceding three passenger vessels, 30 barges, five tug-boats, whose aggregatch orse-power is 2,800, and 42 barges, whose aggregate tonnage is 29,760. The total value of this material is 5,375,584 Swiss francs, or 88,608,780 Czecho-Slovak crowns. Hungary is to cede two steam-tugs 25 tug-boats and three barges, to a total value of 1,709,570 Swiss francs, or 20,197,905 Czecho-Slovak crowns. The dredging installations, valued at 500,000 Swiss francs, will be credited as part payment of Hungary's reparations to Czecho-Slovakia.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 27).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Maidan for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21); s.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, December 24); s.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, January 7); s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 11); s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 21).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 21) s.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon, (Birkenhead, January 4); s.s. Sittang for Rangoon (Middlesborough, January 7).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—s.s. Maid of Spetsai for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, also calling at Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, December 23); s.s. General Napier for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, also calling at Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, January 10).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Antinoe for Gibraltar, Pireaus, Smyrna and Constantinople (London, December 16); s.s. Tyria for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa (Swansea, December 24).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Assyrian for Gibraltar, Melilla, Malta, Patras, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 17); s.s. Asturian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, December 24).

*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Florence for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 16); s.s. City of Baghdad for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21); s.s. City of Bristol for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 21); s.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 6).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of London for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, December 12); s.s. City of Paris for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, December 30).

*Ellerman's Wyscott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glentara for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, December 22); s.s. Glenariffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January); s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 19).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Tactician for Calcutta, (Liverpool, January 3).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Mandalay for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 14); s.s. Pegu (new steamer) for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 28).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Telemachus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, December 29); s.s. Agapenor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, December 29).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Venice for Piraeus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 17).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, December 23).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Bosnian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Smyna, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 31).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Kaisar-I-Hind for Bombay (London, December 16), s.s. Soudan for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 30); s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, December 30); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 13); s.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, January 13).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London December 15); s.s. Mudura for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 16); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 30); s.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 6); s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 21).

*Prince Line.*—S.s. Glenelg for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haiffa, and Beyrout (Manchester, December 17).


**ANCHOR LINE**

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**LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.**

**KARACHI via Bombay calling at Gibraltar & Egypt**

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
FITTED WITH ELECTRIC FANS.
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PASSENGER SAILING DATES—
CASTALIA, JANUARY 6.
MASSILIA, JANUARY 20.
ELYSIA, FEBRUARY 10.
CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10.
OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.

**Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,**
16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.


The quantity of salt cleared in the Calcutta market during the last quarter for which returns are issued amounted to 4,23,343 maunds, as compare with 2,558,815 maunds for the previous quarter.

There is a large demand in India for cartridges, which is supplied entirely by the United Kingdom and the United States.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 554—Vol XX. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *Asia Minor,*

The conference on the Near Eastern question between the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, France and Italy is due to take place in Paris in the first week of January. In the meantime the British and French Prime Ministers are meeting in England this week, and we may hope that any obstacle to a practical settlement of the Asia Minor problem presented by the Angora Treaty will have been removed before the Paris Conference opens. If the absence of definite news from Asia Minor implies that neither the Greeks nor the Turks are making any move, it is for the best. As the former can no longer be in doubt as to the main points of the final settlement, they will naturally be tempted to reduce their responsibilities in Asia Minor as quickly as possible; but it may be better for all the parties concerned if the Greeks and Turks continue to face one another in the neighbourhood of Eskishehir. The Angora Government, according to the latest reports, is being obliged to devote some attention to the position in Transcaucasia, where Enver Pasha is finding the authority vested in him by the Bolshevists very much to his liking. The Allied Powers will have no desire to stiffen the terms of the settlement because Mustapha Kemal Pasha is in difficulties on another front; but they can hardly fail to welcome complications that promise to make the Angora Government more amenable to a reasonable and practical peace.

### *The Ministerial Crisis in Roumania.*

With the exception of M. Venizelos, no Balkan politician is better known in England than M. Take Jonescu, and the news of his appointment as Prime Minister of Roumania will be received here with lively interest. It is too soon, however, to know whether the ministerial crisis arising from the resignation of General Averescu's Cabinet will be settled so easily. Roumania is passing through a period of considerable anxiety, and a section at least of public opinion would be glad to be rid of party quarrels for a time, in order that a real Coalition Government should try its hand at the difficult task of reconstruction. There is some reason for supposing that this view appeals to M. Take Jonescu, and it remains to be seen whether he will be successful in giving effect to it. His first purpose may be to form a transitional Government which will undertake fresh elections, and to leave the question of a Coalition Ministry until the results of the polls are known. His own following in Parliament is not large enough to enable him to carry on without the support of other parties. Accordingly his chances of inaugurating a new domestic policy would depend on his ability to associate rival leaders with himself. M. Take Jonescu has certainly "fixed" Roumania's foreign policy, and whatever ministerial changes there may be it is unlikely that there will be any new orientation in the matter of foreign affairs.

### *The Egyptian Position.*

It is satisfactory to find that Sarwat Pasha did not refuse the invitation to form a new Egyptian Ministry until he had made an attempt to come to an understanding with the British Government regarding the interrupted negotiations. What form his efforts took has not yet been divulged, but his action suggests that the more enlightened section of Egyptian opinion does not subscribe to the view that Lord Allenby's letter to the Sultan has closed the door to further discussion. In his report to the Sultan on the London negotiations Adly Pasha certainly makes out a better case than he did in the unfortunate reply to the British Government. At least there is an acknowledgment that Great Britain has her side of the question; but he would seem to be trying to justify his summary rejection of the draft convention by references to Lord Allenby's letter to the Sultan, which was not drafted until later and must indeed have been inspired in no small measure by the disappointment caused by the Delegation's attitude to the British proposals. "We may not have counted at once on a satisfactory project," he writes, "but at least we hoped to have a project which would have left the door open to discussion and which might have become the basis of a possible agreement. . . One cannot reconcile in the same project the theory of alliance and the theory that Great Britain is responsible for Egypt." But that is precisely what has to be reconciled, until Egypt can show that she is equal to all the demands made upon an independent State. If on the day when the alliance comes into force she gives practical evidence of her capacity, the "theory" of British responsibility remains a "theory" or, in other words, becomes a dead letter, and the alliance changes from a theory to a reality. Unfortunately Adly Pasha had not the courage to test his convictions of Egypt's capacity for looking after her own and foreign interests. He is right in supposing that British public opinion favours the change in Egypt's

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status to that of a sovereign State, but there will be little sympathy with any attempt on Egypt's part to dispense with all guarantees or safeguards.

### *The Alexandria May Riots.*

The Minutes of Proceedings and Report of the Military Court of Enquiry into the Alexandria Riots, May 1921, has been published as a Blue Book (Cmd. 1527). It runs to nearly 270 pages, and gives a clear picture of the unfortunate events with which it is concerned. Since those events were directly connected with the agitation for "complete independence," it is at once natural and fair to consider the Report in connection with the latest phases of the agitation. And it may be said at once that a perusal of the evidence will almost certainly lead to the conclusion that it would be a very bad thing for Egypt, and a much worse thing for the Europeans in Egypt, if the "complete independence" should be gained at once. It is necessary to bear in mind that the agitation was, nominally at any rate, directed not against the British, but against the Egyptian Government; and the Report seems to indicate that while the extremists showed a certain ability in organization, the forces of law and order were to some extent crippled by the extraordinarily timid attitude of the Government in the face of provocation. The police in most cases behaved remarkably well in the earlier stages of the trouble; though later many of them, with the Egyptian troops, made common cause with the rioters. For all that, the mob had things pretty well its own way for a time, and the picture of lawlessness presented by the report is not pleasant to contemplate. Then our troops were called in, and, as one of the native witnesses said, "Since the British soldiers took over, nothing further had happened."

### *Their Effect in Europe.*

The Court finds that "there is no evidence that the Greeks started the trouble by firing," and that "the mobs had a very definite organization," but unfortunately it "found no evidence as to what extent this organization was." It states its opinion that the Zaghloulists were determined to repeat the Tanta incident; and it indicates that weakness of the Government emboldened the mobs to think that they could act with impunity. But perhaps the most remarkable thing in the Report is the way in which it "draws attention to a very important fact"—the hatred of Europeans which, it declares, has always existed in Egypt. To this hatred it attributes the events of 1882 and those of 1919; and these Alexandria Riots of 1921 were, it considers, only the latest manifestation of the same spirit. In this view the Court was strongly supported by the evidence of M. de Witasse, the French Consul, who, after sketching the events of June, 1882, remarked: "Exactly the same thing that happened on the 11th June, 1882, has happened on the 22nd May, 1921." The Italian and Greek Consuls, it is to be noted, joined their French colleague in stating that they could never consent to their nationals being protected by a force composed exclusively of Egyptians. That is a strong expression of opinion; but the Extremists in Egypt —and their friends in this country—would be wise to ponder its full significance at the present time.

### *In Northern Arabia.*

News received in London last week from Hail puts the occupation of that place by the Sultan of Nejd in a different light from that of earlier reports. It will be remembered that the first news of the business came from Bahrein, and referred to the capture of Hail after a long struggle. The version just received, from Hail itself, announces that the occupation was the result of negotiation, and that there was no bloodshed. The message adds that the family of "the local Sultan" (presumably Ibn Rashid is referred to) was arrested and deported; and that Sultan Abdul Aziz Bin Saud's influence is now paramount throughout the Shammar country. While we may feel a certain sentimental sympathy with Ibn Rashid and the Shammar, who showed themselves capable of unusual loyalty—unfortunately to the wrong side—in the War, we may hope that the recent changes will eventually make for stability in the Arabian peninsula. Bin Saud is reported to have despatched a force to occupy Jauf, or Jof, an important oasis and town, about 250 miles north-west of Hail.

### *On the Hejaz Frontier.*

These operations must not be confused with those others, far to the South, in the neighbourhood of Tayef, where a semi-independent sheikh, Khalid, of Wahabite sympathies, has been causing some trouble. The Colonial Office recently issued a statement to the effect that it was convinced that the Sultan of Nejd is not responsible for the latter disturbance. This statement may be accepted without reserve; but the facts that Sheikh Khalid is a Wahabite and that Bin Saud has had to disclaim control over him are in themselves somewhat disquieting. Moreover, unless we are mistaken, it was in this region that the fighting took place soon after the Armistice between the forces of Bin Saud and those of King Hussein, when the latter, led by the Emir Abdullah, were heavily defeated. The Sultan of Nejd may yet have some stiff work with the Shammar from the north; but it is to be hoped that he will be able to exert his moral influence to restrain Khalid's ardour. Otherwise all Arabia may ere long be more or less in a blaze.

### *Persia and Great Britain.*

The question of oil concessions in Northern Persia has been well to the fore during the past fortnight, owing to the Persian Government's attempt to cancel the Anglo-Persian Company's concession. The facts of the case are dealt with on another page, and we refer to the matter here only because the Teheran Government's attitude appears to be dictated very largely by the desire to show unfriendliness to this country. Indeed, taking this case in conjunction with the cancelling of the Roads Concession, to which we referred not long ago, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Teheran is deliberately going out of its way in order to make itself unpleasant to Great Britain. The reasons for such conduct would not be far to seek: the Persians have for some time been greatly annoyed with what they regarded—or affected to regard—as attempts on our part to interfere with their affairs; and their Bolshevist friends in the North have taken very good care to keep the feeling of soreness from fading away. The Soviet Government has, indeed, made claims with regard to some at least of the oil concessions in Northern Persia; and though they may be put forward merely as a blind, they suffice to show that Russian influence is—once more—at work to make mischief in that region, which Russia formerly regarded, and doubtless will again ere long regard, as earmarked for her own future occupation.

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# THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, Monday Evening.*

**Ireland at Westminster.**

The interest of the week has lain politically between Westminster and Dublin, with Westminster to the fore, because the proceedings at Dublin, although more dramatic, have been mainly behind closed doors. The King opened Parliament in state, and three days were given to the debate on the Address. On the whole the speaking was not equal to the occasion—approval of the treaty was a foregone conclusion—and the fact naturally took some of the fire out of the proceedings.

But there were some moving scenes. It was very affecting to hear Lord Morley, the last veteran of the Home Rule movement, give his blessing—if I may use such a term in speaking of an agnostic—to the Agreement. He spoke with much effort, and the old fire is gone; he seems frail and very feeble, but here and there was a touch of the old beautiful style which delights us in his books.

Lord Carson's violent attack on the Agreement was not effective; he sounded petulant, and somehow he struck me as a less dignified figure than in his old House of Commons days. The two backwoodsmen, Lord Salisbury and the Duke of Northumberland, prophesied red ruin and the breaking up of laws and the downfall of the British Empire, and Lord Sydenham said the same. These Cassandras were answered by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who showed much physical pluck in attending after his recent illness, and were fairly trounced and bastinadoed by the Lord Chancellor, who told them that they spoke like ignorant and hysterical schoolgirls. I doubt whether any previous occupant of the Woolsack has ever enjoyed himself more in telling his fellow peers what he thought of them.

So much for the Lords. In the Commons Mr. Lloyd George was not up to his usual level; he never is when he feels that the House regards the thing as a *fait accompli*. He demonstrated at length that the settlement could not have been made before; this was subtle but unconvincing. And he wound up with a long and overdone peroration, which Mr. Asquith quite properly poked fun at. Mr. Asquith himself was excellent; he discounted all the prophecies that every difficulty was at an end, and brought the House back to a sense of reality by his reminder that a good beginning had been made, but only a beginning. The best Die-hard speech was by Mr. Rupert Gwynne, who should be heard more often; but the dissentients did not number sixty.

**Deliberations in Dublin.**

The rival Parliament in Dublin appears to have been more lively. Mr. de Valera, as was anticipated, has come out definitely against ratification, and one of the London Delegation—Mr. Erskine Childers, the author of "The Riddle of the Sands"—has gone over to his full republican point of view. It is clear that this extremist party has much weight; perhaps more than was anticipated a week ago; because the Irish Catholic Bishops, who individually expressed themselves strongly in favour of ratification, called a meeting of their body to pass a resolution to that effect—and behold, the resolution, when published, bore every evidence of having been watered down to the extreme limit of dilution. In point of fact it was utterly meaningless, and speaking more for their discretion than their courage.

But the Irish gunmen are said to favour peace, and certainly Messrs. Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith are fighting strongly for ratification. The decision has been postponed till this week; it is still generally believed that the Treaty will pass, although by a smaller majority than at first seemed probable.

The future position of the De Valerites is an interesting subject. If a Government is formed under Mr. Griffith, who is the brains of the Sinn Fein movement, the extremists may either oppose it by constitutional means or attempt another republican rebellion; in either case it seems probable that the Southern Unionists will give at least passive support to what must be in effect a rather conservative administration. It was at one time said that Mr. de Valera would go back to his books and lectures, but I suppose, after being a President, he does not wish to decline into a Professor again.

**The 1922 Session.**

Arrangements are already being made for the next session at Westminster, which opens on January 31. The main business, of course, will be to give legislative effect to the Irish Treaty, but the Conservatives are making a hard push to have the House of Lords reform included in the programme. It is now common property that, accidents apart, there will be no general election.

**France and Washington.**

M. Briand, back from America, is on a visit to Mr. Lloyd George, and German reparations are the theme. It cannot be said that anybody here really believes the German Government's threatened bankruptcy to be sincere; it is accepted as one more trick to avoid payment of the reparations. But opinion here is growing steadily in favour of a general reduction of war debts and indemnities all round. It must be, however, frankly admitted that this does not suit France at all, and the financial difficulties of France are far graver than ours. Nor does the idea in the least appeal to America, whose attitude is quite simply "Pay me that thou owest."

As for Washington, the Conference ended very suddenly, and there would be nothing left for Mr. Lloyd George to do if he went there. On the whole, we are more than satisfied with the results achieved; they are not miraculous, but at least they count for something.

The Anglo-Japanese Treaty, which had outgrown its usefulness—it was concluded against the Russian menace in Asia—is merged or enlarged into a four-Power pact between Britain, Japan, America, and France as to the Pacific. Its best friends admit that this instrument is colourless; the unregenerate go so far as to say that it is meaningless. But the fact that America and Japan have agreed to sign it is, however, of real importance in alleviating what was fast becoming an increasingly dangerous position in the Pacific.

As to the limitation of armaments, it suits us and it suits America; it remains to be seen whether the rest of the world will follow suit. Even the professional pacifists do not pretend that it has ended war on this planet; they confine themselves to the lower but very relevant consideration that at least it saves our pockets. I am sorry to say that the cynical point out that it only applies to capital ships, which more than one great naval authority declares to be practically useless, and that it

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does not apply to war on land, or in the air, or under the water, and that pugnacious mankind will now turn its attention to the most effective means of destruction in those elements with redoubled zest.

The real truth, however, is that the Agreement is an honourable agreement for ten years, which is as far as ahead as one can look. It will be faithfully kept as between the principals, who have sufficient territory to "fling away ambition" and only desire to hold it in peace; its ultimate success or failure, however, depends not on the principals, but on the leaner and more hungry Powers which may be less convinced of the wisdom of *Beati possidentes*.

There was some talk during the proceedings of an Association of Nations, as a sort of copy of the League of Nations. I gather that this idea has been rather dropped at Washington, the American Senate having no use for it. There is, however, some prospect that another Washington Conference on a less elaborate scale will meet next year.

**Lord Halsbury.**

The death of Lord Halsbury at the age of ninety-eight was a shock; one had almost come to think him immortal. It is not many months ago that he was dining out, and report even had it that he attended a ball afterwards. He was a grand old Tory, not one of the very greatest lawyers, but still one who has left a permanent mark on our judicature. As a politician, he will probably be best remembered for his opposition to the Parliament Act—an opposition which time has in some ways justified. He was a great Unionist, and had he been spared, he would no doubt have denounced the Irish Agreement in unmeasured terms.

**Christmas Trade.**

The usual Christmas crowds have been besieging the usual Christmas shops this last week, and dignified middle-aged gentlemen have been seen carrying home golliwogs and dolls and toy-engines for the younger generation. Prices are certainly cheaper than a year ago, and the shopkeepers report that, even apart from seasonal activities, there is evidence of more money about. But I imagine that most retail traders will be glad to see the back of 1921.

**The Prospects for 1922.**

Everybody, however, is hopeful about next year. There seems general agreement that the worst of the depression is over, and I even discovered a cheerful stock-broker last week. It is true that he is in the gilt-edged market, which is the only department that is earning its keep. But at least there is ample evidence that the voice of the investor is heard in our land, and quotations, even of industrials, are beginning to mount.

A great deal of fresh money has recently been subscribed to Colonial loans, and several more are now pending. Some of the recent issues, which were very poorly supported at first, have since gone to a premium, and this has encouraged those who want money for public works in all parts of the Empire to take the air in Lombard Street again, where their feet are still beautiful upon the flagstones. The export of capital is always an indication of an approaching trade revival, and it looks as though in 1922 our merchants will do more business with the British Empire, and less with Europe, where the conditions, unfortunately, are still very unfavourable. That is the real storm-cloud on the horizon, and it does not get less dark.

**A Scottish Revival.**

Accounts have come from the north-east of Scotland of a religious revival of the old Wesleyan or Moody and Sankey type. It appears to be confined to the fisher-folks, and extraordinary scenes are said to have been witnessed. Visions and voices have abounded, crowds have suddenly gone down on their knees in the street, and the usual emotional fervour of religious conversion has been much in evidence. Those who are in sympathy with this type of evangelical movement hope that it will extend all over Scotland and even England, but outside the Highlands and Wales its chances are rather small. I gather that some of the clergy have no great belief in the permanence of these conversions.

**The Week's Book.**

Many besides Balliol men will want to read "The Life and Philosophy of Edward Caird" (Maclehose, Jackson) by Henry Jones and Professor Muirhead. The successor of Jowett has, perhaps, not left so great a name in metaphysics as T. H. Green, but in some respects his influence, especially in Scotland, was not less deep. His life was extremely uneventful, even for a don, and unluckily he was not a great letter-writer like Jowett. But the present volume tells all there is to tell, and it gives some of Caird's extremely acute criticisms of the current metaphysics of his day; the account of his own system, which followed and expanded Hegel and Kant, is extremely well done.

## OUR LADIES' COMPETITION.

The entries for the above competition have been more numerous than anticipated, but hard work on the part of the editorial staff has made it possible to announce the result this week. Entries have been received from four continents, from Ontario to Ootacamund; and though the winning attempts deal with Near Eastern subjects they were run closely by others dealing with Western European, and even with American topics. The Editor's chief regret is that he had not more prizes at his disposal, and he assures all the competitors that the task of selecting the winners has been anything but an easy one.

As a rule the competitors had obviously taken much pains with their attempts; but it may be noted that there were exceptions to this rule, some articles being so carelessly written as to have no chance at all of a prize. One competitor, who would otherwise have stood a good chance, omitted to enclose a coupon; one or two so far exceeded the maximum number of words allowed as to spoil any chances they might have had; and one attempt, which was excellent in all other respects, fell so far short of the minimum that it had to be disqualified.

**The FIRST PRIZE is awarded to "Dan," whose "Beersheba: Sketches" will be published next week.**

**The SECOND PRIZE goes to:**

**MRS. HAROLD L. SCOTT,**
**Robert College,**
**Constantinople.**

**for an article, "When the Russians Came to Constantinople (November, 1920)."**

**The THIRD PRIZE is won by**

**MRS. R. TOYNBEE,**
**16, Carlyle Mansions,**
**Cheyne Walk, London,**

**for a description of experiences on relief work in Asia Minor.**

**The five CONSOLATION PRIZES are awarded to:**

**Miss M. Rowntree, Rowancroft, Scarborough; Mrs. G. C. Bone, Antioch. Syria; Miss Alice L. Andrews, 11, Edison Ave., Medford 57, Massachusetts, U.S.A.; Mrs. G. R. Colborn, Shebin el Kom, Egypt; Miss Eileen M. Ross, 43, Kehayia Street, New Phaleron, Greece.**

The papers which have won the second and third prizes will be published shortly in *The Near East*. Cheques have been forwarded to the prize-winners.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## EGYPT.

*Cairo, December 10.*

**A Snub for Zaghloul.**

As I write the political situation is at its worst, from any point of view. The slightly restive reception of the official documents published last week-end by the British Government had not faded when, last Tuesday, the Egyptian Official Delegation, headed by Adly Yeghen Pasha, returned to Egypt. The Delegation was accorded a sincere welcome by representative gatherings at Alexandria and Cairo, though the decorousness of the reception in Cairo was tempered by some small ruffianly displays by the riff-raff—who seemed to be "again the Government" by reason of payment in cash! The opposition displayed, however, was so obviously artificial and so piecemeal that it did not subtract from the splendid welcome accorded to the returning delegates by the *intelligentsia*. The representative character of the reception and its sincerity constituted not merely a compliment to Adly Pasha and his colleagues, but also—

—deliberately—an expression of lack of confidence in Zaghloul.

**The Personal Equation.**

It is this aversion to Zaghloul that is the main obstacle in the way of Egyptian unity. Fervid appeals are being made, in the vernacular Press and by sections of prominent Egyptians, to all classes to sink their partisan differences and to remember only that they are Egyptians, bound together in the common cause of hostility to Great Britain. That is—from an Egyptian point of view—a very natural and a very laudable spirit. But as there are no fundamental differences of principle, it can easily be understood that the personal equation feature is the bar to unison. Zaghloul desires a fusion of his party with that of Adly, but only on the condition that his leadership is not thereby endangered. The responsible elements in Adly's group, however, not only distrust Zaghloul but detest his politics, and, according to their own statements, prefer to remain in an opposite camp if the price of unity is to be the acceptance of Zaghloul with an authoritative voice in the councils of the leaders. There is no necessity to draw the obvious moral from such an amazing position.

**A Warning?**

The Egyptians having declared, through the Press and in several speeches at public gatherings, that the Treaty proposed by Great Britain was unacceptable, the Cabinet had no alternative but to resign. It resigned on Thursday afternoon, handing to the Sultan a formal letter stating that as the Government had been unable to fulfil the mandate given to it by His Highness and the Egyptian people, it had no reason to continue in office. At the same time Adly Pasha handed in the Delegation's explanatory note on the negotiations. These two documents are to be published at the convenience of the Sultan—probably to-morrow. Coincidental with the submission of the resignation, two strong appeals were issued by the dissentient members of Zaghloul's delegation—who have been supporting Adly Pasha—and the Egyptian Democratic Party respectively. Both documents reviewed the recent relations of Great Britain and Egypt, accused the British Government of having deceived Egypt, suggested that as Great Britain desired to maintain her rule over Egypt she should be left to shoulder alone the functions of Government, and warned any and every Egyptian that acceptance of Ministerial office under present conditions would be regarded "as a stab in Egypt's back."

**"Non-co-operation."**

These documents amounted to an effort to intimidate any Egyptians who are inclined to accept a Ministerial portfolio. They reflect the opinion held by the majority of the Egyptians, who, in effect, agree that as Great Britain has imposed terms and made it clear that there is no appeal from these terms, she should be left to carry that policy into practice without any assistance from the Egyptians, as the Egyptians do not approve of the policy. In the face of superior force, they say, they are unable to prevent the application of that policy, but they can at least refuse to be parties to it. It will be difficult to obtain a Ministry to carry on, as the Egyptians are of the opinion that the failure of the British to secure a Ministry will result in radical amendments of the policy declared in the official documents published last week-end. The general deprecation of methods of violence continues. The term "non-co-operation" is not actually used, but manifestly that is what the policy of dis-association from administrative functions amounts to.

That is the position to which I was referring when I stated that "the political situation is at its worst." Britain having declared a definite policy, that policy has now become a serious bone of contention. The position is complicated by the explicit statement that Great Britain is determined to carry that policy into effect. She must either keep her word, or bow to the opposition. It is not the time, at this juncture, to analyse the offer made to Egypt. The most important thing to be considered is that if the Egyptians, measuring their strength against Britain, find that they can succeed, it will set an intolerable precedent. The position is exceedingly delicate, calling for firmness and tact. The deluge which has put the Delta practically under water during the last two days has prevented any expression of opinion by demonstrations; but the rain has now cleared away, and in the next few days we shall probably have an indication of the manner in which the resignation and the documents published by the Egyptians will react upon the natives as a whole.

**British Community's Views.**

The following is the text of a Memorandum addressed by the British Union in Egypt to the High Commissioner, and signed by the President of the Union, Mr. W. E. Kingsford.

"Excellency,—Your Excellency's Note to H.H. the Sultan, together with the draft Treaty, have been carefully read and considered by the Council of the British Union in Egypt.

"This Council, composed of members of the British community with many years' residence in and experience of Egypt, is of opinion that it is the most important pronouncement concerning British policy with regard to Egypt since Lord Granville's Despatch in January, 1884. As a declaration of policy, without reticence or ambiguity, it places Great Britain with regard to Egypt in a far more unequivocal position than has hitherto been the case; at the same time re-asserting the desire of Great Britain that Egypt should become a self-governing country in close and friendly alliance with the British Empire.

"The Note of Your Excellency meets with the whole-

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hearted approval and support of this Council, as it covers the points, which it has, from time to time, urged and brought to Your Excellency's notice.

"This Council notes with satisfaction the intention expressed to give Egyptians wider opportunities of showing their administrative capacities. It is hoped also that Sir C. Hurst's scheme for criminal jurisdiction, against which this Union has strongly protested, will be suitably revised to maintain the rights of British subjects now existing under Consular jurisdiction, should the Capitulations be abolished.

"This Council would respectfully draw Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the admirable impression produced by the definite statement of policy is being jeopardised by the ill-informed articles of..... and certain.....English newspapers, contents of which are cabled and circulated throughout Egypt, thus making it very difficult for the large body of moderate Egyptian opinion to rally.

"In conclusion it trusts that the clearly defined policy now enunciated may result in the cordial co-operation between the British and Egyptian Governments and peoples, based on mutual esteem, community of views, and interests."

**The Season.**

Meanwhile the social season is becoming more gay. Visitors are continuing to arrive, and are not expressing any fears, though naturally they are watching developments. Life at the hotels has become an unceasing whirl of joyous activity, commencing in the early afternoon and finishing well after midnight. The Italian and French operas are well attended nightly; the river excursions are attracting increasing numbers of passengers; the guides are being kept busy taking visitors to the innumerable local objects of interest; and the races—postponed this week-end owing to the sodden nature of the courses at Gezira and Heliopolis—are more largely patronized each week. The cost of living continues to recede, and business is becoming more brisk as the Christmas holidays draw near. The only cloud is at the Court, which is in mourning until the 19th instant for the late Prince Said Halim.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, December 12.*

**Political Situation.**

The political atmosphere is becoming so loaded that the general impression is that it is now only a question of days before the storm is bound to burst. The present Government has been gradually weakened by various successive blows dealt it by its adversaries, in order to provoke a ministerial crisis. The first attempt was the parliamentary strike of the Opposition, which, however, has not had its full effect, owing to the Tzaranists having, at the last moment, come to an understanding with the Government, upon which they returned to Parliament. The Tzaranists, however, let it be plainly understood that their change of attitude does not signify a support of the present Cabinet indefinitely, but is intended solely to keep the present Parliament alive until the Franchise Bill has been passed on the democratic lines that suit their views. They will then insist on the dissolution of the present Parliament and call for fresh elections under a neutral Cabinet, to consist preferably of magistrates. The new elections, which will naturally be carried out on the basis of the new Franchise Bill, will enable them to hold their ground against the old parties, which they consider reactionary. Their anxiety is explained by the fact that should a change of Government take place before the passing of the Franchise Bill, the King will call to power the Liberals, who, it is known, are, in present circumstances, the only organized party ready to take over the reins of Government.

The second attempt to embarrass the Cabinet was made by the Liberal Press, which alleged that the Premier, while addressing the members of the majority at their last party meeting, contested the Crown's prerogative of nominating or dissolving a Cabinet, despite the parliamentary majority of the Government. This obliged the Prime Minister to justify himself, by submitting to the King the stenographic notes of the meeting, in order to prove that his statements were entirely misconstrued. He further undertook to make a corresponding declaration in Parliament, affirming the above-mentioned constitutional privilege of the King; and also added that he would be the last person to contest this prerogative, considering that his own Cabinet was nominated in this way.

In this connexion, several members of the Tzaranist Party declared recently in Parliament that when the new Constitution comes up for discussion, this question should be settled once and for all, in order to avoid dragging the Crown into party squabbles.

No sooner did the above incident blow over than a third attempt was made, and this time from a quite unexpected quarter. M. Také Jonescu, seeing that the present Government will not be able to overcome its difficulties, and taking advantage of the general cry for a neutral Government, has been preparing the ground to form such a Cabinet from the present parliamentary material. As his advances were not entirely discouraged by some of the Leaders of the various political groups, he submitted his proposals also to the King. Consequent on his changed attitude towards his collaborators, his resignation from the Cabinet was expected daily, and according to the latest reports, it is announced that he has actually resigned. This move of his is bound to be followed by his two partisians in the present Cabinet, M. Antonescu, Minister of Justice, and M. Titulescu, Minister of Finance, and it remains to be seen whether General Averescu will be able to reconstruct his Cabinet, or whether he will have to withdraw altogether.

In some quarters doubts are entertained whether M. Také Jonescu's plan will succeed, for it is questionable whether the Parliamentary majority—who are devoted to General Averescu—will give him the necessary support. On the other hand, it is rumoured that General Averescu, who is fighting hard to remain in power, is now negotiating with M. Marghiloman, the Leader of the Progressist Party, with a view to replacing the resigning Ministers.

**Roumania and the Anglo-Irish Question.**

On the official announcement of the British Legation that the conflict between England and Ireland has been definitely settled, Dr. Lupu, one of the Leaders of the Tzaranist Party, proposed in the Chamber that a telegram of congratulation should be sent to the British Government. This was unanimously accepted and the telegram was worded as follows: "The Roumanian Parliament, taking cognizance of the definite agreement concluded between the British Government and the Sinn Feiners' Delegation, wishes to express its great admiration for the manner in which these negotiations were conducted, as well as for the manner in which this century-long conflict between two civilized nations has been brought to an end. The Roumanian people feel happy that its great Ally has known how to terminate in so just a way this difficult problem of the British Empire. They further wish it prosperity and welfare in the interests of civilization and of the world's democracy."

**Zionist Congress at Cluj (Transylvania).**

Last Monday the Zionist Congress of the new provinces of Roumania was opened at Cluj in the presence of the civil and military authorities, the British Consul, Mr. Goodwin, and the Delegate of the London Zionist Section, Mr. Kurt Blumenfeld. Dr. Fischer, who greeted the representatives of the authorities, declared that the Jews of Roumania desire to remain loyal citizens of this country and do not intend to form a State within a State. The Congress will last five days.

**M. Titulescu's Financial Mission in Paris.**

The financial situation still being the burning question of the day, public opinion was very anxious to learn what M. Titulescu had achieved in Paris in connection with the various financial arrangements for which he specially undertook his journey. In an interview given to the local Press soon after his return to Bucharest, he made the following statements:—"All the financial

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questions which have been entrusted to me by the Government have been settled in a satisfactory manner. The basis for future negotiations has been established, and in due course those negotiations will be crowned with full success. Following on the established arrangements, the consolidation of our Treasury Bonds will shortly be an accomplished fact, and we shall thus free ourselves from this stumbling block, which from the outset has been at the root of our financial embarrassments. In short, a consortium of Bankers has undertaken the task of liquidating, within 10 or 15 years, the entire stock of our Treasury Bonds, treating direct with holders of same. On the other hand, the Roumanian State binds itself to pay this consortium a reasonable interest and to redeem annually a portion of these Bonds until their complete liquidation."

Referring to foreign deposits of lei at Roumanian banks M. Titulescu said: "The Government's measure whereby the transfer of foreigners' deposits at Roumanian banks was put under control, caused me, I must admit, considerable unpleasantness at first. I have had to give repeated explanations to those who falsely interpreted the intention which prompted the Government to take this step. I also explained to the French Government that the sales of lei on the Paris 'Change, sometimes amounting to 40 million lei a day, could hardly be the outcome of sales of goods, but were simply a speculation on the leu, with disastrous effects for this country as well as for the foreign holders of Roumanian currency. As they had to admit the justness of our measure, I then succeeded in obtaining the reintroduction of the quotation of the leu on the Paris Bourse and also in stabilizing for the moment the rate of exchange, which has a tendency to rise gradually."

**Roumanian Oil Question.**

M. Titulescu further stated that there was no question of negotiating for a foreign loan, either on the basis of the output of gold from the State Mines or on the concession of the "metan gaz" (marsh gaz) of Transylvania. He admitted, however, having discussed the oil question, and that he would gladly encourage the participation of foreign capital provided that the Roumanian element was preponderant in the undertaking.

**Roumanian Students in France.**

In connection with the subsidy for Roumanian students in France, M. Titulescu pointed out that it was true that the French Government offered to contribute towards the difference of exchange from its propaganda funds, with the manifest object of retaining the entire number of Roumanian students in France. These students have proved to be the best propagators of French culture in their own country. M. Titulescu, however, in a friendly way declined this offer, as Roumania, despite its momentary embarrassment, would consider it beneath its dignity to accept such an offer without compensation; the more so as it is not restricting this subsidy merely on account of lack of funds, but especially to enforce the principle of economy.

**Decorations.**

The following have been authorized to wear the Order of the Bath, 3rd Class: Brigadier-General I. Rashcanu, Minister of War, Major-General D. Stratilescu, Commander of the 3rd Army Corps, Major-General A. Razo, Commander of the 1st Army Corps, and Brigadier-General Gr. Bunescu, Commander of the 17th Division. The Order of St. Michael and St. George, 3rd Class:—Colonel C. Constantinescu, Commander of the 25th Infantry Brigade; Colonel Amza Stefanescu, Chief of the General Staff of the 1st Army Corps; Colonel D. Radulescu, Commander of the 2nd Frontier Guards Regiment, and Colonel V. Miron, Commander of the 99th Infantry Regiment.

**General News.**

Last Tuesday, Sir Herbert and Lady Dering gave a brilliant *soirée dansante* at the British Legation. Princess Marie, the entire Diplomatic Corps, and a large part of Bucharest Society were present.

M. Nishi, the newly appointed Japanese Minister to Roumania, is expected to arrive in Bucharest towards the end of February.

Last week an exchange of political prisoners between Hungary and Roumania took place at the frontier station near Oradea Mare.

Five of the Socialist Leaders, who signed the order for a general strike a year ago, have now been released from prison. They were originally sentenced to five years' penal servitude, but the King has reduced their imprisonment to one year.

During the past week heavy snowfalls have taken place throughout the country, and several railway lines were snow-bound. The telegraphic and telephonic services have also been interrupted for some time.

## GREECE.

*Athens, December* 10.

**Troubles in Crete.**

Last Sunday morning about 400 deserters and "*insoumis*," concentrated at a small village called Galata, and started to advance towards the town of Canea for the purpose of driving off the small naval detachment there and deposing the authorities. Many influential Cretan politicians, on being informed of what was going on, went out to meet the rebels and to request them to disperse. Their mission, however, met with no success, and the deserters continued their march on Canea. The regular troops in the town were then obliged to open fire, while the armed transport Myjali, in port at the time, fired several shots on the advancing parties, which were thus forced to retire. On the following morning the rebels again appeared before Canea, and there was a continuous exchange of rifle fire between these and the regular forces throughout the day. All the shops in the town remained closed, and telephonic and telegraphic communications in the eastern provinces of Crete have been interrupted. At a Council of Ministers which was hurriedly summoned in Athens, it was decided that everything possible should be done to restore order in the island. Considerable forces have already been dispatched as well as artillery, and reinforcements are held in readiness to proceed at once to Crete should their presence there be considered necessary.

In responsible quarters the Government is blamed for being too lenient with deserters and "*insoumis*," but it is thought that as a result of these disturbances sterner measures will now be taken to enforce respect for the law. The anti-Venizelist papers attribute the troubles to Venizelist propaganda; this, however, appears to be entirely incorrect as the Liberal deputies in the island have done all in their power to bring about a peaceful dispersal of the insurgents. On the other hand, M. Iliakis, ex-Governor of Epirus, writing in the *Eleftheros Typos* says that the main cause of the disorders was the dispatch to Canea, a year ago, of a marine detachment which since its arrival there continually irritated the inhabitants and treated them, in a most vulgar manner. The Cretans, however, obeying their leaders' advice exercised extreme patience. Last July this detachment went to Halepa, near Canea, and insulted the villagers. The latter organised a protest meeting, and although the complaints were proved to be justified and it was decided to punish the guilty, nothing was done. M. Iliakis points out that another cause of the trouble was the Governor-General's action in enforcing the law against "*insoumis*" (*i.e.* deporting their families), which was now been abolished in Greece.

According to the latest reports from Crete, the situation has somewhat improved, the rebels having withdrawn to the mountain tops outside Canea. The Prefect of the County of Candia has telegraphed to the Minister of Interior that although order reigns throughout his jurisdiction, it would be as well to send reinforcements to prevent, if necessary, the entry into Candia of the insurgents. He adds that troubles are also reported in Rethymno, but order is maintained in all other departments.

**The Future of Thrace.**

Commenting upon the speech of Lord Reading to the

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leaders of the Mussulmans in India, the *Eleftheros Typos* (Venizelist) states that this has caused a very uneasy feeling throughout Greece. Until this speech England had been prepared to discuss only the question of Asia Minor, completely omitting Thrace; but the Viceroy of India now states that "the points of view of the Mussulmans of India regarding Thrace have already borne fruit, and this will be proved when the conditions which have been accepted by Great Britain are made known." The *Eleftheros Typos* goes on to ask whether decisions have actually been taken with regard to Thrace, and, if so, what are they, and when were they taken, and further asks what the Greek Premier has done in the matter.

**The Liberal Party.**

General Danglis, President of the Administrative Committee of the Liberal Party has sent to all the members letters of convocation for a General Assembly which will take place on the 21st of this month (O.S.) for the election of the complementary members of the governing body.

About 360 letters have been issued, including all ex-deputies, the candidates for the 1920 elections, notable members of the Party, and the Editors of the four Venizelist newspapers in Athens.

**The British Naval Mission.**

The Chief of the British Naval Mission to Greece, Vice-Admiral Aubrey Smith, and the Minister of Marine, M. Mavromihalis, have returned from their tour to Constantinople and Smyrna. The remaining members of the British Mission have now arrived in Athens, including the following: Rear-Admiral Wardle, Engineer Captain Bartlett, Surgeon Captain Atkinson, Engineer Commander Sebastien, Lieutenant Commander W. P. Stocker, Lieutenant-Commander A.D. Lacy, Lieutenant-Commander G. R. Cousins, Lieutenant Berry, Sub-Lieutenant Pollard, and Sub-Lieutenant Whittaker.


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**The New Patriarch.**

The news of the election of Monseigneur Meletios Metaxakis, formerly Metropolitan of Athens and now in the United States of America, as Patriarch of Constantinople, was received here with much surprise. The Government which, up to the very last moment, was hoping that the Patriarchate would postpone the election, is now extremely annoyed to see that not only did the latter disregard its wishes, but proceeded to elect the very last person on earth of whom the Cabinet would approve. It goes without saying that the Government will not recognise the election of Monseigneur Meletios; and this would, without the slightest doubt, result in a complete and definite breaking off of relations between official Greece and the Head of the Greek Orthdox Church.

**General News.**

The Direction of Foreigners and Exhibitions of the Ministry of National Economy, has been requested to formulate a Bill proposing a tax of 10 drachmae on every foreigner visiting Greece for the first time.

Three teachers of the Turkish school at Adrianople have been arrested by the Greek authorities on a charge of spreading disquieting rumours to the effect that Thrace will shortly be restored to Turkey.

The resignation of M. Matsas having been accepted, M. Doumas has been appointed General Manager of the State Railways.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, November 15.*

**A Munificent Gift.**

The Greek Community has been agreeably surprised by the news that the entire cost of rebuilding the Gymnasium, which was destroyed last year by fire, is to be defrayed by the generosity of a Greek citizen, M. J. Vergopoulos. The donor desired that his name should not be divulged, but it became impossible to keep it secret. The Greek Council of Education to whom the announcement was made (by M. K. Pavlides, a friend of the benefactor, and Editor of the *Phone tes Kyprou*) at a meeting presided over by the Archbishop, at once passed resolutions warmly thanking M. Vergopoulos. His name is to be inscribed in letters of gold on the pediment or other conspicuous part of the new building. The inscription will record that the Gymnasium was founded by the martyred Archbishop Kyprianos, that it was destroyed by fire in 1920, and rebuilt by M. Vergopoulos in 1921. This generous gift will enable the Committee to devote money collected for the Gymnasium to other school buildings, which are much needed, outside Nicosia.

*Nicosia, November 29.*

**The Greek Attitude.**

It is now generally taken for granted that wider powers are to be offered to the island, and the Greek leaders have practically decided what line they will take, while continuing to agitate for "union." The situation, they say, is analogous to that of the Ionian islands when Mr. Gladstone's Government proposed to bestow the privilege of conditional autonomy. There was in the islands a party which was in favour of unconditional acceptance of the offer. Had its views prevailed the Ionian islands would have remained until now as they were then, but the "liberal" element thought otherwise; and their leader and spokesman, M. Lombardos, proceeded to London and had personal interviews with Mr. Gladstone. He persuaded that statesman that the islanders, while gratefully accepting, as was their duty, the reforms offered, could only regard them as a step towards complete incorporation with Hellas, which was the object of their aspirations. Mr. Gladstone was greatly impressed by the views, and union was afterwards in due course bestowed by H.M. Government. The right policy, it is urged, is therefore to accept the reforms which are to be offered in the same spirit, as only an instalment of a yet larger gift. The

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cases are precisely similar, and here is an example which should be followed in Cyprus. "If the British Government desire to introduce reforms, it is their business; it is ours to devote our whole energies to one object only, that of incorporation with the Mother Country."

**The Law Courts.**

Complaints are being made regarding congestion of work in the Courts at Nicosia. The highest tribute of praise is given, and always has been given, to the administration of justice in Cyprus by all classes of the people. But from time to time the Nicosia courts have not been able to cope with the work thrown upon them, and complaints have been presented on several occasions respecting the constant adjournments and consequent accumulation of arrears; and the appointment of an additional judge has been asked for. A remedy has generally been sought by calling in the aid of the British judge of the District of Kyrenia, where judicial work is comparatively light. So great is the pressure of work again at present that, to avoid expense and much loss of time, suitors are obliged in many cases to settle matters out of court; and strong representations are being made to the Chief Justice and the Government that an addition to the Bench may now be made.

**General News.**

The High Commissioner, Mr. M. Stevenson, will, it is said, proceed to England for a short visit.

The Greek Archbishop has called a general meeting for December 4, to ratify the programme drawn up for the new union campaign and the organization scheme.

Cilician refugees, both Greek and Armenian, continue to arrive by every opportunity. They bring tales of the terror and despair caused by the Franco-Kemalist Agreement. Several Greek steamers filled with refugees are expected.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, December 6.*

**Turkish Brigands.**

News has reached Smyrna that a farmer and his family riding to Alaman Boghazi, north of Ephesus were overtaken by Turkish brigands and slaughtered. The brigands, however, were caught, accidentally, by a party of Greek hunters who were out for wild boar. A fight took place and three of the brigands were killed and one escaped.

Major-General Raymond de Candolle, C.B., C.E., General Manager of the Ottaman (Aidin) Railway Company, accompanied by Mrs. de Candolle and her daughter, Lady Kinnaird, and a party of friends visited the ruins of Pergamus last week-end, and fortunately escaped the Turkish bands that "work" the Soma-Panderma road. The party, whilst at Soma, were advised that the road was dangerous, and that several travellers had been "held up" the day before and three killed.

**Cicilian Refugees.**

The greater part of the refugees from Cilicia, after spending a fortnight at a quarantine station at Klazomene, have been shipped off to various ports in Greece proper. M. Sterghiades, the Greek High Commissioner, has maintained his decision not to allow any of these refugees to settle in Smyrna.

**The British Seamen's Hospital.**

The Smyrna British Colony have evinced great satisfaction at the news that the British Seamen's Hospital, at the Point, will be shortly re-opened, after being closed for 11 years, under the management of Miss Williamson, of the Williamson Nursing Home. The British Foreign Office has at last sanctioned this step, and only the details of the scheme remain to be worked out by Sir Harry Lamb, Dr. Chesseaud, the hospital doctor, and the local committee. The hospital is entitled to £6,000 from the British Government, and if this money is not at once available a philanthropist has offered to advance the amount pending payment by the Government.

## SYRIA.

*Beyrout, November 23.*

**General Gouraud's Proclamation.**

On November 9 General Gouraud addressed to the inhabitants of Cilicia and of Aintab and Killis a message regarding France's decision, "in her generous desire to restore peace to Turkey . . . . to hand over to the Ottoman Government one of the old provinces and two of the old Turkish towns of the empire, which she occupied in virtue of the additional clauses of the Armistice of Mudros." This message has only just been communicated to the local press for publication, but the essential portions of it are sure to have been cabled to London. It urges the Christian populations of the district to be transferred to remain calm, and to have confidence in the Turkish administration. In one passage the General calls upon all good citizens, to whatever religion they may belong, to heed his words; to "keep calm, and not to obey a wild impulse that may throw them on the road of exile and misfortune, where they could rely on no adequate help." In another he says: "To leave is to court a disastrous adventure, to which no happy issue is visible. To remain is to keep the fruits of the labour of ancestors, and revive thereby in peace the prosperity of Cilicia, Killis, and Aintab."

Unfortunately this eloquent appeal has been made in vain, and the earnest assurances it contains have not been heeded. Panic has seized the Christian population. The captain of a Greek steamer that transported about 850 of these unhappy fugitives from Mersina to Cyprus, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout declared to the writer that not less than 170,000 Greeks and Armenians have swarmed into Mersina from the interior. This estimate may be exaggerated, but in Beyrout itself there are said to be not less than 1,700 Armenians who have been given such shelter as was possible in the convents and churches or in the houses of compassionate co-religionists. Some have had to camp outside the town. Every available steamer in Syrian and Egyptian waters has been rushed to Mersina, and thousands have already been transported to various destinations, such as Rhodes, Piraeus, Salonika and Constantinople, or to Syrian, Palestinian Cyprian and Egyptian ports. As the 25th of the month is said to have been fixed as the limit of the evacuation period, the fugitives are taking every available means of transport. Wealthy merchants have been travelling almost as beggars, with only trifling sums on them in such cash or jewelry as they were able hurriedly to collect and take away with them. The authorities here, in view of their inability to cope with such a large and sudden influx of refugees (the shortage of houses being already keenly felt by the native population), have tried to prevent the landing of refugees who arrived this morning on Italian and Khedivial Mail steamers, and to redirect them to another destination; but I now learn that, thanks to the representations of the British Consul-General, the refugees on board the Khedivial steamer have been allowed to land.

The ruin and loss in the retroceded territory must be appalling, and fortunes that had survived the war must have been lost in a few days. When it is remembered that the economic life of Cilicia was constituted mainly by the Christian element, viz., Greek and Armenian, the magnitude of the loss to the country will be realized. This loss is bound to react not only on Turkey, but on France as well. Hence the passionate appeal of the High Commissioner.

That the Greeks should hurry away is easy to understand, for it would be expecting too much from the Turks that they should tolerate in their midst the men of a race with which they are in bitter conflict. Different, however, is the case of the Armenians, unless they should have been indulging in provocative acts against their Turkish neighbours while under the temporary protection of the French Flag. It must be admitted, however, that the memory of the Aintab massacres is still quite fresh in their minds.

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# A TURKISH NIGHT.

BY

WILLIAM RANSTED BERRY.

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## DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

**HALIL :** *A mountaineer of Anatolia.*
**FATMA :** *The wife of Halil.*
**MUSTAPHAH :** *A private soldier of the Turkish Gendarmerie.*
**AN OFFICER :** *Of the Turkish Gendarmerie.*

**Scene :**

*Interior of a Turkish peasant's mud-brick house, or hut. At R., flush with the wall and quite unadorned, a very small fireplace from which the steady glow of charcoal embers casts a ruddy though faint light into the room. At back, centre, a doorway giving entrance to a second room, which is dark. At L., a wooden house-door of primitive design ; beyond it, rather low in the wall, a small window closed with a wooden lattice of open scroll work and having a wooden shutter opening inwards, which is thrown back. On either side the fireplace, and in the wall-angle between the fireplace and the door at the back, are low broad couches or divans formed by spreading several thicknesses of rugs over thin mattresses laid directly upon the floor. Between the two doorways, and below the window, several large wooden chests stand close against the wall. Here and there, deep niches and long lateral recesses cut into the soft mud walls at irregular intervals are filled with native pots and pans, brass coffee-grinders and tiny china coffee cups. A pair of black native slippers stands beside the door. The wall-surfaces are smooth mud plaster ; the floor, covered in the main with worn rugs and matting, is hard packed earth. The ceiling is extremely low and quite flat, its thin round rafters of unfinished sapling trunks being visible. There are no chairs nor other furniture.*

**Discovered :**

*Halil sitting cross-legged upon one of the couches beside the fire-place, smoking a narghileh which stands at his side. He wears the costume of an Anatolian mountaineer—a fez with a coloured cloth wound around it turban fashion with the fringe hanging over one ear ; a tight-fitting striped shirt of bright aspect ; a short black-embroidered jacket of light blue ; baggy breeches of coarse white linen reaching only to the bare knees, and blue cloth leggings shaped like ancient metal greaves. A broad plaid sash is wound many times about his waist, and over it is strapped an enormous leather girdle fully a foot wide of which the front part is furnished with numerous pouches and pockets as well as with the butt of a modern revolver and the dagger-hilt of a knife. He is in his stocking feet, for the slippers near the door are his. He stares steadily into the fire, and puffs regularly at the mouthpiece of his narghileh in such fashion that the live coals lying upon the tobacco in the bowl glow and fade with equal regularity.*

*After an interval, there is a fumbling at the latch of the house-door. Halil turns his head to watch. The door is slowly opened to its fullest extent and Fatma enters, bowed almost double under a great load of faggots and brushwood which she carries upon her shoulders. With difficulty she loosens the ropes which bind her burden and allows it to fall from her shoulders into the corner behind the door. She straightens herself wearily and wipes her face with a loose end of her head cloth which ordinarily serves the purpose of a veil. She wears a garment of gaily striped material, like calico, tight on the arms and upper body but expanding below into loose trousers gathered at the ankle. Her feet are bare. Upon her wrists and forearms are a number of heavy bracelets, and about her neck a necklace of silver coins.*

**Halil** (*having turned again to his contemplation of the fire upon recognizing his wife as the entrant*) : It was sunset an hour ago, Fatma. You stay too late in the valley where such a night would breed fever in the Sultan himself. And why do you bring that rubbish here to litter up the house ?

**Fatma** (*arranging the firewood in the corner as neatly as may be, and sweeping up stray twigs with a besom*) : Allah forgive me, O my Lord, but rain is coming down the mountains, and there is no dry wood laid by. The donkey too——

**Halil** (*turning sharply to look at Fatma*) : Now, by the beard of the Prophet, has that accursed beast again broken his hobbles ?

**Fatma :** Yes, my lord, he has. But, praise be to Allah, he has not strayed far this time, for I saw him in the wheat field of Mehmet Agha as I came by, and would have stopped to catch him—only, when one is alone it is not easy to replace a bundle of wood such as—

**Halil** (*throwing the mouthpiece of his narghileh from him in exasperation* : Was there ever such an animal in all Islam ? He breaks ropes as though they were threads—and usually eats them into the bargain ! May his religion be destroyed, and his ears drop from his head to shame him before all donkeys !—Yet it was a wise thought in him to choose the field of Mehmet Agha to browse in, and not his master's! May Allah have mercy on his belly ! You say there is rain on the mountains ?

**Fatma** : Yes, a thunderstorm. But it is moving slowly. There is yet time to catch the donkey before it reaches us.

**Halil :** There *must* be time, unless it be the will of Allah that I endure a wet skin for the sake of a mis-begotten, four-legged, beast of Satan, for I would not stir from this spot to fetch the king of donkeys until I have had at least one cup of coffee, O Fatma, dispenser of fragrant delights !

(*Fatma selects from the wall-niches a cylindrical brass coffee grinder and other necessary utensils which She brings to the hearth where She squats upon the floor and busies herself during the ensuing conversation in the preparation of coffee after the native fashion—grinding the coffee beans to a powder which She mixes with sugar and water in a long handled pipkin. She places the pipkin among the embers of the fire and sets herself to watch the brewing of its contents*).

What news is there ? Did you see anyone from the village ?

**Fatma :** I saw no one—except the donkey. And he is no new sight ! But yet———one thing I did see—at sunset—

**Halil** (*suddenly puffing like a grampus at the mouthpiece of his narghileh without visible result, each puff being accompanied by the gurgling sound which has given the water pipe its other name* : "*hubble-bubble.*") More fire for my pipe ! (*puff, gurgle*). Tobacco is not what it used to be—(*puff, gurgle*)—when I was younger ! (*puff-puff, gurgle-gurgle*). Then it would smoulder all day long—(*puff, gurgle*)—like good tinder ;

(*Fatma has hastened to extract a glowing ember from the fire with a pair of long iron pincers, and has laid it upon the ashes in the bowl of the narghileh. Halil's succeeding puffs are rewarded by whiffs of smoke, which increase in volume until the end of his speech finds him an active volcano*)

—but now (*puff, gurgle*)—I can suck and suck like a dying carp—(*puff-puff, gurgle-gurgle*)—and not draw enough smoke to satisfy a flea !—Am I a camel (*puff-puff, gurgle-gurgle*)—that I should grunt and gurgle for no reason ?

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*(the pipe is now well alight, and Halil settles himself to smoke comfortably).*

You saw no one but the donkey until sunset?—Who did you see at sunset?

**Fatma:** I saw a number of men moving over the shoulder of our mountain.

*(motions up-stage)*

They seemed to carry guns in their hands—but they were very far away.

**Halil:** Guns? They were probably driving partridges. It would have been a good time for it on a day like this when the birds settle down early.

**Fatma:** Do soldiers drive partridges?

**Halil:** *(taken aback)*: Soldiers?—You saw soldiers on the mountains?

**Fatma:** It looked to me like the uniform of the gendarmes—but they were very far away. There must have been at least a dozen of them.

*Rising to her feet, Fatma crosses to the wall-niches and brings to the hearth two small coffee cups without handles, about the size of egg cups).*

**Halil** *(uneasily)*: Gendarmes? Twelve or more of them? Some devil has a spite against you, Fatma! Some afrit has put gendarmes in your eyes, where there were only grazing goats, or bushes moving in the wind!—Why, there are no Gendarmes quartered in our district nearer than Urganli, and that is more than a day's journey.

*(Fatma takes the pipkin from the fire and pours coffee into the two cups, handing one of them to Halil who receives it mechanically the while He gazes at the fire).* What would bring them all this distance—so many of them together—to climb over barren mountains?—unless they have heard something—unless they search for someone!—

*(He slowly turns his head until his eyes encounter Fatma's).*

**Fatma** *(dropping her coffee cup and clutching Halil's knee with one hand while the other fumbles at her breast)*: Not that! Oh, not that!—It could not be——!

**Halil** *(throwing off his agitation with an effort, and patting Fatma's hand which lies on his knee reassuringly)*: No!—No! It could not be that—It must have been a vision that you saw—or goats—not soldiers. We would have heard—there would have been a warning—

*(He drinks his coffee with a loud sipping sound as is the native custom, and rises to his feet. There is a roll of distant thunder).*

**Halil**: But come. Let us go and look for that seventy times abandoned donkey! May his tail wither to nothing, and his grave be unknown! If a devil bewitched you, Fatma, he may bewitch the donkey too; if they were really gendarmes that you saw, they will surely *steal* the donkey!

*(looks quizzically at Fatma as the point of his own sentence dawns upon his peasant mind).*

Now by the beard of the Prophet, we stand to lose our donkey either way unless we hurry to spite the devil or the gendarmes!

*(He crosses to the house-door where He steps into his slippers which stand at the threshold while Fatma hands him a stout stick, like a quarter staff. Exeunt, closing the door behind them).*

*(There is an interval. A MAN'S FACE appears behind the lattice of the window, gazing stealthily in. It disappears. Presently the door-latch is softly lifted and the door is cautiously opened far enough to permit the appearance of a swarthy head. The eyes scrutinize the room quickly and furtively. Its emptiness is evidently satisfactory, for the body of MUSTAPHAH follows his head through the door with cat-like agility and noiselessness. He is dressed in the uniform of a private in the Turkish gendarmerie—a fez of imitation astrakan with a blue cloth top; a dark blue tunic with a single row of brass buttons, and trousers of the same colour with narrow red piping down the seams stuffed into the tops of white woollen socks. A yellow leather cartridge belt, heavy with ammunition for the rifle which He carries, is strapped about his waist. He closes the door gently, slips off his slippers, and glides likes a shadow to the doorway at back, centre, where He peeps into the darkness of the second room until He is satisfied that it, too, is empty, whereupon he crosses to the fireplace, stares for a moment at the condition of its embers, and then turns to the narghileh and stirs the ashes in its bowl with his fingers. He uncovers a live coal and is so startled to find this evidence of a recent smoker that He throws a last nervous look about him and runs on tiptoe to the house-door which He opens to look out and listen for a moment. He draws back into the room long enough to step into his slippers and to lean his rifle against the wall near the door-jamb; then He steals out into the night, closing the door behind him. There is again an interval—until the house-door is suddenly flung open in a fumbling mannner and MUSTAPHAH re-enters staggering under the weight of the body of a wounded Turkish officer which He carries across his shoulders. He struggles to the nearest divan upon which He places his burden as gently as may be. The Officer is dressed much as is Mustaphah, save that He wears military boots and a revolver in a holster, while gold braid and insignia of rank appear upon his fez and tunic. He lies huddled on the divan in an unconscious condition, breathing heavily. There is a good deal of blood on his tunic which is torn at the throat, and his face is almost hidden under a rude and blood-stained bandage which binds his head. Mustaphah springs back to the house-door which He closes after a long look into the night He kicks off his slippers and re-crosses to the officer lying on the divan whom he regards thoughtfully. Stooping down, He unbuckles the revolver belt with its revolver, and fastens it about his own waist. As He straightens up his eyes light on the doorway at back, centre. Running to it, He disappears only to reappear in an instant and return to the body on the divan which He throws across his shoulders as before and carries out of sight through the doorway at back, centre. He returns once more, empty-handed, to recover his slippers and rifle with which He again retreats through the doorway. There is a third interval, broken by the re-entry of Halil and Fatma in the order named).*

**Halil** *(tossing his stick upon the pile of brushwood in the corner and striding across the room to the fireplace where He squats to rearrange the fire while Fatma closes the door, recovers his stick, places the slippers which He has kicked off neatly side by side against the wall, and adjusts her dress)*: A fine black night for a donkey to choose to go roaming over a mountain chain! He has been in our family as many years as there are hairs in the beard of the Prophet, yet it delights him to run from me as though I carried pestilence! Also it is unbecoming a beast of his age to run! May his ancestors perish and his body shrivel—as mine does now for lack of food.—Let us have food, Fatma! Food! Or by the Koran——

*(Fatma obediently moves to the doorway at back, centre, but is suddenly confronted by The Soldier, Mustaphah. She recoils with a stifled scream, covering her face with her veil. Mustaphah, completely ignoring her, moves a few paces into the room and in the graceful Mohamedan fashion salutes Halil who has sprung to his feet and whipped out his revolver).*

**Halil**: Allah protect us!—Who are you? And by what right are you in my house?

**Mustaphah:** Allah pardon me! And his blessing be upon this household! I do the service of the Sultan—

**Halil** *(contemptuously)*: The Sultan! Since when has robbery become the service of the Sultan?

**Mustaphah**: Robbery, Effendim? Now, by my head, you do me a great wrong! You see? I wear the Sultan's uniform, and in his name I have sought shelter here—for a friend—who is hurt. *(Motioning to the doorway behind him).* He lies in that room.

**Halil** *(moving a pace or two toward Mustaphah)*: In that room? Another one of you? How was he hurt?

**Mustaphah** *(slowly)*: He was wounded, Effendim.

**Halil** *(in dismay)*: Wounded? And by whom?

**Mustaphah** *(looking intently at Halil and hesitating*

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*before replying*) : Kara Yousouf did it, Effendim.

**Halil** (*starting backward in consternation, while Fatma, who has stood huddled against the wall at back, listening, stifles a cry in her veil at mention of Kara Yousouf*).

**Halil :** Kara Yousouf ?—The brigand ? (*Mustaphah nods his head in affirmation*) Here in our mountains ? —Impossible !

**Mustaphah** : Nevertheless, it is true, Effendim. Nothing is impossible that concerns brigands—least of all, mountains. If you like, I will tell you the way of it so that you need no longer be afraid when you hear the name of Kara Yousouf !

**Halil** (*much agitated, but striving to control himself. He returns his revolver to his belt*) : So——that——we shall——no longer——be afraid ?——You mean——? You mean——?

**Mustaphah :** That Kara Yousouf——is dead !

(*Halil's tense nerves appear suddenly to relax as though He had sustained a blow, and He half turns away from Mustaphah with head bent down so that the latter may not see his face wherein suffering and horror, which gradually give place to suppressed fury as the action of the scene continues, are equally mingled. Fatma, who had hung on Mustaphah's answer with breathless intensity, sways as though about to swoon, but recovers herself enough to stagger behind Mustaphah and, unnoticed by him, throws herself prostrate upon the divan against the wall at R. where She lies motionless, her head smothered under her veil*).

**Halil** (*in a low voice, and like a boy repeating a lesson*) : Kara——Yousouf——is——dead ! (*louder*) : Tell me how it was.

**Mustaphah** (*first stepping back and glancing into the dark room behind him*) : Information—I do not know how—came to us as we lay in barracks that Kara Yousouf had left his hunting ground in the North and had come to these mountains of yours—I do not know why. Perhaps he was uneasy—up there—in the North. Perhaps they had changed the caravan routes. In such matters he was as the Prophet in wisdom, they say. We came—a whole company of us—and we scoured these hills night and day for three days, for our men were eager since the price upon Kara Yousouf's head has been doubled. (*Takes from his pocket a small black wooden box containing native tobacco and cigarette papers, and begins to roll a cigarette*) This afternoon, Effendim, our officer and myself became separated from the others—up there—(*points up-stage*) where the great ravines are. We started down one of them to reach the valley—and in a little while, as we came suddenly around the corner of a cliff, we met him face to face—Kara Yousouf. Yes, him and one other. There was a fight. By Allah ! He fought like seventy times seven devils !—But with us was the right, and the sword of Allah—so we bore them down—him and the other—and we killed them—and my officer, who lies in your room behind me, though he was weak from loss of blood, cut off Kara Yousouf's head so that we, and no others, should have the reward. (*Goes to fireplace and kneels down to light his cigarette from an ember which he picks up with the pincers previously employed by Fatma. Halil recoils as He passes so that his face continues to be partly turned away from Mustaphah. The latter rises again to his feet*) Now tell me, was it not well done ? For a loyal subject of the Sultan you do not rejoice overmuch at the death of one of his enemies—this brigand—this dog-born Kara Yousouf.

**Halil** (*in a low and thick voice*) : Oh ! it was well done ! —What more ?

**Mustaphah** (*during this speech, goes to doorway at back, centre, and reaches in for his slippers, which He puts on, and his rifle, then crosses to house-door at L.*) : More ? There is no more. This was the first house we saw as we came down the mountain. My officer could go no farther because of his wounds. I carried him in here. —And now I leave him in your care for a little while. For I must go—back up the mountain—to bring the head of Kara Yousouf which I hid when I could no longer carry my officer and it too. I heard hyenas last night—they shall not rob us of our reward. (*He opens the door, letting in a gust of wind and the sight of distant lightning*). Let your wife look to him. He needs it. (*Nods towards the doorway at back, centre*). I will return very soon. Peace be on your house, O my brother ! (*Salutes as before and Exits, closing the door. The click of the closing latch rouses Halil from the kind of impotent stupor in which He has stood. His face works uncontrollably as He glares at the closed door*).

**Halil** (*raising his clenched hands above his head in a frenzy*) : Pig !—Dog !—Son of a line of murderers !—May Allah cut short thy life ! (*Glances at the doorway at back and controls himself. His eyes rest upon the prostrate form of Fatma. He is on the point of going to her when He hesitates, runs noiselessly to the house-door, opens it, looks out, closes it softly, re-crosses to the doorway at back where He stands looking and listening a moment, and then drops to his knees beside Fatma whom He shakes roughly by the shoulder* : Fatma ! —Fatma !—You heard !—You heard all that he said ? (*Fatma allows Halil to raise her to her knees, when her veil drops from her face showing it swollen with tears*).

**Fatma** (*uttering a long drawn wail*) : All—a—a—a—h ! (*Halil claps his hand over her mouth in a fury, and half drags, half carries, her down-stage to R. as far away from the doorway at back as He can*).

**Halil** (*hoarsely, and shaking her*) : Be silent ! thou mother of a thousand screams !—May Allah pluck out thy tongue ! (*Fatma regains partial control of herself, but low moans escape her*). Now answer me ! Did you not hear what he said ? That they have murdered Kara Yousouf ?—*Our* Yousouf.

**Fatma** (*wailing, and wringing her hands*) : Yousouf !—My son !—My son !

**Halil** : Yes, and my son too !—Our son. But do I weep like a waterfall and wail great nothings while one of his murderers lies under my roof—May Allah destroy his sight !—And the other is gone to fetch his head ? —his poor severed head ? No ! I am a man and a father—the father of Kara Yousouf whom the Sultan made a brigand ! Yes, the Sultan !—What was left to our son when they seized his land—his money—and threw him into prison on a false charge ? His wife ! Yes, our more than daughter, Hasneh. But what was left to him when he was finally set free at the end of two years ? His wife's grave, and a tale whispered at night behind locked doors among the mountains of her body violated and disfigured before they killed her ! And all—all—in the name of the Sultan !—Have you forgotten, Fatma ?

**Fatma** (*in a low tense voice*) : Forgotten !—Allah bear witness to the truth of it !

**Halil :** Had he then no right to set himself against the Government ?— He became a brigand. Yes. But not as a robber of travellers and poor villagers, but as an enemy of the Government, taking from its caravans the gold which the Sultan took from him, and taking from its soldiers the lives which should pay for the one dear life the Sultan took from him.—Yousouf lived—and died—for his revenge !—and now I—his father—also have work to do ! (*Ferocity and determination distort his face as He motions to the doorway at back*). If these two live to see another day, may my name become a mockery throughout all Islam—may Allah strike me dead ! (*During this speech Fatma has quite recovered herself. A hard gleam shines from her eyes, and her face reflects her husband's purpose*).

**Fatma :** Revenge for Yousouf !—Allah give me strength to help you !—But how—how can it be done so that none shall know ?

**Halil :** It must be done to-night. You heard the soldier say that he and—(*points to doorway at back*)—this officer had become separated from the others when they met our son. No one has seen them since but you and I. No one shall ever see them again, for Allah is merciful ! Remember too that these troops come

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from a distance, and that no one of our village will dare to tell them that Kara Yousouf was our son. These two will be remembered only as men lost in the mountains—and our mountains keep their secrets well. (*Searching each other's eyes, they turn toward the doorway at back*).

**Fatma :** Then there is no time to lose, Halil. The soldier may come back at any minute. (*She runs to the house-door and lays her ear against it. There is nothing to be heard but the rising wind, and a distant roll of thunder. She passes to the window where She closes and bars its shutters. Re-crossing to Halil, she pulls at his arm and points to the door-way at back*).

**Fatma :** One sheep lies ready for your shearing. (*Halil had sunk into a reactionary daze when Fatma left him, but her touch recalls him, and his eyes follow her finger and remain riveted upon the doorway at back. Fatma plucks his knife from his belt and puts it in his right hand*).

**Halil :** (*Moving on tiptoe towards the doorway at back*) Allah be my witness ! (*Fatma turns to the hearth and crouches down before the fire. Halil has just reached the doorway at back when the latch of the house-door rattles, followed by a knocking. Halil faces about in consternation. Fatma springs to his side. They stand motionless staring at the house-door. The knocking is repeated. With a swift movement Fatma wrenches the knife from Halil's hand. She motions to the house-door*).

**Fatma** : Go ! (*Halil hesitates ; She pushes him. As He slowly crosses to the house-door, Fatma disappears through the doorway at back, the knife in her hand. With his hands on the door-bar, Halil looks over his shoulder The empty room tells him of Fatma's intention*).

**Halil** (*calling through the door*) : Who is there ?

**A Voice** : The soldier—Mustaphah. (*Halil unbars the door which is then torn open and Mustaphah impetuously Enters. Halil retreats before him to the centre of the room where Mustaphah, having slipped out of his slippers, follows him*).

**Mustaphah** (*excitedly and joyfully*) : Are you not Halil—Halil the son of Nouri ?

**Halil** : Yes.

**Mustaphah :** Then, by Allah, they were right !—If only I had known when we first came here !—If only he had told me before he became too weak !

**Halil** (*visibly agitated*) : Who ?—Had told you what ? (*Mustaphah is about to answer when a muffled and longdrawn cry, such as a man might make when struck a mortal blow, is heard from beyond the doorway at back. The Two Men are startled. Mustaphah turns sharply as though to go to the doorway at back, but Halil grasps his arm*).

**Mustaphah** : What was that ?

**Halil** : It was nothing—My wife is tending your officer's wounds. I suppose they hurt him when he moans like that.

**Mustaphah :** Moan ? Was that a moan ? Why, I have seen him almost cut to pieces, but I never heard him moan before. (*Looks uneasily over his shoulder at the doorway*).

**Halil :** It is because he lies unconscious.—Allah is greatest ! But what news has so excited you ?

**Mustaphah:** (*vaguely, his thoughts in the next room*): News? —(*his excitement returning with recollection*). News ? If you are indeed Halil, the son of Nouri, as I feel certain you are, I have great news for you ! (*During this speech, Fatma appears in the doorway, and is seen to creep stealthily into the room towards Mustaphah, who stands facing Halil with his back to the doorway. The knife is still in Fatma's hand, and it is evident that She intends to drive it between Mustaphah's shoulder-blades*).

**Mustaphah :** When I left this house a little while ago, I went to find no head ! I went to find the others of Kara Yousouf's band ! For I am no soldier, though you see me in this uniform ! I am Mustaphah—Mustaphah, the companion and lieutenant of Kara Yousouf himself ! (*Halil is thunderstruck, and Fatma, who now stands directly at Mustaphah's back with upraised knife, is motionless as She awaits the conclusion of Mustaphah's recital*). I told you there was a fight in the ravine. There *was* a fight and a bloody one, by Allah !—But the two who were killed were *not* Kara Yousouf and his companion, but an officer of gendarmes and a private !—May their ancestors be destroyed !—Kara Yousouf was wounded and could not escape, so he and I—for I, Mustaphah, was with him—stripped the uniforms from the bodies and put them on so that we might be received into the first house we came to.—And this house, O Halil, father of Yousouf ! was the first !

**Halil** (*in a dry whisper*) : Allah have mercy !

**Mustaphah** (*pointing over his shoulder with his thumb to the doorway behind him*). Do you not see ?—or has Allah scattered your wits ? The man you have sheltered under your roof, and whose wounds your wife has dressed, is Kara Yousouf—your son ! (*Halil staggers back in horror and Fatma, with a shriek, falls to the floor behind Mustaphah, the knife dropping from her hand. Mustaphah whirls about at the sound of Fatma's voice close behind him. He looks from her prostrate body to Halil in astonishment. Presently his eyes fall on the knife on the floor beside Fatma. He moves slowly toward it with his eyes glued upon it. Stooping over, He picks it up gingerly and touches the blade with the fingers of his other hand. They come away covered with blood. With a shudder, He flings the knife from him, recoiling from the body of Fatma as He does so. Halil has sunk upon the divan nearest the fireplace with his head in his hands in an attitude of collapse. Mustaphah stares stupidly at Fatma, at Halil, and then at the blood on his fingers. A look of comprehension and horror creeps into his face. With his eyes on Fatma, He tiptoes to the doorway at back through which He disappears. A moment later He reappears and glares wildly at the motionless figures of Halil and Fatma. Suddenly, avoiding the latter's body as He would an unclean thing, he runs to the house-door where, without shifting his glance from Halil and Fatma, he steps into his slippers, seizes his rifle and opens the door*).

**Mustaphah** (*in a whisper*) : Merciful Allah !—They have killed their own son ! (*Exit running*).

(*Slow Curtain*).

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The first steamer of the new German Morocco line will leave Hamburg for the Moroccan coast at the end of the month. This new line has been formed by the Flensburger Dampfer Company, the Hamburg Rederei Wilhelm Hamsoth, and the Flensburg Ocean Line.

A Reuter Cairo message, dated Decembes 10 states, —Acting under martial law, the authorities have deemed it advisable to invite Colonel Kennedy to quit Egypt, and he is leaving forthwith.

It is officially announced, reports Reuter, that since the outbreak of the Malabar rebellion 1,826 Moplahs have been killed, 1,500 wounded, 5,474 have been captured, and 14,241 have surrendered voluntarily.

Heavy snowfalls are reported in the interior of Asia Minor, especially in Angora.

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## NORTHERN AFRICA.

**"STUDIES IN NORTH AFRICA." By Cyril Fletcher Grant. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co. 8s 6d net.)**

The first impression that one gathers from this book is of the intense vividness and life with which civilization after civilization, from Carthaginian to Turkish, is presented. From the coming of that Queen who entertained Aeneas to the earlier portion of the Nineteenth Century, the author, in guiding us from the ruins of one Empire to those of another built up from the debris of the last, tells us the history of Northern Africa. It is no bare recital of events and stones, but the story during some twenty-seven centuries of the peoples who lived in these lands. It describes their governments and their religions, their wars and their martyrdoms, their work and their pleasures, with an ease and skill that leave in the mind a series of unforgettable pictures; and not only are we told those things which concern names famous in history, we are also shown the everyday life and interests of the people in town and country.

In the description of the mosaic work in a large private house at Oued Atmenia, there is something which makes its owner a man of habits as familiar as those of dozens of acquaintances. We can see this Roman in the hot chamber of his baths, reflecting over the pictures of his horses and remembering rides and races of his earlier days. And no better praise could man, living or dead, desire, than those under the mosaic of a favourite racehorse: "Whether you win, or not, we love you, Polydoxe."

Time after time one is tempted to quote, for this is an eminently quotable book. The message of the Emperor Aurelian, the curses of racing enthusiasts, the cemetery near the cisterns at Malga, we must leave, with so much more that is good, to the discovery of the reader.

To all those interested in the history of Northern Africa, and equally to those travelling for pleasure, this is a book to recommend. We look forward to the second volume promised in the preface.

## A DESERT FILM.

**"THE HEART OF THE DESERT." By Honore Willsie. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 8s.)**

This popular American author again gives us a story of the Arizona Desert. This time her hero is a Red Indian, partly Apache. His name is Cartwell, and he is well educated and by profession an engineer. Also he has "panther strength" which produces "panther grace," "large, long lashed Mohave eyes," "a straight, thin nostrilled nose" and "a stern, cleanly modelled mouth and square chin." The heroine, Rhoda, who has made up her mind that she is slowly dying, is a vision of "delicate loveliness," with whom every man that she meets falls in love at first sight, and who causes one of her victims to exclaim: "I ain't got any rights except the rights that any living man has got to take care of any white thing like her. They get me hard when they're dainty like that. And she's the daintiest I ever saw." Cartwell kidnaps Rhoda and carries her off across the desert for her own good. In spite of his determination to prevent her escape and the fact that he makes her ride all night in a fainting condition, his respectful chivalry is held up for our admiration, and when he looks at her his eyes are "very, very tender." After some months of this treatment she becomes perfectly—in fact remarkably— well and strong. We are shown alternately Cartwell and his Indian attendants flying through the desert with Rhoda and Rhoda's fiancé and two other men dashing in pursuit. Every now and then she is nearly rescued, but Cartwell's Indian cunning always triumphs. When at last, with a splendid gesture of self-sacrifice, he sends her back to her white friends, they throw away all their chances by deliberately preparing to shoot him undefended, in Rhoda's presence. We feel that they only get what they deserve when she finally conquers her prejudice against his race and goes off with Cartwell. In this scene, and as "for a long moment the two clung to each other as if they knew that life could hold no moment for them so sweet as this. Then they mounted, and, side by side, rode off into the desert sunset," the reader gives up the unequal struggle to visualise these people as walking the common earth and only sees them moving rapidly across a lighted screen.

## ON A SUBDUED NOTE.

**"MARGARET'S MEAD." By Jane Harding. (London: Wm. Heinemann. 7s. 6d. net.)**

The principal characters in this book find little but sorrow for themselves, and the secondary characters have quite as bad fortune in their own, smaller, way. The book, therefore, will not be enjoyed by readers who like to associate themselves with the fortunes of the people of whom they read; they will inevitably find the story depressing; and its subdued setting and the restraint with which it is told will add to their depression. Nevertheless it is a good book, and regarded only as a work of art, it will probably afford keen enjoyment to many readers. The characterisation is unusually well done, although we are sometimes tempted to wonder whether both Marion and Lottie would have retained quite so much originality and—we must add—refinement after the experiences through which they passed before the opening of this part of their story. We feel doubtful also about Walter. But the mistake, if mistake there be, is not in the delineation of these characters, which is excellent, but in the account given of their early days; we feel that the author sketched the characters skilfully from life, but that in fitting early histories to them, so to say, she has drawn on her imagination, with less successful results. There are minor blemishes in plenty, but they cannot obscure the merits of an uncommon book, and the author shows real skill in noting the small things that go to the making of character, and a remorseless honesty in setting them down, which will probably take her far if she continues to write. We may direct the attention of those who read the book to the impression created in Marion's mind by her lover's lighting a cigar as he leaves her after her refusal to go off to Africa with him, and the ruthless way in which her attempt to revoke her decision is baulked—by the smallness of a letter box! Renunciation comes, it is true. But how?—"Undesired, a thought jeered at her: a mocking, self-derisive thought that she would fain have slaughtered, and could not. It told her that not morals, nor ethics, nor principles had availed her in her strait; she had abandoned all. Accident had decided the course she should pursue." How often are our decisions, even on most vital points, altered by accident!

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# MUSICAL NOTES.

## THE NATURE OF MUSIC.

**"MUSIC AND LIFE." By W. J. Turner. Methuen. 7s. 6d. net.**

I want to begin this column by recommending everyone who has the slightest artistic bent in him to buy and to read this volume of essays. For despite its charmingly irrelevant title, it is easily the most stimulating piece of criticism that I have come across of recent years, and it glows with sincerity and imagination. It is true that the author has not solved the connection between Music and Life, that, indeed, he only fitfully approaches it; but he does touch on all sorts of kindred topics, and one need be neither a musician, nor a musical critic, nor a philosopher, to understand his position. Given a certain degree of imaginative sensitiveness, anyone may find delight and enlivenment in the collection of vitalising essays.

As I say, this book stimulates thought, both in agreement and in disagreement, but as there is no entertainment in redoubling the many points on which the author is correct, I propose to attack one or two others on which I am not so convinced. Mr. Turner is first a poet, and his remarks on Music are, therefore, at once more suspect and more valuable. To begin, he sets out his belief that Music as much as Literature is a part of Life, as necessary, as inevitable, and as eternal: that, in fact, a mastery in, say, the arrangement of words (Literature) could not well exist without a similar and simultaneous mastery in the arrangement of sounds (Music). This intuitive conviction of course gives the lie to the ordinary historical methods, which date the beginning of Music from about the Middle Ages, just as will any belief, firmly enough held; and it leads him to the reasonably intriguing statement that the dead civilizations, like the Babylonian, the Sumerian, the Egyptian, or the Greek, produced music to equal the work of Beethoven or of Schubert. There is nothing to say about this *a priori* method, except to remark its charm: for it is a very grand supposition, this idea of the essential interconnection or inevitable co-existence of all the arts. I myself have for long been puzzled how to establish a theory that a work of art is an expression of life, and the corollary that its maker must be able to move naturally in other worlds of art than his own, but it has proved impossible with serious consistency to entertain the idea, and the reluctant (because less beautiful) conclusion has been drawn that a work of art is a work *per se*, that it exists independently of all other different kinds of art, and that there is now common ground on which all artists can stand. Of course there are artists working for the higher synthesis of all the arts, but they are very minor apostles.

After his sketch, admirably preferred, of the development of Music, the author proceeds to his capital discovery—that the nature of all music, that is, of all great music, is non-emotional. He says:—"I believe that . . . . music as an art has no business with the conveying of the emotions, and that it is the hall-mark of bad music, as of bad art generally, that it is emotional." This conviction he repeats many times in his book, but I think that perhaps it is less important than it sounds. At first anyone whose feet are not clogged with nineteenth-century mire is in agreement with his dictum, but when plumbed it seems to have meaning only as applied to the executive side of musical art. For when Mr. Turner speaks of the particular value of musical works themselves, he is nearly always right; and if he chooses to deny emotion to the best works of, say, Bach, Mozart, or Beethoven, one can merely quibble with him on the definition of "emotion." However, he does dwell on the executive side of music, and here one can bump up heartily against him. I grant at once that if the superficial emotions (such as grief or joy or hope or despair or fear or triumph) and nothing else are stirred one knows instinctively that something is wrong, though personally to have such emotions stirred by art I find extremely difficult. But it is not quite so easy in practice as he makes out to distinguish between refined and purged emotion and the sensuous imagination (as he himself would seem to confess when he admits that "folk-music sprang from 'emotion recollected in tranquillity' plus a certain direct joy in expression.")

Imagination is, of course, the first thing of all, the divine thing without which all art is useless and of no account; but surely it has to be subsidized or supported by the more significant matters of human experience, including the emotions, which both direct and are directed by the imagination? Mr. Turner brings forward as the perfect, non-emotional artist, Heifetz, the young violinist over whose merits opinions are divided, and he cunningly and daringly suggests that Heifetz's playing may, if this "great" fiddler prove in later life to be an inferior person, deteriorate. Now here I am enabled to differ, in calmest possible respect, from Mr. Turner. If creative art is to be kept separate from emotion, as he says it is, why cannot Heifetz's imagination, which informs his executive art, also be unsullied by his experience? Of course it is true that certain artists have died young having achieved their all, that they would certainly have deteriorated had they lived longer; but that is a sign of their limitations, not of the nuisance of continued experience. I am not for a moment convinced that it is through the mere amassing of emotions that the genius of a composer or of any kind of artist so often degenerates with years into talent; but I am convinced that there are degrees of perfection, and that a matured perfection is preferable to a youthful perfection, though each be equally an accidental product. There is something in Mr. Turner's certitude that the perfect musician cannot improve that I don't understand: it almost seems at times that he prefers the perfect to the great. But it may be that his "non-emotional" theory works better for his perfect people (i.g. Mozart and Heifetz) than for the great people (e.g. Beethoven and Busoni), and I think he sometimes forgets that the calm of tranquillity, that sort of divine serenity which he so much admires, is of itself a kind of emotion.

It is interesting, after reading this book, to realize how Mr. Turner's confidences have provoked rival confidences, how his doubts have discovered echoing doubts, how, in short, his provocative personality is stamped on his book. His is certainly an extraordinarily exhilarating work, and whether he is writing on Opera, or on Song-writing, on Programme or on Jazz Music, on César Franck, or on Scriabin, his direct and sincere views are impressively stated. There are two things in the book, however, for which I am sorry. First there is his belief that music-hall songs and rag-time have a certain value, a heresy that is almost orthodox by this time, but nevertheless is bosh; and secondly, an apparent belief that Busoni (of whom he entertains the Jewish tenet that he is an intellectual crank) is accustomed to use a Chappell pianoforte, when everyone ought to know that he outdistances other pianists most easily on an Erard.

**Andante.**

## THE STEAD MEMORIAL FUND.

The late W. T. Stead was so widely known and had so many friends throughout the world that many readers of *The Near East* will doubtless be interested in the report of the Stead Memorial Fund for 1920-1, recently published. The Fund has lost by the death of Lord Ranksborough an energetic and able Chairman; and it has not succeeded in obtaining exemption from assessment to Income Tax. But it has secured Lord Strachie as its new Chairman, and it has hopes of moving the Inland Revenue authorities to grant it the relief to which it feels itself entitled. Meanwhile it is carrying on excellent work, of a kind which would surely have appealed to W. T. Stead himself. Its hostels for women in London, Bath and Leeds, and its work for girls in Hoxton are all admirable, and the hostels are run on self-supporting lines in a way that proves their worth. The Council and the officials are to be congratulated on the success of the undertaking, and if any of our readers can spare a subscription or donation they may feel assured that it will be turned to good account in extending the work. The hon-Secretary is Mr. F. H. Skrine; the offices are at 131, St. George's Road, S.W.1.; and the Hon. Treasurer is Mrs. Hylton Dale, 28, Elm Park Gardens, London, S.W.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-day.**
December 22 (New Style).
December 9 (Old Style).
Rabia II, 23, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 21, 5682, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Cunliffe has arrived at Algiers.

Lady Nesta Fitzgerald has arrived at Algiers.

The Georgian Minister, M. A. Tchenkeli, returned to London last week from Paris.

The Persian Minister left London last week for Paris, accompanied by Vossough Douleh, ex-Persian Premier.

Lord Doune, the Hon. R. Coke, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Salmond and Lady Salmond, and Sir Alfred Booth are among the recent arrivals at Cairo.

The engagement is announced between Major J. H. H. Dodds, H.B.M's Consul at Adis Ababa, and Lady Annabel O'Neill.

Mrs. Brighouse Snow and Mr. Donald Snow have left London for India. They expect to be away about six months.

M. Constantin Constantinesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Bucharest.

M. Alexandre Cretziano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has been transferred to the Legation at Washington. He left London last week for Bucharest, on leave.

A marriage will take place in January between Major G. R. Ashton, Indian Army, and Kathleen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Govett, Sunningdale.

The engagement is announced between Captain Frank O. Burne, M.C., Indian Army, and Nancy Eileen, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George B. Tydd, of Burleigh Lodge, Ascot, Berks.

An engagement is announced between Eliot Wallis, youngest son of Mr. H. M. Wallis, J.P., of Reading, and Isobel Janet, youngest daughter of Angus E. Kennedy, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Plaistow, Essex.

An engagement is announced between Captain H. L. Barstow, 4th Gurkha Rifles, and Thelma, daughter of the late Frank Marshall, Newcastle, and Mrs. Drake Brockman, Grays, Haslemere.

The engagement is announced of George Monteath, I.C.S., eldest son of Sir James Monteith, K.C.S.I., Bickerell Lodge, Honiton, to Marian, younger daughter of James Ogilvy Dalgleish, Glebelands, Wokingham.

Sir W. M. Ramsay has been obliged by ill-health to abandon the remainder of his lecture tour among the universities of America, and sailed for England last week.

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The marriage was celebrated on December 5, at St. Paul's, Nicosia, between Clive Watts, Cyprus Civil Service, and Violet Constance, widow of Frank Kyd, East Surrey Regt., and daughter of the late J. R. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, Carnoustie, Scotland.

The marriage was celebrated on November 12, at St. Paul's Church, Sheerness, between Albert Herbert, C.O.16th Pack Battery, R.G.A., Aden, and Honora Violet Lanphier, daughter of Major and Mrs. T. Clifford Lawes.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Stafford, D.S.O., M.C., Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, and Miss May Dixon will take place at All Saints' Church, Cairo, on February 1.

The marriage was celebrated on December 10, between Stafford, elder son of the Rev. E. S. Hilliard, Vicar of Christ Church, Mayfair, and Marjorie Doris, daughter of Colonel H. de B. Codrington, I.A.

The marriage was celebrated on December 7 at St. Mary's, Cairo, by the Lord Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan, between Alexander W. Keown-Boyd, C.B.E., and Joan Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr. J. C. Partridge, and of Mrs. Partridge, of 38, First Avenue, Hove.

Sir James John Digges La Touche, K.C.S.I., formerly Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of Agras and Oudh, and afterwards a member of the Council of India, of Raglan Road, Dublin, who died on October 5, aged 77, left personal property of the value of £14,205.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Rudolph C. Mayne, eldest son of Captain and Mrs. Jasper Graham Mayne, and the Hon. Seymour Methuen, younger daughter of Field-Marshal Lord Methuen and Lady Methuen.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant-Colonel Edmund Tillotson Rich, C.I.E., R.E., Survey of India, and Rosalind, only child of the late Edward C. Seaton, R.F.C.P., and Mrs. Seaton, 29, Oakley Street, Chelsea.

M. Boerescu, Minister Plenipotentiary and Chargé d'Affaires in London, presented to Mr. H. T. Montague Bell last week at the Roumanian Legation, the insignia of Commander of the Order of the Crown of Roumania conferred upon him by King Ferdinand.

With the object of affording relief during the famine in Russia the British Red Cross Society have secured the services of Sir Benjamin Robertson, the eminent Indian famine expert, who is proceeding to Russia forthwith as British Commissioner on their behalf.

A marriage will take place in February, at Bombay Cathedral, between Major Aubrey Ellis Williams, D.S.O., M.C., South Wales Borderers, elder son of Colonel and Mrs. Ellis Williams, of Ivy Lodge, Griffithstown, Monmouthshire, and Sybil, only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Essex, Woodlands, Pontypool.

The engagement is announced between Major W. E. Beazley, M.C., 54th Sikhs, Frontier Force, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Beazley, Oak Dene, Noctorum, Birkenhead, and Ida May, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs. Arthur Bazett, Bidston, Worplesdon Hill, Surrey.

Lieut-Colonel Alfred Rawlinson, with Lance-Corporal H. D. Ankers, Private H. R. Carter, and Private R. Leadbeater (upon their return from Turkey) had the honour of being received by the King on December 16. His Majesty invested Lieut-Colonel Alfred Rawlinson with the Insignia of a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Military Division).

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The engagement is announced between Captain A. W. W. Holworthy, M.C., 3rd Q.A.O. Gurkha Rifles only son of Charles E. Holworthy, Commissioner China Maritime Customs, of 2, Cannon Place, Hampstead Heath, and Winifred, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Duff Grant, late of Abbotsford Pinner, now residing at 68, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.

The engagement is announced between Captain (Brevet-Major) William G. Hewett, M.C., the Welch Regiment, only son of Captain C. W. Hewett, R.I.M. (retired), and Mrs. Hewett, The Abbey House, Tewkesbury, and Louise S. Wolfe, daughter of the late Francis R. Wolfe and Mrs. French, 15, Pembroke Park, Dublin, and granddaughter of the late Rev. R. Wolfe, some time Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral.

The Geographical Section of the Forum Club was to hear yesterday an illustrated lecture on the Mount Everest Expedition by Sir Francis Younghusband, President of the Royal Geographical Society. This association of women interested in geographical research has been actively at work since the autumn of 1912. In the spring of the following year the Royal Geographical Society opened its doors to women.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

El Bimbashi A. H. A. Alban, D.F.C., has been transferred to the Sudan Government and appointed 2nd Inspector, Mongalla Province.

It is stated from Bucharest that M. Titulescu, former Minister of Finance, has been appointed Roumanian Minister in London.

Mr. C. P. Browne, O.B.E., Governor of Berber Province, has been transferred to Kassala Province and Mr. T. A. Leach has been appointed Governor of Berber Province.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. Sidney Turner, F.I.A., Principal in the Accountant-General's Department of the India Office, to the vacancy in the post of Accountant-General, caused by the retirement of R. G. Jaquet, C.I.E.

## OBITUARY.

The death occurred at Algiers on December 16, of the accomplished composer, Saint-Saëns.

The death is announced of Mr. Alexander Francis George Moscardi, He arrived in India in 1897, and served in Madras as assistant collector and magistrate. In 1916 he was promoted to be collector and district magistrate.

The death took place last week of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Napier of Magdala. Lord Napier entered the Bengal Army in 1862, and retired in 1883. He served in the Umbeyla Campaign 1864, and in Abyssinia in 1867. He was A.D.C. to the Commander-in-Chief in India 1870-76, and to the Governor of Gibraltar, 1876-81.

The death has occurred at Marseilles, at the age of 64, of General Sir John Eccles Nixon, General in Command of the forces in Mesopotamia in 1915 and 1916. He was the son of an Indian officer who had been British Resident at Baghdad and Consul-General in Turkish Arabia. He was gazetted to the 25th Foot (King's Own Borderers) in 1875 and transferred, three years later to the Bengal Staff Corps, being attached to the 18th Bengal Lancers. His long career of active service included the Afghan War of 1879-80, the Mahsud Waziri Expedition in 1881, the Chitral Relief Force, in 1895, and the Tochi Field Force (to which he was Chief Staff Officer) in 1897-8. He was promoted to major-general in 1904, lieutenant-general in 1909, and general in May, 1914, when he was in command of the Southern Army in India. He was created K.C.B. in 1911, and G.C.M.G. in 1919.

## "THE NEAR EAST."

**Owing to the Christmas Holidays, next week's issue of "THE NEAR EAST" (Thursday, December 29th), will go to press on Saturday, December 24th.**


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# THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1921.


## THE SITUATION IN INDIA.

Developments in India have been rapid since last we reviewed the political situation in these columns. A month ago we insisted on the gravity of the danger arising from the decision of the extremist section to challenge the authority of the Government in ways which led directly to anarchy, and we urged that the time had come when definite action must be taken, and a lead given which should leave the country in no doubt regarding the intentions of the Administration. On the day our article appeared in print events occurred in India which brought matters rapidly to a climax, and a straight fight is now in progress between the forces of order and the forces of anarchy. The occasion, but not the cause, of this development was the arrival of the Prince of Wales, an event which stood outside ordinary politics, and which was undoubtedly anticipated with eager joy by an overwhelming majority of the population. The extremists, for their own purposes, decided that this visit should be discredited, and with this object they brought into full play the force of the machinery which, wisely or unwisely, they had been allowed to organise; their bands of so-called volunteers were set to work to intimidate a population only too ready to be intimidated, and while in Bombay itself they aimed at marring the public welcome offered to the Prince, in other large cities, and notably in Calcutta, they determined to display their power by enforcing a temporary suspension of industrial, commercial, and social activities. In Bombay their failure was practically complete. The Prince was welcomed by crowds enormous and enthusiastic; the efforts of the volunteers resulted only in disturbances in some portions of the city, and their outrageous conduct was such as to disgust Mr. Ghandi, the man who more than any other is responsible for its occurrence. In Calcutta on the other hand, the volunteers achieved almost complete success. The life of the city was brought temporarily to a standstill; shops and markets were closed; conveyances ceased to ply; and the police were hopeless in face of the organised intimidation which prevailed. The challenge was promptly taken up, and, while the citizens, under the leadership of prominent Indians, set to work to organise a Civil Guard for their own protection, Lord Ronaldshay's Government struck at the root of the evil by proclaiming the volunteers as illegal associations, and taking active measures to break up their organisation. Similar measures were taken in the great cities of Northern India, in Allahabad and Lucknow, in Delhi and Lahore; in each instance the local leaders attempted to defy the Government, and, along with large numbers of their followers, are now in prison or awaiting trial; and official declarations have made it plain that organised intimidation will be tolerated no longer.

These administrative activities undoubtedly indicate a new phase; but it would be a mistake to regard them as marking a reversal of the policy which has prevailed during the last two years; we should rather describe them as a long-foreseen development. The policy deliberately adopted by the Government of Lord Chelmsford, and maintained by that of his successor, was to wait on public opinion. In the old bureaucratic days, the prompt suppression of movements dangerous to public security was a matter of course; but when Parliament had decided that the opinion of India should eventually determine the destinies of the country, the first task of the Administration was, in Lord Chelmsford's eyes, to train that opinion to perform its new functions. Two irreconcilable ideals were before the country, the ideal of Parliament and the ideal of Mr. Gandhi; to suppress the expression of the latter would have been contrary to the new theory, while from the practical standpoint it might have resulted in adding greatly to the number of its supporters. The wisdom of this attitude has been widely criticised, and the time has not yet come for a final verdict, but there is this to be said in its favour, that informed political opinion, being in fact left free to choose, has decided definitely in favour of the ideal accepted by Parliament; the legislatures accept the new Constitution, though they may desire to accelerate its development, while the opposition remains outside. The legislatures represent, however, only a small fraction of the population, and the opposition has during the present year concentrated its efforts more and more on stirring up the masses to conduct which would inevitably bring the Constitution to the ground. To secure this object it had employed both cajolery and intimidation, but as time went on its reliance on intimidation has increased, and its "volunteers," many of whom were in fact hired bullies, have proved to be instruments admirably suited to the end in view. It has long been obvious that these activities, if persisted in, must sooner or later bring about a position such as now exists, and the practical question has been whether the Government should force the pace or wait on its opponents. Here again the decisive consideration has been the attitude of Indian political opinion. It is at least doubtful whether the legislatures would have supported drastic action undertaken in the course of last summer, but the occurrences of the autumn, and in particular the tragedies attendant on the rebellion in Malabar, have made a deep impression, and probably at the moment the predominant feeling in these circles is one of relief, though it is not be expected that the action of the Administration should be received with demonstrative approval. It is still possible for critics to argue that the Government held its hand too long, but at the present juncture such discussions are irrelevant; the important question is the probable outcome of the action which has now been initiated.

On this question it would be dangerous to generalise. The old days of unanimity have passed away, and there are already signs that political opinion is beginning to respond to the new inspiration of responsible Government within the various provinces. Judging from recent news, we are inclined to think that the action of Government will command almost unreserved approval in Madras, where the impression created by the Moplah outrages has naturally been most intense, and where large numbers of citizens have learned by recent experience what insecurity actually means. In the Punjab on the other hand, which knows little of Malabar, the state of public feeling is still unfortunately such that almost anything the Administration does appears as a grievance, and for some time to come the Government will have to bear its burden almost alone. It would be futile to speculate regarding the position in Calcutta, for the Prince of Wales arrives there almost immediately, and his reception will furnish a definite index to the feeling of the public. On the other side of India information of not less importance may be provided by the impending meeting of the "National" Congress at Ahmadabad. It is at least possible that the occasion may be used for a spectacular demonstration of the strength of the Extremists, with Mr. Gandhi playing Frankenstein to the ugly monster he has brought into existence, but here also the event must be awaited. Behind the obvious facts of the situation stand the masses of people, and, if we are not greatly mistaken, their judgment is at present in suspense. Their memory tells them of frequent struggles for the sovereignty of their country, struggles from which prudent men have always held aloof; they have not yet realised that in the new conditions they can themselves do much to decide the issue; and they will acquiesce in the result, whatever it may be. It is for the Government to ensure that that result shall be in accordance with the policy laid down by Parliament for their guidance.

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## NAZARETH.

*(From a Correspondent.)*

Nazareth, to which so many pilgrims have bent their steps, has given its name, in Arabic, to all Christians. The earliest gibe which little Egyptians learnt and shouted at the European unbeliever began with the rhyme: *Ya Nusrani Kelb Owani*..... ("O Christian, barking dog".. ..), as the writer heard daily in the more fanatical quarters of Cairo 50 years ago.

Perhaps this has died out. Nazareth seems never, except for brief periods, to have been more than a fair-sized village.

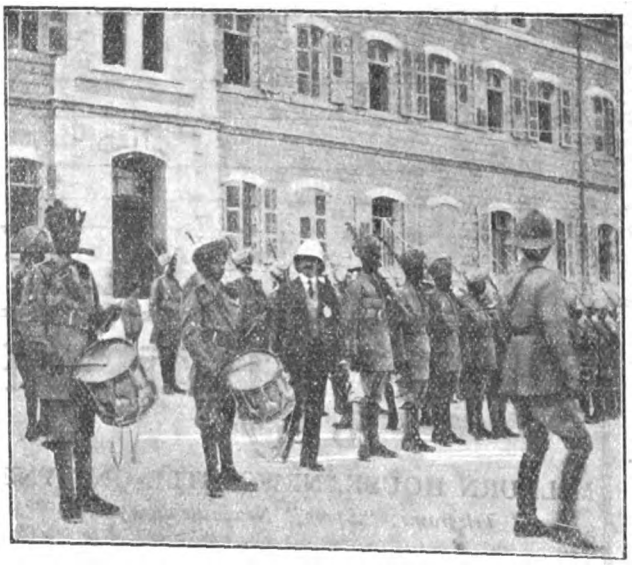
Referring to early travellers, we find St. Antoninus, in the 7th century, praising the beauty of its women. The land around was prodigiously fertile and produced excellent wine, oil, and honey, while millet grew to a remarkable height. In the same century it fell under the Moslem yoke. It possessed at the time a large church. Soon after, the French Bishop Arculf mentions its houses of stone and its great church. Pilgrims encountered many difficulties and were sadly fleeced. Thanks to the strange friendship of Haroun-er-Rashîd and Charlemagne, they had for a while a better time, which, however, was but short. For centuries they preferred to travel to Nazereth from Acre, even if it involved an additional

Mary's Well, Nazareth.

sea passage, rather than from Jerusalem via Nablus (Neapolis) through regions exposed to perpetual risks from bandits on both sides of the Jordan. Nazareth itself, however, suffered from time immemorial from the raids of the Bedouin and other marauders. It has never been a walled town. It was taken by Saleh-ed-din (Saladin) in 1158. In 1202 Saewulf finds Nazareth "entirely laid waste and overthrown by the Saracens." In the 14th century Sir John Maundeville found that what "had been formerly a great and fair city" was but a small scattered village. The Saracens, he says, were "very wicked and cruel Saracens, and more spiteful than in any other place." The place was rebuilt by the Emperor Frederick II in 1250. The most interesting spot is "Mary's Well," to the north-east of the village, which is supplied from Nazareth's one and excellent spring.

In 1799 the French encamped near Nazareth, and subsequently the threats of our Admiral Sir Sidney Smith saved the Christians of this and many another place from a massacre contemplated by "the butcher" Jezzar Pasha. At present Nazareth is the headquarters of the Samaria district. A photograph shows Sir Herbert Samuel and a guard of honour (30th Punjabi's) outside the Government Offices during a late visit. The residence of the District Governor which has hitherto been in a lower part of the village, where summer heat is very oppressive, has now been transferred to a large building on a height above it. The building was formerly occupied by a British mission and doctor. It was taken over by the Turks during the war, and used by them as a barracks for their troops. Before the devastation wrought by the Turks there was an excellent, spacious, and well planted garden in the 50 or 60 feddans of land belonging to the premises. This was a charming and favourite resort for those privileged to visit it. It was entirely destroyed by the Turks. The water supply is from large cisterns provided with pumps, in which rain water is collected, as in many parts of the East. From the height on which the Residency stands, admirable views can be obtained of the sea and Haifa, of snow-clad Mt. Hermon (*Jebel-esh-Shcikh*), of Mt. Tabor, and other spots of interest.

The improvement of roads has shortened distances very considerably, especially for those who can travel by motor car. Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee, can be reached in about an hour



Outside Government Offices, Nazareth. Sir Herbert Samuel and guard of honour, 30th Punjabi Regiment.

and Jerusalem via Nablus in about four hours. Nothing of course will do more to develop Palestine, in the matter of agriculture, trade, and social progress, than improvement in communications, for which so good a beginning has already been made.

## LORD ALLENBY'S PORTRAIT.

The mother of Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, now in her ninety-first year, was visited at Felixstowe on December 16, by Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Chetwode, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Bulfin, and Major-General Sir S. W. Hare, who had served with Lord Allenby in Palestine, and who now presented to her a portrait of her son in oils, by Mr. Tennyson Cole, subscribed for by officers who served with the Field-Marshal. General Chetwode said that they felt that Lord Allenby's well-known and expressed devotion to his mother made it particularly suitable and agreeable to them to express through her their admiration for him as a man and a soldier, and their devotion to him as their commander. Mrs. Allenby feelingly replied.

The Second Congress of the Inter-Allied Federation of Former Combatants opened in Paris on December 17, Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, the United States, Roumania, Serbia, and Czecho-Slovakia being represented.

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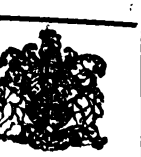

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## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

**Egypt.**

The *New Statesman* of December 10 has two articles which afford an illuminating contrast. They are called "Peace in Ireland" "—And War in Egypt?" After stating its opinion that the present Irish agreement is "certainly a stable and a final agreement," it gets straight into the Egyptian question :—

> No sane man can read without the gravest anxiety the three documents which have just been made public on the breakdown of the Egyptian negotiations. The first contains the terms of the proposed Convention—terms which blow to the winds the dream of Egyptian independence. The second is Adly Pasha's uncompromising refusal of those terms. The third, in the form of a letter from Lord Allenby to the Sultan, setting out the reasons for the attitude of the British Government, is the most ominous of all. It is a piece of special pleading compounded of veiled threats, appeals, reproaches and cant, the like of which it would be hard to find among the shabbiest records of diplomacy. It used to be said of the Bourbons that they learned nothing and forgot nothing. Our Government in this affair puts them into the shade ; it learns nothing and forgets everything—history, promises, the state of opinion in the East, the state of opinion at home ; it forgets even what is staring it in the face—its own past follies and present wisdom—in Ireland. It presents to Egypt an undergraduate essay on the principles of a new imperialism, which, if firmly applied, will go far to wreck the British Empire. The long tale of Egyptian grievances, the main heads of the demand for freedom, and the ferment and growth of national consciousness in the last two and a-half years—all these things are well known, and we need not dwell on them here. Many of the grievances, political and economic, have long been recognised as substantial, and the British Government, of course, is not refusing reforms. Where it is blundering is in its blindness to the strength and solidarity of Egyptian feeling and in its misreading of the claims to independence. Those claims, coupled as they always have been with concessions to safeguard legitimate British interests, are perfectly reasonable—with the single important exception of the Sudan. The Sudan does not belong indisputably, as Adly Pasha asserts, to Egypt, and Egyptian Arabs have no better title to rule Sudanese negroes against their will than Englishmen have to rule Egyptians against theirs. But this question, important as it may be in one sense, is not important in what really matters ; it is a minor point which would not have produced a breakdown of negotiations. The major questions, on which the split has taken place, are those of the military occupation, of Egypt's foreign relations and of our right to control Egyptian internal affairs through British financial and judicial commissioners. The conditions laid down on these heads in the proposed Convention make a foolish lie of the statement that we "agree to recognise Egypt as a Sovereign State under a constitutional monarchy." The military proposals in particular, as we have argued again and again in these columns, are outrageous, and we agree entirely with Adly Pasha's objection.

It proceeds to remark the "flood of light" which is shed on our attitude by the covering letter to the Sultan. Dismissing as hypocritical (seeing that "the British Government, having by its gross mishandling of Egypt, created a Sinn Fein movement")the claim that we must preserve order, it attacks the problem of Imperial communications :—

> As for the threats to the "communications of the Empire," which are so serious as not "to permit of any modification at this time in the disposition of the British forces," we should be interested to know whence they come. What hostile Power is baring its teeth at us in the Mediterranean or the Red Sea ? Is it Japan, or America, or France, or Bolshevik Russia ? Or is it the Senussi tribesmen whom we have found that we can dispose of with a couple of aeroplanes ? The fact is, that once you turn the pompous abstractions of this letter into concrete questions, the whole notion of a threatened attack appears in its childish absurdity. And it becomes still more absurd when it is remembered that the Egyptians are willing that we should have all the troops we want in the Canal zone, where their strategic position would be perfectly assured. In short, it is impossible for any intelligent person to accept these preposterous arguments. We do not believe that the British Government or anybody else is anxious about our "Imperial communications ;" we do not believe that they are afraid of extreme Nationalists "plunging Egypt back into the abyss." The explanation of the whole matter lies simply in an insane misconception of the Empire, a delusion that the greatness of this country and of the British Commonwealth of Nations consists in a display of military power and can only be maintained by the use of force. It is the old militarist conception which, however it may have served in past generations, will prove futile and even calamitous in this.

It waxes personal on the subject of Mr. Churchill,"our pinchbeck Napoleon," and of Lord Curzon, and then concludes with a word on future developments :—

> We shall not attempt to predict exactly what the Egyptians are going to do. But it is clear that they will resist our will, and they will be right in resisting. We say nothing of the past pledges of responsible British statesmen, pledges made again and again since we first occupied Egypt, that we intended to restore her freedom ; we say nothing of the hopes held out by the Milner Commission last year ; we say nothing of the zeal we have shown in giving liberty to peoples in other parts of the world. All these things may be regarded as irrelevant by a Government to whom principles are but counters in a game. But what is not irrelevant, and what cannot be hidden by the sesquipedalian sophistries of Lord Curzon, is that our attempt to hold Egypt down is a piece of wanton tyranny. The conditions do not demand it ; the merest political prudence cries out against it. The Egyptians will resist, and they will resist solidly. There will not be an Adly party and a Zaghlul party to cut each other's throats. There may be a section of the


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Egyptian people counselling moderation and not violence ; we hope there will. Resistance will very likely take the " passive " forms of economic boycotts and strikes. That alone will be awkward and expensive for us. But the suppression of strikes by the police and the military may easily lead to violence and bloodshed, and when that begins it will go on. It is almost incredible that our politicians can apparently so misinterpret the signs of the past, the present and the future. It is, indeed, only intelligible on the assumption that they are infatuated to such a degree by their false imperial idea that they are unwilling to count the cost of it.

It remains, then, for the British people to count the cost—and that very quickly. We do not believe that more than a small minority in this country still cling to the notion of basing an Empire on force—either on naked force, or force camouflaged behind fraudulent phrases. Public opinion here does not want to give a free hand to militarism, whether military or civilian militarism. It wants peace and trade, and it is not so stupid as to imagine that peace and trade are going to be ensured by repeating in Egypt the criminal blundering that we have just repented of elsewhere. We have learned only too well what an experiment of this kind will cost us in lives and money ; we know, in short, that, to put it on the lowest ground, we cannot afford it. There is one man, at least, in the Cabinet who is capable of realising all this, and of undoing the mischief that has been done. Mr. Lloyd George is, of course, technically as responsible as his colleagues for the Egyptian breakdown, but we do not believe that he has, in fact, seriously given his mind to the matter. Let him now, at the risk of offending Lord Curzon's dignity and Mr. Churchill's ambitions, tear up this disastrous Convention and be acclaimed, in Cairo to-morrow as he is acclaimed in Dublin to-day.

## Y.W.C.A. WORK IN THE BALKANS.

*(From Our Port Said Correspondent).*

Miss Grace Saunders, the general secretary of the Y.W.C.A. for Egypt and Palestine, gave a most interesting address at the Y.W.C.A. Hostel in Port Said on November 18 on the subject of World's Y.W.C.A. work and the activities of the Student Christian movement. What interested her audience most, perhaps, was her account of her work in the Balkans. She went in 1911 to Bulgaria, at the invitation of the Bulgarian Student Christian Association. At the University of Sofia there were then two thousand women students, and social clubs, sports' clubs, and Bible study discussions were instituted, the latter at the express wish of the students themselves, who found the Bible a most interesting discovery. Miss Saunders nursed the wounded through the two Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913,so that her knowledge of life and needs in that part of the world is full and varied. Post-war work found her in Roumania at the Student Christian Conference, and she mentioned it as a remarkable thing, and a good augury for future relations in the Balkans, that there were two delegates from Bulgaria meeting happily with the Roumanians and the other nationalities represented there. Miss Saunders also mentioned the interest taken in the movement by the Queen of Roumania, who gave the initial party in the Palace to introduce the English and American workers to the Roumanian ladies, and has also allowed the Palace grounds to be used for games on Saturday afternoons by school girls, amongst whom there is a movement somewhat similar to our Girl Guides. There are now in Bucharest for women clerks, students, and workers, social clubs, restaurants, classes, etc.,under British and American guidance though there are already three Roumanian secretaries, and Miss Saunders emphasised the fact they only came in as pioneers, till the Roumanians themselves felt they could carry on the work without outside aid.

The speaker also had some very encouraging things to say about the work in Greece, where she found interest and co-operation from the Queen downwards. Unhappily the change of régime and the consequent political animosities have somewhat hampered work in Athens, but the leading ladies realize that something must be done to meet the new conditions, and as the English and American workers will be able to come in from outside, unconnected with any political party, they can fill a gap which perhaps no others could, and can be trusted by all. The speaker incidentally mentioned the good work done by some Greek ladies, one of whom had had similar work in America, in meeting and caring for the number of women and children, sent back from America, often penniless and homeless owing to the immigration restrictions. Miss Saunders also said that the ecclesiastical authorities in the Balkans, who at first were inclined to be suspicious,realized that they were not attempting to proselytize, but simply to uplift men and women spiritually in whatever communion they were in, and that some of their best and most ardent helpers were priests in the Orthodox Church.

## THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council Meeting of the Arab Horse Society was held on Tuesday, November 29, 1921, at 2.30, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. S. G. Hough, President, being in the chair. There were also present : Messrs. T. C. Armitage, E. R. Calthrop, H. V. M. Clark, A. Stanley Cochrane, Edward Hurtley, Captain Edward Munck, Major G. B. Ollivant, Mr. W. F. Saunt, Lieut.-Colonel P. D. Stewart, D.S.O., Mr. R. S. Summerhays, Brigadier-General C. Templer, C.M.G., C.I.E., and Rev. D. B. Montefiore (Secretary). Letters of regret were received from Lieut.-Colonel W. A. MacDougall, D.S.O., Captain the Hon. George Savile, and Messrs. R. B. Colton Fox, and G. H. Ruxton.

Entries were accepted for the Stud Book, Vol. II., and the arrangements for the election of Members of Council by Members of the Society were settled. The Council carried out the necessary details in connection with the nine Arab and Arab-bred Classes to be held at the London Show, and appointed the Judges, and also recommended a Judge for the Royal Show at Cambridge in 1922.

A letter of thanks was received from His Majesty the King of Irak (Patron of the Society) for congratulations of the Council.

The following new Members were elected :—H. A. Baxter, Bonwycks Place Farm, Ifield, Crawley ; A. J. H. Carlill, Thatched House Club, St. James' London, S.W. ; Mrs. E. M. Carroll, Rocklow, Fetherd, C., Tipperary, Ireland ; General G. Haddad, Pasha, Cavalry Club, London, W. ; The Marquis of Hartington, Chatsworth, Bakewell ; H. W. Jessop, Hill Crest, Elsworth, Cambridge ; C. McK. Lewis, care of Messrs. Blair and Co., 24, Broad Street, New York, U.S.A. ; Mrs. Angela P. H. Mond, Greyfriars, Storrington, Pulborough ; Captain Norman Pryor, Plaw Hatch, Bishop's Stortford ; A. H. H. Sinclair, M.D., 3, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh ; P. W. Stout, The Gables, Meadi, Egypt; Mrs. B. M. Taylor, Ross, Rosscahill, Co. Galway, Ireland.

The Council then adjourned until their next Meeting, January 17th, 1922.

Over 2,000 Armenian refugees from Cilicia are unable to obtain permission to land in Constantinople. A few have been admitted into Cyprus.

Jews throughout the world have been invited to pay a voluntary tax towards the settling of Jews in Palestine by the Zionist Organisation.

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

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### The Anglo-Persian Oil Report.

Each succeeding annual report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company serves to emphasise more clearly the valuable nature of the interest held in this concern by the British Government. Posterity, I imagine, will regard the investment as a stroke of genius. For 1919-20 the net profits amounted to £2,611,615, but for the past year they are no less than £4,028,022, an increase which is, however, not in the least surprising in view of the rapid development of the company's operations. The various allocations to reserves are much the same as before, and it is proposed to maintain the Ordinary dividend at 20 per cent., leaving £1,648,792 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits tax and corporation tax.

### Satisfactory Prospects.

A very promising survey of the company's position is given in the report. The wells are continuing to give a high rate of yield, while test wells which have been sunk have added considerably to the proved reserves. The extensions to the refinery in Persia will be completed early next year, while the full refinery at Llandarcy will be in operation in the spring. It is stated that anticipations have been so fully justified in regard to this refinery that arrangements are being made to erect others to serve other consuming markets. Finally it is of interest to note the statement that conditions in some of the localities where the D'Arcy Exploration Company, Ltd., has been conducting investigations "are favourable for early success in striking oil."

### Danube Navigation Company.

In his speech at the first general meeting of the Danube Navigation Company, Sir Frederick Lewis dealt with the arbitration award in the light of its effect on the Company's interests. The undertaking, which was formed with the object *inter alia* of uniting mercantile interests of the great artery of Eastern Europe, is interested in the three principal Danubian companies. These companies will commence the 1922 season with 51 passenger steamers, 19 ferry steamers, 89 tugs, and 606 barges, apart from the craft under construction, and the only difference made by the arbitrator's award is that they will have six tugs more and one passenger steamer less than they had at the time the Danube Navigation Company made its investments. The prospects of the company would appear to be most promising as the various companies concerned are stated to be doing a profitable trade, and are on a dividend paying basis. But the question of dividends for the shareholders in the Danube Navigation Company is dependent on the exchanges, and that means that there may be a long time to wait.

### North Persia Oil Concessions.

The action taken by the Persian Government with regard to the oil concessions in North Persia which are held by the North Persian Oils Company will have surprised no one who has followed recent manifestations of Persian policy. It is by no means an isolated instance of a policy which bears on the face of it the interpretation that it is inspired not by concern for the lasting good of Persia, but merely by opposition to British interests. In this connection the case of the roads concession, which was also cancelled and the Teheran-Ispahan road forcibly occupied by Persian troops, will be fresh in the minds of our readers. The attitude in regard to the oil concessions affords, if anything, an even more remarkable example of cynical disregard of private rights.

### Attempt to Create Discord.

The facts of the case are worth a little examination. The concessions in question, three in number, were acquired two years ago by the North Persian Oils Company from a Georgian named Khostaria, one of them being a private concession and the others State concessions granted in 1916 and 1917. The Persian Government now takes the line that the concessions are invalid, supporting its contention by a variety of flimsy pretexts which will not stand a moment's examination. Besides declaring them invalid, or to use the actual expression "improperly constituted and illegal," the Persian Government has approved the grant of a concession for the territory in question to the American Standard Oil Company, with a proviso prohibiting the company from transferring or associating with any other company, a clause which obviously suggests the desire to create misunderstanding between Great Britain and America, a task, however, quite beyond the capacity of Persia to accomplish!

### Persia and Foreign Capital.

In expecting their destined concessionaire to welcome the concession the Persian Government have evidently misinterpreted the value of their high sounding phrase that the existing concessions are "improperly constituted and illegal," and they have probably been con-


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siderably surprised at the attitude of the American company in not accepting the concession pending full enquiry. The knowledge that the situation is the subject of friendly discussions between the Standard Oil Company and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company should plainly indicate to them that a policy such as that pursued will carry them nowhere, and can only prove injurious to Persia's real interests. Obviously Persia must have foreign capital, and the Government is committing a fatal blunder in following a course which must alienate a country on whose support Persia has always been able to count, in the past, as we believe the Persians themselves will again recognise in the near future.

**Commentator.**

## SUDAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS IN 1920.

### A Prosperous Year.

The report of the Sudan Government Railways for 1920 which has just been issued, shows the profits of the undertaking to have been more than double those obtained in the previous year. The traffic revenue rose from £E944,311 in 1919 to £E1,432,809, an increase of £E488,498, while the gross revenue rose from £E1,292,831 to £E1,962,860, an increase of £E670,029. This substantial increase in the revenue was largely due to the increase of the surtax on the railways and Shellal-Halfa Reach from 50 per cent. on passengers, and 40 per cent. on goods to 100 per cent., and to a new surtax of 50 per cent. on river services South of Khartoum, and on Dongola Reach which entered into operation on January 15. The gross expenditure, which amounted to £E1,005,956 in 1919, rose to £E1,281,995, an increase of £E276,039, of which increased pay and war bonus account for £E113,688. It is noteworthy that while 13,894 tons of coal were used above the total of the previous year, the cost only increased by £E38,061. This was due to a favourable contract made in 1919, under which coal was obtained at £4 15s., and £4 17s. per ton c.i.f. Port-Sudan, whereas the market price was at times as high as £7 10s. per ton. Owing to shipping difficulties the full benefit of the contract was not felt during the year. For 1919 the total profit was £286,875, and it rose for the year under review to £E680,865, which is an extremely satisfactory result.

The question of the maintenance of the permanent way is again raised in the report, and it is emphasised that quite inadequate amounts are being devoted to this object. "It was recognised before the war" says the report "that at least £E60,000 annually ought to be spent on relaying and renewals; actually the sums allotted never exceeded £E45,000. To-day, we ought to be spending at the rate of at least £150,000 per annum, whereas the allotment for 1920 was £E60,000." It is justly maintained that the only sound method is to make regular annual allocations for this work, and the increased profit of the railway should now enable this to be done.

Some interesting statistics are given in the report. The receipts from passenger traffic rose from £E138,564 to £E216,143. There was an increase of 19 per cent. in the number of first-class passengers, and of 41 per cent. in the case of third-class passengers the latter being mainly in connection with the Gezireh canalisation work. Goods traffic apart from Government stores increased by 167,446 tons, materials, stores, etc. transported for the above work accounting for 100,000 tons.

In 1920 the Steamers Branch showed substantially increased profits. There was a loss on the Dongola Reach of £5,523 as compared with a loss of £E5,090 in 1919, but this was far more than offset by the profit on the Shellal-Halfa Reach, which rose from £E50,458 to £E83,529. There was again a loss on the Port Sudan Dockyard and Harbours, though substantially less than the previous year, the total being £E4,009 as against £E7,639.

Dealing with the outlook the report states that the post-war condition is not so satisfactory as was hoped, and in this connection reference is made to the maintenance of high prices, and dear coal as factors operating against cheaper mileage. Since the report was written the position has, of course, been greatly altered in this respect. "Increased traffic" it is added "is expected in the coming year and increased expenditure must therefore be expected. The department is to a certain extent in a position now to meet heavier traffic demands, and the locomotive power can cope with a much larger volume of increase than the wagon stock which is still inadequate."

## GRAIN WAREHOUSES IN BULGARIA.

Recently the Department of Overseas Trade circulated information concerning a call for tenders made by the Agricultural Bank of Bulgaria for the construction at the port of Varna of a concrete grain elevator and drying shed. This work is a commencement of a system proposed by the bank for dealing with the export of Bulgarian cereals. The bank's report on the subject contains proposals for the erection of 45 interior warehouses to collect cereals from the producers and to serve as connecting links with 14 port warehouses. The port warehouses must have all appliances for cleaning, sorting, preservation and manipulation of grain whilst interior warehouses must have devices for loading, unloading, manipulation and preliminary cleaning, and, if necessary sorting. The programme of port warehouses is as follows:—

At Varna and Bourgas warehouses of 30,000 and 25,000 tons respectively. Having regard to the recent great development in the flour milling industry and the export of cereals in sacks, separate sheds of 10,000 tons capacity provided with mechanical loading and unloading appliances must be erected at these ports. The warehouses are to be of the silo type and special dryers will be constructed for damp grain.

On the Danube at Vidin, 4,000 tons; Lom, 6,000 tons; Orechov 2,500 tons; Svitchtov, 4,000 tons; Somovit, 4,000 tons; Rustchuk, 5,000 tons; Koslodoi, 2,000 tons; Novo Selo, 1,000 tons; Tsibir, 1,000 tons; Ostrov, 1,000 tons; Beshli, 500 tons; Akchar, 500 tons.

All Danube warehouses are to have silos or floors according to local conditions. Dryers are not necessary. The interior warehouses are divided into four categories:—1st category of 2,500 tons—at Radnevo and Tcherven Breg; 2nd category of 2,000 tons at Provadia, Rasgrad, Novo Zagora, Karnobat, Yambol; 3rd category of 1,000 tons—at Popovo, Pleven, Eski-Djoumaia, Ishiklar, Kaspitchan, Dolni-Debnik, Povdim, Trembish, Shoumen, Telish, Tchirpan, Sledek-Kladenets, Borisovgrad, Straldja, Michailovo, Kermenli, Plovdiv Rakovska and Aitos; 4th category of 500 tons—at Pavlikeni, Levski, Dralfa, Bela, Beltchi-Dol, Karmenetz, Sindel, Vetobo, Morava, Strajitza, Preslav, Shaitanovo, Dve-Mogili, Papasli, Skovelevo, Stara Zagora, Asparuch, Tatar Pasardjik, and Belosem.

Either the silo or floor system is acceptable for interior warehouses, according to local conditions. The first three categories of interior warehouses to be provided with all appliances for loading, unloading manipulation and rough cleaning of the grain and those in the fourth are to have the same appliances for loading, unloading and manipulation of the grain, but will only have cleaning machines if it is possible to instal them.

## ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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Prices on December 2 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4,7-12; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6,13-16; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £11-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr., 50½x; Behera Ord., £E 8,3-8; Brasseries d' Egypte, Fr., 51; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv. Fr., 100; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr., 50; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr., 24; Comptoir Fin. et. Com. d'Egypte, £31-32; Consolidated Land, Pt., 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr., 880; Credit Foncier Act., Fr., 642; Credit Foncier, 1886 Oblig., Fr., 326; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr., 112; Crown Brewery Div., Fr., 130; Eaux du Caire, Capital, Fr., 80; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr., 102; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 3d.x; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £3,7-8x; Filature National d'Egypte, £11,9-16; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc., an des., £5,11-32; Khedivial Mail S.S. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste An de Wadi, £4,3-16; Kom Ombo Ste An Fondateur, £34; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £38; Lots Turc., Fr., 29; Menzaleh Canal Navigation Pt., 250; Nungovich Hotels, £6,5-16; Ramleh Railways, £2,5-8; Salt and Soda, 32s. 9d.; Tram d'Alexandrié Priv., Fr. 39½; Tram d'Alexandrié Div., Fr. 52; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2,13-32; Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines et Rurales, £2,15-16.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil Output—(Week ended December 9)—Gemsah, 1,008 tons (previous week 27 tons). Hurghada, 3,420 tons (against 3,564 tons).

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# Commerce and Industry.

REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

## ROUMANIA.

*Bucharest, December 4.*

**The Banca Nationala.**

The negotiations between the Ministry of Finance and the Banca Nationala with regard to a loan of 500 million lei, have resulted in the following arrangement:—The Banca Nationala will discount the orders of payment issued by the Ministry of Finance only to the industrial concerns that have supplied the State with goods and material. The interest of 6 per cent. charged by the bank will be borne by the Ministry of Finance.

**Passive Resistance to Taxes.**

In view of the attitude of passive resistance to the new taxes on capital and income displayed by the public which has taken the form of failure to make the necessary returns the Government has granted a further extension of the time limit for these declarations, the date now fixed being December 31. It is generally believed that by that time the taxes will have undergone considerable modifications.

It is interesting to note that the yield of one of the indirect taxes, that on luxury goods and turnover, has far exceeded expectations. The revenue for October for Bucharest alone amounted to 12½ million lei, the total for the rest of the country being about 23 millions. Taking these figures as the monthly average the annual revenue should amount to about 420 million lei.

**The Borcea Bridge.**

But for the recent bad weather the bridge over the Borcea—an arm of the Danube— would have been completed by now and available for railway traffic—an event eagerly awaited especially by the population of the Dobruja. As a matter of fact the date of the official inauguration was actually announced. Owing to the cause stated, however, the finishing touches to the structure were delayed. It is hoped that the bridge will be completed before the end of the year.

The great interest with which the construction of this bridge, in replacement of the one destroyed by the retreating Roumanian Army during the war, has been followed is easily understood when it is borne in mind that this bridge is on the only railway line that runs to Roumania's most important port, Constantza. This port is open the whole year round, and is equipped with the latest type of docks, wharfs, etc. There is no doubt that as soon as this railway is working normally the effect on the economic development of the country will be considerable.

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In view of its importance the construction of the bridge ought to have been commenced immediately after the Armistice, but unfortunately the Roumanian Government wasted two precious years in negotiating with foreign contractors. American firms were first approached, and they asked 100 million lei for the work. British firms offered to do it for 80 million lei, while the Germans were prepared to undertake it for 30 million lei. Meanwhile the authorities thought of the large steel works of Reshitza in the newly-acquired province, the Banat. The Reshitza Works—now a Roumanian concern under State control—with up-to-date plant, undertook the work, and carried it out in the comparatively short period of 15 months at the very low cost of 13½ million lei, which is about an eighth of the price asked by the Americans.

The new bridge is constructed for a double line, and its resistance is 50 per cent. greater than that of the old bridge.

**The Government and the Farmers.**

In view of the fact that farmers have not offered wheat and rye in adequate quantities for the requirements of the Army and population, the Government has decided to "immobilise" the stocks of these two cereals existing in the country, which will be bought by the State at fixed maximum prices for home consumption.

**Miscellaneous.**

The town of Bucharest is negotiating with a British group for the construction of 1,000 dwellings next spring on sites belonging to the town.

A committee of experts is now considering at the Ministry of Industry a new regulation regarding imports, the principle of which is to allow only such goods to be imported as are neither produced nor manufactured in the country.

*Bucharest, December 12.*

**Miscellaneous.**

Owing to the great scarcity of eggs, fats, and pork, felt throughout the country, these articles have now been prohibited from export until January 15.

Since the chaos prevailing in Russia, Roumania is now the only country that produces black caviare. In view of the large number of enquiries for this article from Switzerland, France, England, Holland, and Denmark, the Ministry of Agriculture has fixed the export price at 100 Swiss francs per kilogramme, to which will be added a further 300 to 400 lei duty tax. Roumania's annual yield of black caviare is 35,000 kilogrammes.

**Roumania's Finances.**

The official figures, showing the State revenues and expenditure for the first six months of the current fiscal year (April 1 to September 30) are now to hand. The total collections made during this period amount to 2,071,093,691 lei, of which total 1,851,769,003 lei are for the fiscal year of 1921-22 and 219,324,688 lei for the previous year. The expenditure amounts to 3,092,134,661 lei, of which amount 1,680,077,155 lei are for 1921-22 and 1,412,057,506 lei for 1920-21.

By comparing the collections with the expenditure for the fiscal year of 1921-22 we find a surplus of 171,691,848 lei, but as the State has had to spend 1,412,057,506 lei for the fiscal year of 1920-21, against which it only collected 219,324,688 lei the actual deficit for the first six months of the current year is 1,021,040,970 lei. As, however, the expenditure for the last fiscal year has not yet finished, and the collections for the second half of the current year will not be any greater than for the first half, we can deduce that the total deficit for the whole year of 1921-22 will amount to about two milliard and 50 million lei. The only consolation for this unsatisfactory situation is that last year the deficit was over three milliard lei, showing that the State's deficit has decreased by one milliard lei.

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## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Zagreb, December 6.*

**Commercial "Precision."**

British firms who are not specially accustomed to foreign business are notoriously ignorant of foreign conditions and geography, so perhaps it is pardonable for them to address letters to "Belgrade, Czecho-Slovakia" and the "Republic of Yugoslavia," but the limit has been reached in a letter recently received at Zagreb, the delivery of which reflects considerable credit upon the postal authorities, for it was addressed to "Spugoslavia, Russia!"

**Growth of Trade.**

Statistics published by the *Trgovinski Glasnik* of Belgrade of the exports for the first nine months of 1921 and the corresponding period of the previous year show a very gratifying increase. The commodities exported consist of various cereals, dried fruit, hemp, cattle, poultry, meat, cheese, eggs, timber, minerals and some other products. The figures for the current year are 1,121,893 tons as compared with 263,051 tons of the value respectively of 1,668,780,729 and 710,454,731 silver dinars. Considering the general trade depression and the difficulty of communications these figures are far from unsatisfactory.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, December 8.*

During the month of October the Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company's traffic to Smyrna amounted to 12,000 tons, made up principally of dried fruit, valonea, liquorice root, tobacco, minerals, cereals, and provisions.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, November 15.*

**Bread Supply.**

Nicosia is again troubled over bread difficulties. The bakers, Christian and Moslem, have united in raising the price of bread of good quality from 3½ to 4½ piastres (9d.) the loaf, which will cause much hardship to the poorer classes. For some years after the British occupation the Turkish rule was kept up, under which municipalities fixed weekly the price, not only of bread, but of all articles of domestic consumption. But trade has long been freed from these shackles. The Nicosia press now urges that the Government should either establish bakeries, in which Government tithe grain would be used at cheap rates, for the poor, or allow municipal bodies to do so. There seems no reason why the Nicosia Municipality should not proceed on its own authority in the matter, as the Government would probably assist as regards grain.

## THE EXCHANGES.

In pre-war days movements in the exchanges were for the most part restricted to the narrowest limits; and interest in their operations was confined to the few. To-day as the result of the economic upheaval caused by war conditions only a few approach normal, while some stand at figures which, had they been reached before August, 4, 1914, would have led even those with strong nerves to anticipate the worst, while fluctuations violent in character often take place in the space of a few hours. The public generally in all countries has come to regard the exchanges as the test of the economic position, and the increased attention paid to them in consequence has in its turn led to a realisation of the remunerative possibilities attached to purchases of depreciated exchanges or of securities of the countries concerned. Those who are anxious to determine the relative prospects of recovery of the various countries would do well to consult a recently issued little book, entitled "The Foreign Exchanges and how to profit by them," by Victor Louis Gerard, published by the Pall Mall Industrial Investments Ltd., at 1s. It only contains 35 pages, but they are packed with useful information, and the book should be of the greatest value to those who wish to follow the exchange movements. In the first chapter the writer deals generally with the modern chaotic exchange situation, discussing the influence of the gold standard, and the effects of the departure from it, and expressing the view that "prices must continue to fluctuate more or less widely until Europe returns to its old Gold Exchange." Subsequent chapters are devoted to a careful survey of the position in France, Germany, Italy, and the United States, some of the other countries being dealt with in a concluding chapter, and the value of the book is enhanced by charts showing the exchange movements.

American engineers have visited Croatia with a view to the erection of hydro-electric power plants in that country.

It is reported that there is an improvement in the Czecho-Slovak textile, glass, and machinery trades.

The seaborne trade of the Madras Presidency for August, 1921, showed a decrease of Rs.43,19 lakhs under imports and an increase of Rs. 33,67 lakhs under exports as compared with the figures for August, 1920.

The Economic Agreement between Germany and Yugoslavia has been signed by both Governments, and will come into force as soon as it has been ratified by the two Parliaments.

The Indian Government have decided to remove the remaining restrictions on the export of rice from Burma in view of the good crop prospects.

Algeria has a good market for paints and varnishes says a recent American Consular Report. Paints and varnishes are imported principally from France, Belgium, England, and the United States in about the order named. In 1919 and 1920 these imports were as follows:—In 1919, 69 metric tons of varnishes and 782 tons of paints; in 1920, 253 tons of varnishes and 1,800 tons of paint.

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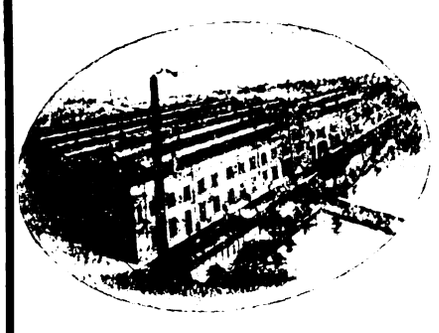
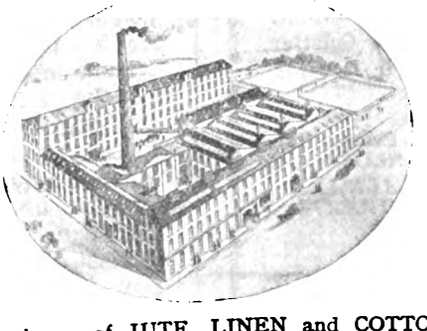
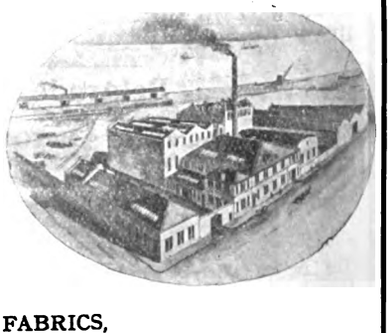

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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

**Lubrication.**

The question of engine lubrication has just been discussed by Mr. S. F. Edge. He says and rightly that in regard to this there is a great diversity of practice. Theory suggests that oil supplied under positive pressure to all, or to at least the main bearings, is the best practice in engine lubrication, and after subscribing to this doctrine he adds :—"I think we shall find that the majority of manufacturers to-day use other ways and means, all of which, on first-grade cars, give some satisfaction to the user. It would be nice to know which is the ideal method of lubrication, and why it is such. We all know what we want in the matter of lubrication —namely, a film of oil interposed between all moving surfaces, sufficient to prevent bare metal rubbing against bare metal, and yet not sufficient to burn away wastefully, so that the products of its combustion will be deposited upon the piston-tops and cylinder-heads in the shape of coke."

We all know the means of getting at this desirable state of affairs, and even the most casual, superficial student of motor engineering can see pitfalls and means of avoiding them. But something I cannot divine is why each manufacturer adheres to his particular practice in the matter of engine oiling. I wonder how many could, or would if they could, tell us. So very much depends upon efficient, simple and easy provision for perfect lubrication that one would think that everybody in the motor trade could say "I lubricate in this way because —" and there would come his reasons. On such an important point one would think that every designer had a definite belief, founded on knowledge of and experiment with all possible systems and lubrications. One would think that every manufacturer would have a downright belief in his system, and would be able to justify that belief..

**Cargo Boat Engines.**

The advantages of the internal combustion engine for marine purposes have been advocated consistently in these columns. Already the principal British engine building firms have given their attention to the subject, and it is probable that the introduction of a type or rather a design of engine which presents one or two noteworthy features will have a further stimulus on development. In this design, which is independent of the compressor, the oil is injected and a lower compression is required whilst the fuel is ignited without possibility of mis-fire. As *Modern Transport* pointed out recently, oils have been used in this type of engine, the specific gravities of which have varied between .81 and .95 and flash points from 100 to 250 degs. Fahr. Apart from the engineering aspect of the matter the economic advantages are of special interest to shipowners, more especially in view of the unsatisfactory position of the fuel problem at the present time. It has been asserted that a motor ship can be operated on about one half the quantity of oil that is required in running an ordinary oil fuel steamer in which the oil is burned under the boilers and used for steam raising in the ordinary way.

Comparing oil with coal it has been estimated that a ton of oil when used in a Diesel-driven ship, will do as much work as from four to five tons of coal. The advantages of such a means of propulsion are obvious, while at the same time there is the further benefit of not being dependent upon coal. Expressing this fact in a simple manner, the consumption of oil per indicated horsepower per hour amounts to 1.02 lb., as compared with from 1.50 to 1.60 lb. of coal. This means a saving of approximately half a pound of fuel per indicated horsepower per hour which, if calculated out for a long voyage, will show an enormous saving in the fuel bill alone, while at the same time a very great reduction of time occupied in transit is effected by reason of the higher speed at which the vessel will travel and the entire elimination of that lengthy and troublesome business known as coaling.

**A Special Turbine.**

The high speed turbo-generator which has been installed at the Liverpool Corporation electricity works is remarkable in many respects, one of which is that it is the largest high speed turbine in the world, or rather the largest turbine in the world running at so high a speed as 3,000 revolutions per minute. It has an output of 12,500 kilowatts, which is equivalent to about 16,600 horsepower, so it will be seen that this is a veritable giant amongst high speed machines. As a matter of fact, it is twice the size of any German or American machine running at anything like that speed, and is capable of an extraordinary overload for brief periods. It is actually capable of developing 20,830 horse power or 15,625 kilowatts.

Amongst the novel features must be mentioned the multiple exhaust construction and feed heating. It has a surface condensor plant with motor driven auxiliaries, and the alternator is ventilated by the closed air thod in connection with which a separate air cooler is used. I understand that a second machine of the same size and power is now being erected side by side with the existing machine and these two giants will be capable of turning out 33,000 horse power, although they occupy the space of four previous machines which between them could only put out 10,700 horse power. It is also worthy of note that the makers have received orders for nine similar sets, including the second mentioned for Liverpool, and has now in hand orders for 12 sets in all, running at 3,000 revolutions per minute and turning out a total of about 144,000 kilowatts or well over 200,000 horse power.

From an engineering point of view the most interesting feature is the multiple exhaust system by which it has been possible to obtain treble the output for the speed of 3,000 r.p.m., and at the same time reduce the mean diameters of the rotating element of the turbine to three-quarters of the previous diameters employed for the smaller output. This reduction in diameter accounts for the greater reliability of the high speed sets as compared with that of smaller sets which have been in commercial service for some time.

**A Novel Range.**

Further to the notes on electric cooking which have appeared in these columns from time to time, a description has just reached me of a new range which has been designed for using both coal and electrical energy. The details show that the complete range as designed is 5 feet in height, which is about the usual height of the British kitchener. It is, however, 46 inches long and 35 inches deep, which is rather deeper than standard practice. The electrical portion of the oven is mounted on top of the range, and is of ample dimensions for cooking the average sized meal, being 19 inches wide, 13 inches high and 15 inches deep. It is lined with rustless steel and has light aluminium racks. The electrical heating elements, which are two in number, are mounted in the ordinary way, and in addition to the oven there are also two electric boiling rings on the top of the coal fired stove. Both the oven and these rings are each controlled by three-heat switches so that a very wide range of temperature is procurable. These switches are fitted with the usual cast iron cases and insulated handles, and are each arranged in the front of the range. Temperature indicators are fitted in both the electric and the coal fired ovens, and the idea is that whilst coal may be used as a general thing, should the coal fire be low at a time when cooking is required, the viands can be dealt with without delay in the electric oven or on the rings, and should the coal-fired oven be taxed at any time to its full capacity, the electric cooker can be used as an auxiliary.

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# Cotton & Cotton Goods.

## MANCHESTER REPORT.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

*Manchester, Friday.*

Although the tone of the market during the past week has ruled comparatively steady business has in no way developed. The chief topic of discussion has been the American Bureau report on the cotton crop, and it is now absolutely assured that a total crop of 9,000,000 bales, including linters, will result. When the figures were made public last Monday the effect naturally caused a bearish sentiment, and raw cotton prices dropped, but since then, however, a certain amount of steadiness has been in evidence. Owing to the large difference between the estimate given in October and the one recently published it will be some time before Lancashire traders will have any faith in the Bureau figures. With regard to cloth only a small demand has been about for Egypt, the Levant, and Constantinople. When sales have taken place prices have been very low. The political situation in Egypt is very disturbing, and is naturally having its effect upon business here. Buyers are content to hold aloof and await developments. Quotations for Egyptian spinnings have been rather steadier, and here and there more sales have taken place. Export business has been done in finer qualities for Germany. With regard to the cloth demand for India very few of the bids have materialised. The bulk of the inquiry has been for Calcutta. The political outlook in India shows no improvement. Shippers to China are slow in raising rates, and only a few miscellaneous transactions have been put through. Latest advices from that outlet state that a financial crisis is imminent. Buyers for South America have not been altogether idle. A firmer tone has prevailed with regard to American yarns, but purchases for home use have not been of any weight. Quite a fair export business has been done for Egypt.

## LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date December 14 :—Business during the past week has been on somewhat broader lines. From the start a better feeling was apparent, both here and in Manchester, and whilst purchases can hardly be said to have been on an exciting scale, the weekly balance shows a substantial increase in the price of the raw material, and a much better turnover in actual cotton than that to which we have lately become accustomed. The settlement of the Irish crisis and the progress of events at the Washington Conference have had a most beneficial effect on commercial sentiment, and with an increased enquiry from India, which, in quite a number of cases, resulted in transactions taking place, the prospects for the first day or two appeared more rosy than has been the case for a considerable time past.

On Monday last, however, the United States Agricultural Bureau issued its final report, estimating the American crop for the current season at 8,340,000 bales, and this, coming as a climax to a series of estimates which have steadily increased as time went on, acted as a serious damper on the spirits of would-be "bulls." The result, in fact, was rather disastrous for the time being, and our futures markets suffered a sharp set-back, which was reflected next day in the enquiry for actual cotton. The worst feature resulting, however, was that the confidence amongst spinners, which latterly had been making some headway, was once again rudely shaken. However, the decline caused by the Bureau figures has now been almost recovered, and, granting an increasing business for India, which by all accounts appears a reasonable supposition, it is not improbable that the general improvement noted above may continue to broaden out. Yarns have been finding slightly more favour, and in one or two authentic cases a substantial improvement in the basis has been obtained. Enquiry in Liverpool has been chiefly for Sakellaridis round about Fully Good Fair, but prices are very irregular. Good Fair Upper cotton is frequently in request, but is very scarce. Shippers in Egypt are asking high prices for this class of cotton as compared with the better grades. As we pointed out in a previous report, this cotton is likely to be scarce this season, and those who require this quality should lose no opportunity of picking it up whenever a chance occurs. Low cotton of all descriptions which has staple, is still in request, but poor prices are paid for it. Sudan and Tokar continue to hold their own, but here again prices are very irregular. Total sales, 2,400 bales (including 550 Sudan) Quotations are raised 100 points, with Good to Extra Fine Sakellaridis exceptionally 125 points dearer on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 20.75d.

## COTTON INDEX FALLING.

Prices in the Lancashire cotton industry have continued to display an easier tendency during the past month, the general average of current quotations, according to Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, now being 193 compared with 202 at the beginning of November, and 256 early in October. At the corresponding date last year the figure was 268.

The basis of the calculation is 100 which represents the ruling price of each commodity on July 31, 1914. American raw cotton values show exceptionally a slight advance on the month, the figure now being 170 compared with 169, but a fall of 12 points has occurred in Egyptian cotton at 235 against 247. With reference to yarns, American descriptions at 187 register a loss of eight points, and Egyptian sorts have been reduced 18 points—from 209 to 191. Cloth prices also have moved in favour of buyers, the number of 183 being 8 points less.

Throughout September values steadily appreciated, and merchants and manufacturers obtained some measure of relief as a result of the returning confidence of consumers. Unfortunately the improvement in the market was not maintained, and many salesmen on the Manchester Royal Exchange are again seeking orders. There are grounds for believing, however, that the Indian boycott will shortly be at an end, and a revival of buying by Lancashire's largest customer will soon move the trade from its present unparallelled position.

## A PALESTINE MORTGAGE BANK.

The Zionist Organisation Central Office announces that the High Commissioner of Palestine has approved the registration of a mortgage bank, under the name of General Mortgage Bank of Palestine, Ltd., with a nominal capital of £200,000. One fourth of the capital has been issued in shares which have been taken by the Zionist bank, the Jewish Colonial Trust. Before the registration of the new bank long term credits to the extent of £34,000 had already been granted in the form of mortgages on small buildings in Jaffa by the Palestine Foundation Fund. This sum will be refunded by the Mortgage bank by debentures to the Palestine Foundation Fund, which will shortly increase its holding of debentures to £50,000.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended December 3 amounted to £6.980.

The crude oil production of the British Burmah Petroleum Co., Ltd., and the Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., for November amounted to 71,049 barrels.

Numbers are announced of 496 Four per Cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates, drawn for redemption on January 2.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended November 20 amounted to £E13,120; total for year £E245,020. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E16.678 ; total for year £E323,137.

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Seed Oils Advancing.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in moderate request at unchanged rates. West Indian crystallized has been firm at 39s. to 40s. 6d., while Czecho-Slovakian is 1½d. lower at 19s. 9d. White Java at 45s. has shed 1s.

Coffee.—Prices have remained firm in all cases. Costa Rica has been done at 140s., Indian has come to business at 110s; Nairobi is firm at 105s., and Jamaica is quoted at 150s. Futures are:—December, 50s.; March, 50s. 6d.; May, 51s. 6d.; July, 52s. 9d., and September, 53s. 3d.

Oilseeds.—There has been some irregularity in prices. Indian linseed has shed 2s. 3d. at 17s. 6d., and La Plata at 16s. 3d. has dropped 7d. Rapeseed is firm with Toria at 18s. 3d., and brown Cawnpore at 17s. 9d. Cottonseed has shown a firm tendency, with Indian unchanged at 9s. 3d., and Sakellaridis the same at 12s. 3d., while Egyptian black has gained 6d. at 13s. 3d.

Seed Oils.—A harder tendency has prevailed. Linseed oil has shed 3d. to 27s. 6d. Rape oil is higher with the crude variety 11s. up at 56s., and refined 6d. up at 51s. 6d. Cotton oil has risen. Refined has gained 2s. at 45s., but Egyptian crude has remained unchanged at 37s., while deodorized is 2s. up at 50s. Turpentine is 1s. 9d. lower at 68s. 3d.

Oilcakes. Business has been brisk, but prices have remained unaltered. Linseed cake remains at 290s., cottonseed cake at 200s., and Arachis cake at 280s. Palm Kernal is firm at 160s.

## CHEMICAL FERTILISERS IN GREECE.

*(By Our Athens Correspondent).*

Whereas formerly the use of chemical fertilisers was very little known in this country, a fairly large demand has been noticed during the past ten years, more especially by the smaller farms. This is due, in the first instance, to the extraordinary efforts of the State Departments of Agriculture to popularise the new methods of agriculture, and secondly to the establishment at the Piraeus of a large factory for the production of chemical fertilisers, by the "Société Héllenique des Products Chimiques et Engrais." Thus while up to 1910 the annual consumption did not exceed ten tons in 1915 it reached nearly 6,000 tons. Unfortunately this expansion was arrested during the years of war, on account of the difficulties arising in the purchase and import from abroad of the primary necessities for the manufacture of the fertilisers.

The demand for these goods was so general especially when the prices of agricultural products increased, that one might say, without fear of contradiction that, the difficulties overcome, these fertilisers would be used all over the country, and the amount consumed would exceed many tens of thousands of tons annually. In spite of the rise in the foreign exchanges, the consumption for this year is estimated at 15,000 tons. In 1920 about 14,000 tons were imported from abroad. Great hopes are entertained that with the increasing use of chemical fertilisers, combined with the selection of cereals and the increased sowings, as a result of the hydraulic works, drying up of swamps, and irrigation to be undertaken in Thessaly, Macedonia, and Epirus, Greece will not only be able to produce sufficient crops for her own needs, but will also have a surplus for export.

## THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

### INTERIM DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that an Interim Dividend of Four Shillings per £5 share on coupon No. 66 is payable on and after the 15th December, 1921, at Messrs. Barclay's Bank Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W. and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C. or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, form of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated Alexandria, 23rd November 1921.

By order of the Board,

K. B. Woodd Smith, Manager.

## EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture for November gives the following particulars:—

Maize (Nili).—The hot weather that prevailed during the month has favoured the growth of the crop. Harvesting is general. The crop this year is later than last year. The yield is expected to be below the average.

Millet (Nili).—The condition of the crop is satisfactory. Harvesting will start next month.

Rice (Sefi).—Harvesting is coming to an end. The yield is not a satisfactory one.

Rice (Nili).—Area sown under this crop in Beheira is very small. Harvesting has started in Fayum. The crop is below the average.

Sugar-cane.—Weather has been favourable and water supply sufficient. Cutting for factories will probably start in two months time. Attacks of Mealy Bug have been reported from several provinces. The crop is slightly below the average.

Bersim.—The crop is growing satisfactorily. The first cutting is general since the 15th of the month.

Wheat, Barley and Beans.—Weather has been favourable and water supply sufficient. Sowing, watering and manuring are in progress. Germination is satisfactory.

## LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

The following extracts are taken from the review of the National Bank of Turkey for October:—

Since last month, events have been moving rapidly in Asia Minor, the most important being the Treaty concluded by the French Government with the Kemalist Government at Angora.

*Exchange Fluctuations.*—During October, the Turkish pound underwent very serious depreciation. This was brought about by gambling on the Bourse. As a result of this speculation, the Bourse was closed near the end of the month by the Government and has not been reopened up to the time of writing. Public meetings have also been held, where it has been pointed out that the serious depreciation of Turkish currency was brought about by gambling alone, and not trade conditions.

*Foreign Exchanges.*—The economic position in Constantinople continued to become worse, and the demand for foreign exchange was greater than usual owing to the desire of the public to insure part of their funds in strong currency. This was taken advantage of by speculators who assisted to force sterling exchange up from 688 piastres on October 14 to 890, on October 22. On profit taking, the rate fell back to 770 by the end of the month with tendency uncertain as against 636 piastres on October 1.

Various proposals have been mado by bankers with a view to steadying the lira exchange, but it is recognised that depreciation must continue until a sufficient supply of foreign exchange is freely available for the needs of commerce. It is probable that the banks will again take action against speculators in exchange, by refusing to make advances to them in Turkish currency, and if this course of action be finally agreed upon, it may limit considerably the daily fluctuations which are so detrimental to trade.

*Flour.*—During October about 270,000 sacks arrived chiefly from the United States and 40-45,000 sacks were sent to Batoum.

The high rate of sterling exchange is preventing dealers from buying for forward delivery, but heavy arrivals from America are awaited during the first fortnight in November and stocks will be sufficient to last six weeks. However if dealers continue to refrain from buying for forward delivery, it is possible that there may be a shortage at the beginning of December. Prices in America and Canada have slumped considerably, but the high dollar and sterling exchange and the 11 per cent. duty have raised the price in Turkish currency to a higher level than hitherto. Present stocks are estimated between 100,000 to 110,000 sacks.

*Barley.*—A parcel of Roumanian barley was offered on the market at about 7½ piastres per oke c.i.f. Quotations from the United Kingdom for Roumanian barley have fallen from 40s. to 30s. per 400 lbs. during October. Practically all the business done in barley is for local requirements. Prices have fluctuated between 8 and 9¼ piastres per oke and were about 8½-8¾ piastres at the end of the month.

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*Sugar.*—7,500 tons arrived during the month from the following countries: Java, 5,500 tons; American, 1,000 tons; Holland, 1,000 tons. Between 1,500 and 2,000 tons were sent to Batoum and ports on the Black Sea. Owing to heavy arrivals and the weak position of the article, prices have dropped below those ruling on the Continent. Stocks are about 8,500 tons, mostly Java granulated.

*Rice.*—1,000 tons arrived during October from Rangoon, Siam and Saigon via Port Said or Marseilles and 500 tons went to Batoum and the Black Sea ports. The price of rice in local currency fluctuates heavily in sympathy with exchange fluctuations. The situation on the market is calm but stocks are very low.

*Coffee.*—4,000 sacks were sent from Rio and Santos at c.i.f. prices varying between 56s. and 62s. per cwt. for Rio according to quality. Between 1,500 and 2,000 sacks were exported to the Black Sea ports. Stocks on hand are 2,500 sacks.

*Leather.*—The market is always very calm. A good deal of activity was shown at the beginning of the month owing to the advanced season, and prices were on the upward tendency, but the very serious rise in the exchange towards the middle of the month paralysed all business and caused the same uncertainty and nervousness as before. The situation could not be worse than it is. Prices in Europe are much higher than sale prices here, and it will be long until consumers get accustomed to paying what the importer is justified in demanding. The rise in raw hides on the European markets has had its effect on local raw hides here. These have advanced by 46 per cent., and a further rise is expected. Local leather has risen by 35 per cent., and will very probably go higher. There is no market for vachettes although this is, as a rule, the favourable season. Buffalo hides are very scarce and if Black Sea ports were not closed, there would be a very big demand at high prices. If the present situation continues, all present stocks will soon disappear, as was the case last winter. European leather being so heavily handicapped owing to the exchange, the demand for local leather has increased considerably and the latter is gradually supplanting the former

## CURRENT PRICES.

*General Produce.*—Bacon: (Continental), 136s. 6d. cwt.; (Canadian), 120s. cwt.; American), 106s. cwt.; butter: (Danish), 211s. cwt.; (Australian), 142s. 6d. cwt.; (New Zealand), 173s cwt.; cheese: (Canadian), 107s. cwt.; (New Zealand), 101s. cwt.; lard, 78s. cwt.; eggs (Danish), 44s. per 120; (Styrian), 21s. 6d. per 120; chillies, 162s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 6¼d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 97s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 155s. cwt.; (East Indian), 130s. cwt.; (Central American), 117s. 6d. cwt.; (Jamaica), 67s. 6d. cwt.; (Mocha longberry), 113s. cwt.; (Santos, superior), 61s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 67s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; (Muntok, white), 7½d. lb.; pimento, 2½d. lb.; raisins (Valencias), 135s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 126s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 83s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Amalias), 60s. cwt.; sugar: (Tate's cubes), 54s. 9d. cwt.; (Lyle's granulated), 48s. 10½d. cwt.; (Mauritius crystals), 43s. 3d. cwt.; (West Indian crystallized), 40s. cwt.; (centrifugal), 14s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 18s. 3d. cwt.; (bran, Rangoon), £6 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. ½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3½d. lb.; tea: Indian (common to good common) 1s. lb.; (medium to good) 1s. 7d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 8½d. lb.; Ceylon (common to good common), 1s. 1½d. lb.; (medium to good), 1s. 7½d. lb.; (fine to finest), 2s. 9d. lb.; Java (common to good common), 8½d. lb.; wheat (English white), 47s. qr.; (Australian), 53s. 4½d. qr.; barley (malting); 57s. 6d. qr.; barley (feeding), 42s. qr.; oats (English), 33s. 3d. qr.; oats (La Plata ex-ship), 25s. 10½d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 34s. 9d. qr.; flour, 42s. sack.

*Metals.*—Aluminium, £122 10s. ton; antimony (English Regulus), £36 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £66 16s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £75 15s. ton; gold bars, 100s. 3d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 100s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 107s. 6d. ton; galvanized sheets (24 G), £17 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £25 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 1½d. unit; molybdenite, 33s. 9d. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 316s. 3d. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34¼d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 13s. 9d. ton; tin (standard), £168 3s. 9d. ton; wolfram, 11s. 10½d. unit; zinc sheets, £34 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 20s. 9d. box.

*Chemicals.*—Acids: Boric, 66s. cwt.; oxalic, 8½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 4½d.; ammonia (sulphate), £15 1s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £40 10s. ton; benzole (standard) 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £15 10s. ton; borax crystals, 31s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 121s. 3d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 8d. lb.; chlorate, 6d. lb.; caustic £32 10s. ton; nitrate £45 ton; permanganate, 11d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 1½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £15 5s. ton; Sodium: Crystals 140s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali, (58 per cent.), £9 4s. ton; chlorate, 4s. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £17 ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £14 18s. 9d. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £80 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £110 ton; lemon oil, 2s. 11d. lb.; quinine, 4s. oz.; red lead, £39 5s. ton; white lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton; sulphate of copper, £29 10s. ton; sulphate of iron 75s. ton.

*Miscellaneous.*—Cotton: (American), 11.33d. lb.; (Egyptian Sakel), 19.15d. lb.; Oilseeds: Linseed (La Plata), £17 7s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £18 5s. ton; palm kernals, £18 11s. 3d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £28 17s. 6d. ton; olive (Levant), £77 10s. ton; palm, £36 12s. 6d. ton; rape (crude), £45 10s. ton; soya, £34 10s. ton; petroleum, 1s. 4½d. gallon; petrol, 2s. 1d. gallon; fuel oil (ex-tank), £3 15s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £43 3s. ton; cotton (crude) £37 10s. ton; ground nut, £46 10s. ton; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 11⅞d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11⅜d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 2½d. lb.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting | Parity of Exchange | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 101.50-102.50 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 265-275 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 20.43 | 818-833 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3.15/16-1.4.1/16 |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3.15/16-1.4.1/16 |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 55.20 55.35 |
| *Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | — |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 705-735 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 4.86 2/3 | 4.17½-4.19 |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 52.95-53.20 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 338-343 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25 22½ | 91.75-92.25 |
| Sofia ..... | Leva to £ .... | 25.22½ | 600-625 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 10,500-11,500 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 12,500-13,500 |

* No Quotations. In some cases quotations are nominal.

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AND
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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

## NEW BURMAH OIL TANKER.

On December 14, the new single screw tank steamer Badarpur, built for the Burmah Oil Company, was launched from the Hebburn shipbuilding yard of Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., Ltd., The vessel which has been specially built for the company's Eastern trade, is 454ft. long, 57ft. wide, and 39ft. 3in. in depth, and its deadweight capacity is 10,000 tons. It is of the two-deck type, and has a pump room with a double line of suction pipes enabling the vessel to be pumped from either side.

The vessel is equipped with one set of triple-expansion engines, which can reach a speed of 11 knots, and three main boilers which work at a pressure of 180 lb. The dimensions of the boilers are 16ft. 6in. in diameter and 11ft. 6in. in length, and an auxiliary boiler is also fitted in case of emergencies, 12ft. 6in. in diameter, and 11ft. 6in. in length. The furnaces are adapted to burn oil fuel on the low-pressure system, and have one duplex unit comprising pumps, heaters, strainers, etc. The Badarpur is the largest vessel of the Burmah Oil Company's fleet.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses* :—

*Anchor Line.*—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 27).

*Anchor-Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, December 24) ; s.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, January 7) ; s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 11) ; s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 11) ; s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 21) ; s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 25) ; s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 4) ; s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta, (Birkenhead, February 8).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 4) ; s.s. Sittang for Rangoon (Middlesborough, January 7).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. Maid of Spetsai for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, also calling at Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, December 23) ; s.s. General Napier for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, also calling at Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, January 10).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Sea Victory for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Brindisi, Bari, Ancona, Venice, Trieste, Fiume, and Gravosa, (Swansea, December 24) ; s.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina and Batoum (Swansea, January 5).

*Ellerman Line.*—S.s. Asturian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, December 24) ; s.s. Estrellano for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania, (Liverpool, January 12).


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**OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.**

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*Ellerman's "City" Line.*—S.s. City of Baghdad for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 30) ; s.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 7).

*Ellerman's "Hall" Line.*—S.s. City of Paris for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, December 30) ; s.s. City of Auckland for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, January 30).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenariffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 5) ; s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 19) ; s.s. Glenapp for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 2).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Tactician for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 3) ; s.s. Intombi for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa etc. (Birkenhead, January 19).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Pegu (new steamer) for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 28) ; s.s. Martaban for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 11).

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Telemachus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, December 29) ; s.s. Agapenor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, December 29 ) ; s.s. Pyrrhus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, December 29) ; s.s. Titan for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, January 5).

*Moss Line.*—S.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, December 24).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Bosnian for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 31).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Soudan for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 30) ; s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, December 30) ; s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 13) ; s.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, January 13) ; s.s. Perim for Bombay (London, January 14).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 30) ; s.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 6) ; s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 14) ; s.s. Hatarana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 21) ; s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 3).

## AGENTS WANTED ABROAD.

***ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau," The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2." when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that 'The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.***

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## THE INDUSTRIES OF PALESTINE.

Conditions before the war precluded the possibility of any great economic development in Palestine, but the country is nevertheless able to boast of a number of small industries, some of them of considerable importance. Primarily an agricultural country Palestine is unlikely to develop industries on Western lines, unless there should be discoveries of unsuspected mineral resources. But there should be ample scope for advance in the smaller industries suited to local conditions. The present position is reviewed in an interesting memorandum issued by the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of Palestine in which the existing industries and the prospects are briefly surveyed. We give the following extracts :—

**Olive Oil.**

There are about 400 olive presses for the most part of primitive construction with an annual output of 3,600 tons of oil. Approximately half the oil is fit for consumption, the remainder being used for soap making. A small quantity of olive oil only is exported and that mainly to Egypt. For the year ending March 31, 1920, 84 tons were exported valued at £E.10,280. In addition, Syria and Transjordania take part of the Palestine production, but no figures are available. Since a full crop is only obtained from a tree in every alternate year, the production year by year varies considerably. The following production figures are based upon the tithes estimates :—1919-20, 350 metric tons. 1920-21, 6,700 metric tons. An addition of at least 15 per cent. must be made to arrive at the total production figure, owing to probable under-estimation, and the omission of non-tithable lands. The berries are collected from the trees when they are turning from green to black, when they are considered to contain the maximum amount of oil. The method of collection by beating the trees with sticks damages the trees considerably and bruises the fruit.

**Soap Making.**

There are about 50 factories for soap making, of which 25 are in Samaria (Nablus) District and 15 in Jaffa District. About 2,500 tons of soap are produced annually, for which caustic soda, lime, carbonate of soda, and olive oil (to supplement the local produce) are imported. Over 1,500 tons of soap were exported during the year ending March 31, 1920 valued at £E142,400, and in the year ending March 31, 1921, 1,450 tons valued at £E.132,150 with the exception of a very small quantity to Egypt. Carbonate of soda is in some cases obtained from the ash of a plant called *kulli* found east of the Jordan. The wholesale price of Nab'us soap varies from P.T.3.8. to P.T.4.2. per lb. The method of manufacture is primitive. The industry has suffered considerably by the war. In 1908, 4,500 tons of soap were exported to Egypt from Jaffa alone and the output in the Samaria district reached 7,500 tons.

**Wine.**

Wine is manufactured in commercial quantities, chiefly in the Jaffa district, where at Richon le Zion a well equipped factory was established by Baron Edmond de Rothschild in 1891 at the cost of about £E.120,000. This factory is run in conjunction with others on a co-operative basis. The cellars are capable of holding about 75,800 hectolitres. The annual production prior to the war was 35,000 to 45,000 hectolitres of different wines and spirits including Medoc, Port, Sauterne, Allicantes, Malaga, Muskat, Tokay, etc., and various liqueurs. Smaller cellars and wine presses are to be found at Ziehren Jacob near Haifa, and there is a distillery at Chedera. In addition to the local consumption 1,374,839 litres valued at £E.65,017 were exported during the year ended March 31, 1920, and 1,265,577 litres valued at £E.50,409 during the year ended March 31, 1921, the chief export being to Egypt. Spirits such as arak and brandy are distilled, production being approximately 820 hectolitres in 1919, and 280 in 1920. The production of alcohol rose from 380 hectolitres in 1919 to 890 in 1920.

**Tobacco.**

The abolition of the Regie Monopoly in January, 1921, has opened this industry to all comers. At present the local market is supplied largely by the Regie Co-Interessee des Tabac de l'Empire Ottoman, which has a factory at Jerusalem employing some 230 hands, and handling about 350 tons of tobacco per annum. Messrs. Maspero Freres from Egypt and Messrs. Baddour Bros., Jerusalem, have already opened factories in Jaffa and Jerusalem respectively, and undoubtedly other firms will follow. The duties on home grown tobacco are very much lower than on imported tobacco, and it is hoped thereby to encourage the growth of tobacco locally, but it is not intended that this preference should continue when the growth of tobacco has become stabilised.

**Fisheries.**

The Government is endeavouring to foster the fishing industry. The supplies of fish, salt, and olive oil are considerable, and would appear to provide a good opening for the development of a curing and canning industry, and the use of fish manure would absorb the fish refuse ; so far, however, little progress has been made in this direction.

The principal fishing centres are at Gaza, Jaffa and Haifa. The methods used are those of centuries past, owing to the lack of harbours and the difficulties of working off the open shore. The nets used include Seine nets for shore and sea, trammel nets, and throw nets. Long lines with about 70 hooks, and vertical lines with three hooks are also used. The lines and hooks are usually imported but the fishermen make their own nets. No trawling is done anywhere on the coast. There are no motor boats or steam driven vessels in the fishing fleets, only small sailing boats of not more than three tons being used. The number of fishing boats registered is 120 and of fishermen about 600.

**Building Trade.**

The high cost of building materials and labour has militated against the development of the building industry, but there are signs of a revival in the trade. The chief activity will almost certainly take place at Haifa, Jaffa, Tel-Aviv, and Jerusalem. Stone suitable for building is plentiful. Red roofing tiles were made in Jerusalem prior to the war, but even then most of those used were imported from France. Masons and bricklayers are efficient, but plasterers, carpenters, and plumbers, and subsidiary workers are generally inferior workmen. Lime burning is carried on in most of the large towns. Woodwork and iron girders are imported.

There are a considerable number of small joinery workshops throughout the country, most of the work turned out being of poor quality. The chief centre for this trade is Jaffa, where several factories have been established. The Carmel Carpenters Co-operative Shop, Haifa, and the American Danish Company, Jerusalem, have recently commenced operations with modern machinery. This trade will undoubtedly increase with the building trade.

**Tanning.**

This industry has decayed during the war. The hides of the local cattle are still of poor quality. The number of good cattle hides tanned does not exceed 5,000 per annum. Small tanneries are working at Jaffa producing by hand labour a medium quality leather suitable for tops and thin sole leather. Most of the leather used in the country is imported from Belgium, France, and America, small quantities coming from Egypt. Sheep and goat skins are plentiful. Sheep skins are hand dressed at Jonin, Hebron, and Gaza, and made up into winter coats for the peasants. Hebron is the chief centre for water skins which are prepared from the best quality goat skins, which with other skins in the past were exported to Egypt. Finished water skins sell from PT.80-120. This trade has, however, decreased very considerably. Local shoemaking is carried on by hand to a considerable extent in all the larger towns.

Coarse material and carpets are woven by hand at Jerusalem, Hebron, Gaza, Beersheba, and Mejdel. The inhabitants of Ramallah, a village outside Jerusalem, work a characteristic embroidery. The materials utilized are local wool, imported cotton—yarn and silk. So far as can be ascertained, the total number of hand looms in Palestine does not exceed 800 and there are no power looms. Endeavours are being made to utilize fast vegetable dyes in connection with this industry.

Mother of Pearl and *Objets de piete* are worked entirely by hand by the inhabitants of Bethlehem and the adjoining villages from the imported material obtained for the most part from Australia, the Red Sea, and France. Lake Huleh is also considered a possible source of supply of raw material, and endeavours are being made to test the shells found in this district. Owing to the high cost, shortage of labour, and falling off in the demand, a considerable decrease in production has taken place since pre-war days. The output before the war valued at £E.50,000 is now worth £E.20,000, the majority being exported to France, America, Germany, Austria, Italy, and England.

Glass-making before the war was carried on at Hebron and Tanturah. At Hebron some 500 hands were employed, whereas at present only six or seven persons eke out a precarious existence. The raw material used is broken glass melted down. It is understood that suitable sand is obtainable near the villages

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of Belt Naim and Yetta, but all attempts to establish the industry on a commercial footing have so far failed. The works at Tantura have ceased to function.

Boat building of a very primitive kind is carried on at Jaffa and Haifa, but this industry is not yet of any importance, owing to the lack of capital and the difficulty in obtaining suitable material locally.

Suitable oils for making scents could be extracted from the many plants found in Palestine. Experiments, hitherto not very successful, have been made with roses, geranium, mimosa, and orange flowers. Some twenty years ago a rose oil factory was established with the help of Baron Edmond de Rothschild at the Jewish Colony near the Sea of Meron, but it proved unremunerative owing to the high cost of the rose plantations. Laurel oil is made from the fruit of the laurel bush at Rosh Pina, Galilee. The colonies are again attempting the manufacture of perfumes from essential oils.

**Minerals.**

The mineral wealth of Palestine is practically unexplored, but building stone is plentiful, and open air quarries are being worked throughout the country. The Palestine Stone Quarry Syndicate has commenced operations near Athlit, and attempts are being made to cut stone with machinery at Bethlehem. Lime is burnt in kilns in several parts of the country. Common salt, potassium and bromine salts, and asphalt exist in large quantities in and around the Dead Sea and phosphate deposits are reported near Bethlehem.

Provided sufficient capital and modern machinery is utilized there appears to be an opening for a paper factory. At present all paper has to be imported. There is a fair demand for newspaper and printing paper, cigarette, packing, and writing paper which will no doubt increase.

Mechanical transport though in its infancy is a growing industry. Various companies run services betwen Tiberias, Dead Sea, Ramallah, Jaffa, Hebron and Jerusalem, Haifa, and Beyrout. Motor boats ply on the Lake of Tiberias and the Dead Sea.

Agricultural implements used by the felaheen are made locally, and at present there is a small demand for anything other than hand ploughs, mechanical devices being as yet unpopular. Demonstrations with agricultural machinery are occasionally held and the popularity of such shows is increasing.

## News from Everywhere.

It is announced that the period during which grain, pulse, and flour may be imported into India free of Customs duty has been extended until June 30, 1922.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of the Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt, Ltd., will be held at the offices of the company Alexandria, to-day.

At a meeting of Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920) held on December 16, the resolutions for altering the articles of association passed at the general meeting held on December 1 were duly confirmed:

The authorized capital of new companies registered in India during September was Rs.208 lakhs, as compared with the high figure of Rs.1,600 lakhs for the same month last year.

The stock of sugar at the Bombay Port Warehouses on October 25 amounted to 17,200 tons, of which, 8,200 were from Mauritius and the balance from Java as against 20,000 tons on the same date last year.

The Colonial Office has notified the Department of Overseas Trade that zone time two hours fast on Greenwich has been adopted in Cyprus, which took effect on November 14. The Colony has hitherto kept local time of two hours twelve minutes fast on Greenwich mean time.

According to a recent report the abolition of the "pay on delivery" postal service between India and Mesopotamia, which ended on August 1, has seriously affected the British population of Baghdad. The Baghdad Chamber of Commerce is approaching the Indian Chambers with a view to concerted action to secure renewal of the postal facilities.

The Roumanian oil production in October (says Reuter), amounted to about 110,500 tons against about 99,200 tons in September. Of this amount the Steaua Romana produced 19,331 tons, the Astra Romana 32,131, the Romano-Americana 23,131, the Creditul Minier 5,375, the Concordia 5,583, ths Internationala, 4,999, the Orion 4,339, and the Colombia 3,732.

## TENDERS INVITED.

***Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.***

***(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.)***

**Egypt.**

Uniforms and Boots, etc.—The Director-General Ports and, Lighthouses Administration, Ministry of Communications Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of naval clothing for the first half year of 1922-23. The specification includes 100 pairs ankle boots, 350 pairs sailors' shoes, 170 blue serge jumpers, 400 pairs blue serge trousers, 200 blankets, 500 woollen socks, 450 tarbrushes, 250 flannel undershirts, various naval badges, lanyards, etc. The articles supplied must be exactly similar to the standard sealed pattern, kept at the Central Magazine, Arsenal, Alexandria, and in number, weight, and measurements, in accordance with the written order or size roll given to the contractor by the Director-General of this Administration. The standard pattern will be sealed by the Administration and by the contractor. Local representation is essential. January 16 (D.O.T.).

Wood.—The Director of Stores, F.D.A., Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of wood. January 18.

Printing Ink, etc.—The Government Press, Cairo, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply of 15,000 metres of black binding cloth; 675 kilos of black printing ink; 3,000 kilos of glue; 1,100 metres of packing cloth; 1,000 kilos of starch; 1,500 kilos of string for heavy packing. Tenders on the proper form will be received by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, Ministry of Finance, Dawawine P.O., Cairo. Representation by an agent resident in Egypt is essential. January 24 (D.O.T.).

Oils, Paints, etc.—The Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of oils, paints and varnishes to patterns kept at the Arsenal, Alexandria. The specification includes 2,115 kilos of marine engine oil, 3,500 kilos motor oil, 600 kilos turbine oil, besides colza, linseed, rifle oils, turpentine, etc.; 2,000 kilos grey paint in oil, 1,220 kilos white lead in oil, and items of ships composition, Brunswick black, black paint, red lead powder, etc.; 145 kilos copal varnish, etc. January 14 (D.O.T.)

**Yugoslavia.**

Blankets.—Notification was given by the Department of Overseas Trade in October last that the Army Clothing Department of the Ministry of War and Marine, Donji Grad, Belgrade, invited tenders for the supply of 120,000 Army Blankets. The closing date for these tenders was given as November 10, but from recent information received it appears that no tenders submitted on that date were accepted and that the offer is still open. New tenders will probably be called for to be presented on January 18. United Kingdom firms interested are reminded that representation by an agent in the Serb-Croat-Slovene State is essential.—(D.O.T.).

## BAKU CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.

The report of the Baku Consolidated Oilfields to September 30 last states that during the period under review the properties of the company at Baku have remained under the control of the Soviet Government. The directors have continued to urge by every means in their power, the claims of the company to the restoration of its properties, compensation of its staff, and payment in full for all oil removed from its reservoirs or baled from its wells. Signs have not been wanting of late that the Soviet Government is beginning to realise that the seizure of property of foreigners without compensation is an insuperable barrier to any reconstruction of Russian industry.

The drilling operations in Texas, referred to at the last annual meeting, resulted last March in the bringing in, at a depth of 3,600 ft. of a flowing well, which produced 10,213 barrels (1,459 tons) of oil before production was stopped by the influx of water from a carelessly drilled well on an adjacent property. The heavy fall in price of petroleum having made drilling in this field temporarily unremunerative, operations have been suspended for the present.

A Bucharest Correspondent of *The Times* states that during the construction of the railway line Craiova-Petrosheni across the Carpathians coal was discovered at three different points. Three thousand men are already at work on the spot, and it is hoped that in about three months production will be in full swing.

The second annual Orient Fair will be held at Bratislava from July 9—16, 1922.

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## SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Stamboul, December 10.

With the exception of some consignments to Russia, notably to Batoum—consignments of a more or less hazardous character—and some sales for Anatolia, the Constantinople market has not presented any movement worthy of note during the week. The financial stringency continues to make itself felt here as a result of the depression and the restriction of bank credits.

As regards manufactures the market is inactive, and prices tend to fall. Merchants have greatly decreased their orders. The market is not in a prosperous condition at present, but it no longer inspires disquiet.

*Produce.*—Sugar. The fall continues. Czecho-Slovakian is continually offered. Here stocks are gradually decreasing, thanks to consignments made to Batoum and other ports of the Black Sea. Quotations are :—Java, December shipment, £18-10 per ton ; American 7-8 dollars per 100 kilos ; here : in transit £23½-24 per ton, in customs £T28½-29 per 100 kilos.

Coffee. The prices of coffee are subject to frequent fluctuations. The commodity is hard, and as the chief markets are in general with small stocks a rise in prices is to be anticipated. In view of the lack of stocks here the arrivals of the week have been placed at advantageous rate. Quotations Rio No. 2, 593, in transit Ps52-60 per oke.

Rice. Prices are maintained. Quotations : Saigon, No. 1 90 francs, shipments from Marseilles ; Rangoon No. 2 £20-21 per ton, shipment from Port Said.

## THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SUGAR INDUSTRY.

According to *Narodni Listy* the Czecho-Slovak sugar output for the period 1921-1922 is estimated at 6½ million metric quintals, while the stocks at November 1 are about half million quintals. The market will, therefore, have at its disposal seven million quintals of raw sugar, or 5¾ million quintals of white sugar. If the recently concluded contract for the delivery of 400,000 quintals to France is taken into account, about 1¼ million quintals, or more than one half of the Czecho-Slovak sugar surplus has been disposed of in addition to 800,000 quintals sold to local buyers. Nearly half of this year's output has thus already been sold. Large quantities have been purchased by the English buyers for delivery from the Czecho-Slovak warehouses in Hamburg

Of the exports in 1920-21 (4,143,760 quintals), the largest quantities were purchased by the following:—France 955,280 quintals, Hamburg, 844,880 quintals ; Austria, 632,730 quintals, Switzerland, 484,290 quintals, England, 340,800 quintals (as compared with 22,110 quintals in 1919-20), Germany, 235,050 quintals, Roumania 212,670 quintals, Yugoslavia, 170,280 quintals and Italy, 121,680 quintals.

The tendency towards concentration of interests which for some time has been making itself felt, was recently manifested by the purchase of the raw sugar factory at Zidovice and the sugar refinery at Steti by the sugar refinery at Usti.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

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**Paid-up - £5,000,000**
**Reserve - £1,250,000**

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NOURY BEY

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RAOUL MALLET.
LE COMTE PILLET-WILL.
FELIX VERNES.

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Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary : R. S. C. PEARCE
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**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
**(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)**

**EGYPT.**
**Alexandria.. Cairo. Mansourah, Minieh, Port Said.**

**PALESTINE.**
**Jerusalem. Jaffa. Caiffa.**

**CYPRUS.**
**Nicosia. Larnaca Limassol. Famagusta Paphos.**

**SYRIA.**

**Aleppo. Alexandretta. Beyrout. Damascus. Hamah. Homs. Saida. Tripoli.**

**MESOPOTAMIA.**

**Ashar. Bassorah. Bagdad. Mossoul. Kirkuk.**

**SALONICA. SMYRNA. TUNIS.**
**(Over 80 Branches in the Near East)**

The Bank has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

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# Stock and Share Markets.

## STRENGTH OF INVESTMENT DEMAND.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

London, Monday Evening.

With the holiday season close at hand it would be unreasonable to expect any considerable broadening of business, however favourable the general conditions, and there has not been much doing in most groups during the past week except in the gilt edged department where once again buying has been on a conspicuously large scale. The Irish position has, of course, been the chief factor of importance, and the vicissitudes of the last few days have had no effect, the general opinion being that peace has come. Germany's announcement that she will be unable to make the January reparations payment in full caused weakness in the foreign market, but otherwise had little influence.

The new Indian issue of £10,000,000 5½ per cent at 93½ was a remarkable success. We have had proof time and again of late that there is ample money available for high class investments, but it seemed just possible that with India under a cloud at the moment the loan might share the fate of the South African issue. Evidently the faith of investors in the future of the Dependency is untouched by the prevailing sickness of non-co-operation.

There are a number of other loans that will come along once the holidays are out of the way. It will probably not be long before investors have a further opportunity of assisting in development work in the Sudan, while I shall be surprised if some Balkan loans are not floated here in the New Year.

**Consols Over 50.**

Gilt-edged have continued their upward progress. Consols have been a specially prominent feature, closing 1,3-8 up at 50¼, while War Loan Fives are 13-16 up at 91¼. Funding have gained 7-8 at 74,7-8, and the Conversion Loan is ¼ up at 65,7-8. In Near Eastern securities which rank with British funds, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cents. have gained ¾ at 69½, but Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cents. 1898 and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cents. are unchanged at 62½ and 71 respectively.

In the early part of the week the foreign market showed distinct firmness, French stocks being a prominent feature, but a reaction followed the weakness of the exchanges resulting from the news of Germany's approaching default, and prices are closing well below the best. French War Loan Fives show a rise of 1½ at 41, while German 3 per cent. are unchanged at 3,1-8, after being much lower. Japanese issues are firm, the 1899 Loan being 1¼ up at 63, while the 4 per cent. 1910 has gained 1¼ at 62. There has been little activity in Greek securities, and prices remain at the previous levels.

**Industrials Harder.**

While business is still very restricted in this group a better tone has been in evidence than for some time past, and in a number of directions prices have hardened. Textiles have been a firm spot with Courtaulds 4½d. up at 36s. 9d. Iron and steel shares have been strong on the prospect that substantial orders will be forthcoming for railway material for India, while the Armament section have, of course, been favourably influenced by the readjustment of naval tonnage at Washington under which two battleships will after all be constructed. Vickers are 9d. up at 9s. 3d., while Armstrong's have gained 6d. at 14s. Guest Keens have improved 1s. to 29s., while Cammell Lairds at 11s. 9d. show a gain of 3d.

Shipping securities have been exceptionally firm, P. and O. Deferred being 20s xd. Cunards are 1s. 6d. up at 19s., while Furness Withys have gained 1s. at 24s. 6d. Royal Mails are 8d.

**Burmahs and the A.P. Report.**

The excellent Anglo-Persian report imparted strength to the Oil group, and Burmahs were naturally favourably affected. At one time, indeed, they reached 6,5-16, but close ¼ down at 6,-1-16, a gain of 1-8 on the week. Mexican Eagles are 1-16 down at 4,1-8. A good showing is made by the report which is just available, and it should serve to restore these shares to public favour. When buying really commences it will not be surprising to see a sharp rise in this and other oil features. In the Egyptian group Anglo-Egyptians have been a firm spot,and are 1-32 up at 1,1-16. Gemsah Oil Reefs are unchanged at 8s. 9d., but Oilfields of Egypt are 10½d. up at 4s. 4½d. Among Roumanians Roumanian Consolidated have gained 3d. at 8s. 3d., while Steaua Romana are 1s. up at 10s. 3d. Phoenix are unchanged at 6s. 9d., and Dacia Romanos are the same at ¾.

Mining descriptions have displayed considerable irregularity. Kaffirs have been a dull spot on the fall in the price of gold, while silver shares have been adversely affected by the dull tone of the metal market. On the other hand tin shares have continued to present a firm appearance, Nigerians in particular being a strong feature despite a certain amount of profit taking.

**Banks Strong.**

Banking descriptions have been firm as a result of the development of the investment tendency. Agricultural Bank of Egypt 3½ per Cent. Bonds are 1⅞ up at 55¾. Imperial Ottoman Banks have also been a firm spot, and are ½ up at 7⅞, while National of Egypt are 3-16 up at 18,3-8. Ionian Banks have gained ¼ at 4. Chartered of India are ½ up at 15,7-8, while National of India have gained ½ at 38½.

Land shares have been steady. Egyptian Delta Lands are 3d. up at 7s. 6d., while New Egyptians have gained 6d. at 22s. 6d. Sudan Plantations have shed 1-16 at 2½.

**The Rubber Position.**

There is literally no business in the Rubber Market at the present time. The price of the raw commodity seems to have become fixed for the time being round about 11d., and that rate naturally is not calculated to give any support to the share market At the meeting of rubber company directors held during the week it was emphasised that the industry is by no means out of the wood yet. The fact that the product now stands much lower than before restriction of output was decided upon speaks for itself.

In miscellaneous descriptions Alexandria Waters are 9½xd., a decline of ¼; Egyptian Markets are 6d. lower at 17s. 9d. ; but Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 6d. up at 33s. 9d.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 12 :—December 5 to 10—light rain in south-east Madras. December 11—weather dry. December 8—in Bengal, reaping of winter paddy progressing satisfactorily and spring crops thriving well. In Central Provinces, sesamum very good, wheat, grain and linseed, good. Punjab and Assam prospects unchanged. December 8—Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 408 December-January ; Rs. 402 March. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to December 2, 1921, were 503,000 bales as compared with 251,000 in the same period of the last year. In Bombay piece-goods market, wholesale demand disappointing, but some retail enquiry showing. Small demand for local goods. December 9—Calcutta jute market firm, and fair business done. Overseas enquiry improving. Firsts, Rs. 52. 8 ; Lightings, Rs. 41 to Rs. 42. December 10—Hessians steadier, but not much business done. Rates tending upwards. Heavy goods quiet but steady. Business reported in Liverpool twills at Rs. 45 for January-March and Rs. 38 in B twills. At tea sale on December 6, quality good ; Dooars very good prices 3 to 9 pies dearer for all grades up to Re. 1. Gap between lower grade and better class teas still decreasing. 419,819 packages sold to date, at an average price of 9 annas 6 pies per lb. December 9—Special Straits Quality Rice, Rs. 495 for December new crop. A press communiqué issued on December 13 states that in view of the favourable reports regarding the character of the rice harvest Government of India have decided to remove immediately all restrictions on the export of rice from Burma. December 6—shellac quiet but steady. T.N., Rs. 157 December ; Rs. 154 January with no sellers. Bombay-Sind connection railway survey (probably *via* Ahmedabad and Cutch) sanctioned, and also Sainghyin-Yeu-Taze Railway survey of 34 miles by Burma Railways Company. No change in bank rates.

Permission has been given to a survey of the proposed Bombay Sind railway connection.

The Imperial Bank of Persia announces a dividend for the half-year ended September 20, 1921, of 5s. per share, free of tax payable December 29.

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# Company Notes and Reports.

## ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the year ended March 31, 1921, states that the profit for the year, after allowing for depreciation, Debenture interest, home charges, and royalty, amounts to £4 028,022, to which has to be added the balance brought forward from 1920, £910,978, making a total of £4,939,000, from which falls to be deducted: excess profits duty and corporation tax for 1919-20, £854,665; stamp duty, registration fees, etc., on increased capital and expenses of issue, £135,542, £990,208—£3,948,792, and the following appropriations have been made:—Debenture stock redemption reserve, £80,000, preference share reserve, £50,000, general reserve, £455,000, amortisation reserve, £100,000, £685,000, £3,263,792. From this the following dividends, less income tax have already been paid on the Preference shares:—For the half-year ended September 30, 1920, at 6 per cent. per annum, £150,000. For the half-year ended March 31, 1921, at 6 per cent. per annum, plus 2 per cent. additional for the year, £250,000, and the directors now recommend the payment of a dividend on the Ordinary shares of 20 per cent. per annum, less income tax, absorbing, £1,215,000—£1,615,000; leaving a balance of £1,648,792, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty and corporation profits tax for the year ended March 31. In March last, an issue was made of 3,500,000 9 per cent. Cumulative Second Preference shares of £1 each at par. The 5,000,000 Participating Preference shares were at the same time converted into 8 per cent. Cumulative First Preference shares.

The refinery in Persia has continued to give every satisfaction, and the throughput has shown a steady increase. The greater part of the extensions which have been in progress are now in operation, and the remainder are expected to be completed early next year. The refinery at Llandarcy (Wales) is now nearly completed. Partial operations were started there in July last, but the full refinery will not be in operation until the spring. The results obtained there have so fully justified anticipations that arrangements are being made for the erection of further refineries to serve other consuming markets. The wells in Persia from which production is being obtained still continue to maintain a high rate of yield. Test wells which have been sunk to prove additional oil-bearing territory have added considerably to the area of the proved reserves. The fields have been completely electrified to reduce drilling costs and to permit of the most economic working. The throughput of the pipe-lines shows a considerable increase, and when the remaining extensions now in hand are completed, a further large increase will be obtained. The fleet of tankers owned by the company through its subsidiary companies has been successfully worked during the past year with no serious accidents. A number of the tankers for which orders had been placed are already in commission, while the greater part of the remainder are expected to be delivered during the next twelve months.

The D'Arcy Exploration Company, Limited, which conducts the exploratory work of the company outside of Persia, is actively engaged in examining and testing concessions in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America, and conditions in some of the localities are favourable for early success in striking oil. The distributing organisations of the company have made considerable progress during the past year. The British Petroleum Company has largely augmented its installations in the United Kingdom. The Société Générale des Huiles de Pétrole, the French organisation in which the company has acquired a large interest, has recently purchased three established distributing businesses, and is now marketing oil in France. In Belgium the company has established a distributing organisation under the title of the Société l'Alliance, which is about to begin trading operations. The company has also purchased an interest in distributing organisations in Denmark and Norway, which are expected to be ready to commence business in the early part of next year. Scottish Oils, Limited, has passed through a difficult time owing to the high wages and costs ruling during the early part of this year, coupled with a heavy fall in the prices of products. Wages and costs, however, are now on a materially lower level, and the prospects for this industry are consequently more favourable.

Meeting, Winchester House, December 21, noon.

## MAIKOP MIDLAND OILFIELDS.

The report of the Maikop Midland Oilfields states that, although as a result of prolonged unsettled conditions in Russia it is not yet possible to submit accounts, the directors have been able recently to secure direct information as to the general trend of affairs in Russia, and in particular as to the state of the company's properties, and they report that as from the beginning of March, 1920, the company's properties passed into the control of the Soviet Government, and have since, in common with all other concerns of a similar nature in Kuban Province, been administered by a local oil committee in Ekaterinodar under the general direction of the Supreme Oil Committee in Moscow.

From the time of the announcement by the Soviet Government at the beginning of the present year that they were prepared to agree to the reintroduction of foreign enterprise into Russia, the company has associated itself with the negotiations which the Anglo-Maikop Corporation, Ltd., and its allied concerns have had in hand with the Soviet Government's representatives in England for the purpose of ascertaining whether a scheme could be arrived at for this group to resume control of its properties in the Caucasus on the basis of a concession from the present Government. Permission was received in August last for Mr. J. C. Montgomerie, formerly field manager of this company, to make a visit of inspection to Kuban district. The engineer has recently returned to London after inspecting the company's oilfields, and reports that no harm has befallen the company's properties. The field installations are in good order, and production is being continued in wells brought in by the company previous to the occupation. The oil pipeline from the oilfield to the railway is also in good order.

Having regard to the position thus disclosed, and also that the economic conditions appear to be slowly but perceptibly changing in Russia, the board feel there is nothing to be lost, and possibly much to be gained, by continuing negotiations with the Soviet Government. They are therefore making every possible effort to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement for the future working commensurate with such safeguards as may be necessary in the interests of shareholders, and reserving full rights to compensation for any losses.

## MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

The gross earnings of the Madras and Southern-Mahratta Railway Company for the year ended March 31, were Rs639.93 lakhs, compared with Rs630.81 lakhs, and working expenses Rs420.48 lakhs, against Rs342.58 lakhs, showing a decrease in the net earnings of Rs68.78 lakhs. The surplus profits realised £189,424. Interest on investments amounted to £32,533, so that the total receipts were £221,958, compared with £484,184. This large difference is due to a decrease of 13 lakhs of rupees in the company's share of surplus profits and to the amount being remitted home at 1s. 3.3-16d, against 2s. 1¼d. obtained last year. The directors recommend payment on January 2 of final dividend of 25s. per cent. and a bonus of £1 per cent., in addition to guaranteed interest, making for the half-year £4 per cent., all subject to English income-tax, and for the year £7 per cent. An adjustment having been effected with the Inland Revenue on account of Dominion income-tax relief, the Board is able to return to stockholders £31,060, equal to 12s. 9.45d. per cent., overcharged for income-tax. This amount, which is not subject to English income-tax, will be refunded with the dividend in January next. A further £31,682 has been transferred to reserve, making it £500,000.

## ASSAM RAILWAYS.

The Assam Railways and Trading Company has declared dividends on "A" stock at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, 1921, on Pre-Preference shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending December 31, 1921, and on New Six per Cent. Preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent., per annum for the half-year ending December 31, 1921.

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# THE NEAR EAST.

No. 555—Vol XX. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1921.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### *The Entente and the Near East.*

Although the subject of the Near East must have been mentioned between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Briand during the latter's visit to London last week, we may infer that no ground of any importance was covered and no definite decision reached. When the French Prime Minister saw Lord Curzon on the day before his departure the discussion would seem to have been restricted to the plans for the conference of the three Foreign Ministers on Near Eastern affairs. This conference, which is now fixed for the second week in January, is to be preceded by a meeting of the Supreme Council at Cannes. As the exchange of Notes between the British and French Governments on the Angora Treaty has ceased, the way may now be regarded as clear for the re-drafting of a Turkish settlement. This, it is to be hoped, will be done at the Paris Conference; but as the final decision rests with the Supreme Council, the postponement of the Cannes meeting until the Foreign Ministers had come to an understanding would appear to have been the quicker way of setting about the business.

### *Czecho-Slovakia and Austria.*

Dr. Benes, Prime Minister of Czecho-Slovakia, has added another treaty to his list, this time with Austria. The main terms of the understanding between the two countries are that each undertakes to support the other politically and diplomatically for the purpose of maintaining peace and the integrity of their respective territories, and that both States will settle all future disputes between them by arbitration. The importance of this treaty, which is connected with economic arrangements entered into at the same time, lies in the fact that it shields Austria from temptation in the direction of Germany. With the Austrians now drawn within the orbit of the Little Entente, the apparent isolation of Hungary becomes intensified. This feature, however, need not cause anyone uneasiness. It is true that the agreements between Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania and Yugoslavia are primarily directed against the Magyars, but so long as the latter maintain the correct attitude which has become the policy of the present régime, threats of what may happen in eventualities which may never materialise will trouble no one. On the other hand, Hungary will not want to feel herself outside the pale of international friendships, and she will begin to consider still more carefully whether her destiny yet lies with Austria, or whether it might not be linked up with that of Roumania. It would be a mistake, however, to attempt to force the pace. All the arrangements so far made in Central or South-Eastern Europe are provisional, intended to meet the situation of the moment. In so far as they all make for the maintenance of peace they are on sound lines; but they should be regarded as the nucleus of an all-inclusive confederation rather than as the starting point for the grouping of the States into two rival groups.

### *The Yugoslav Government.*

As our letters from Belgrade and Zagreb have indicated, Yugoslavia has been passing through another of those political crises which puzzle outsiders, exasperate the Yugoslavs themselves, and, apparently, do no good to anybody except, perhaps, a few politicians. Happily a telegram received by the *Morning Post* from its Belgrade correspondent announces that this particular crisis has been passed in safety, thanks in the first place to King Alexander's good offices. On His Majesty's invitation, the President of the Chamber acted as mediator between the Radicals and the Democrats, and an agreement was very soon reached. As our Correspondent's letters have made clear, the Ministry of the Interior has been the chief bone of contention; and the problem has been solved in exactly the way he anticipated it would be in his letter of November 30,—by M. Pribitchevitch's exchanging the much desired portfolio for that of Education. The Radicals are to be placated by the creation of a new Under-Secretaryship for the Interior, which is to go to them; while the Democrats are to be awarded a similar post in the Ministry of Agrarian Reform. M. Pashitch remains Premier; and to outside observers the changes and adjustments will probably appear so slight that it will be difficult to understand what all the pother has been about. But it is to be hoped that the Triune Kingdom will be free from political crises for a while.

### *Disturbances in Egypt.*

Until the middle of last week Egypt remained calm on the surface, such manifestations of dissatisfaction as were reported being of a mild character. Even the anniversary of the proclamation of the Protectorate called forth no more formidable demonstrations than schoolboy strikes and the well-known telegrams from sundry Egyptians. But the calm was soon broken by Zaghloul Pasha, who protested, in characteristic fashion, against the findings of the Court of Enquiry into the

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Alexandria riots, and issued invitations to a mass meeting to be held on December 23, to discuss the political situation. In his protest against the Alexandria findings he ignored the evidence of witnesses who were neither British nor Egyptian, and talked at large of "the Egyptian nation demanding an international inquiry." But his call to a mass meeting was, very naturally, regarded by the authorities as a more serious affair, and the meeting was prohibited. Whereupon he published yet another protest, against the new policy of firmness in Egypt, which he invited Egyptians to "repudiate in an unmistakable manner."

### *Firm Action.*

This was a challenge which could not be ignored if Egypt was to be spared a repetition of troubles brought about by Zaghloul Pasha's activities on an earlier occasion, and it was promptly taken up. Zaghloul was, under martial law, forbidden to make public speeches, attend public meetings, take part in public affairs, or write to the Press, and he was ordered to leave Cairo and go to his country residence. Eight of his most troublesome supporters were similarly debarred from further mischief making. They refused to depart from Cairo voluntarily; and at the time of writing the latest news is that Zaghloul has been removed to Suez, and several of his followers placed under arrest. As a result, crowds gathered round Zaghloul's house, where they came into conflict with the police, and serious rioting, accompanied by loss of life, followed.

### *Parliament and the Refugees.*

Although Parliament was summoned in extraordinary session solely to deal with the Irish question, it proved impossible for the Government to avoid Near Eastern problems altogether. On December 16 the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs was subjected to a brisk fire of questions on the subject of Asia Minor by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Aneurin Williams and one or two other members who wanted information regarding the fate of the Cilician refugees; while Mr. Aubrey Herbert wished to know whether, "in the interests of minorities and for the sake of our own great interests in the East" the Government would "consider the advisability of adopting an entirely new policy towards Turkey." The latter question remained, unfortunately, unanswered; but with regard to the refugees, Mr. Harmsworth was not disposed to let his questioners have it all their own way. He declared that he was not at all sure that the Armenians had been well advised to fly from Armenia to Cilicia; was definite in stating that H. M. Government had never promised autonomy for Cilicia; and would not accept Mr. Williams' statement that that Government had caused the refugees to return there after the Armistice.

### *"Christians in Asia Minor."*

These unorganised attacks were followed three days later by a much more serious assault, when Lord Robert Cecil proposed a motion expressing the sympathy of the House with the sufferings of the Christian population in Asia Minor, and urging the Government to take every means possible to assist them. Lord Robert Cecil supported his motion in an admirable speech, and Mr. Williams seconded it. Then Sir J. D. Rees took up another side of the case, reminding the House that it was the "assumption that there are not two sides" to the Turk *versus* Armenian question which is "so exasperating to our Mohammedan fellow-subjects in India," and declaring that "the men who inhabit Asia Minor and the Balkans are all built in very much the same mould....and are good men or bad men according to their dispositions and their opportunities." He thought that in the war the Armenians had helped themselves at least as much as they had helped us; and he wished to know if there was to be "no end to the insanity of our benefactions." The discussion was chiefly noticeable, however, for a statement by the Leader of the House, who deprecated the tendency to interpret as a 'pledge' every statement of intention or of policy offered by a British Minister in either of the Houses of Parliament, or in speaking to a British audience. The protest was surely not uncalled for, and we wish we could believe that it would be taken to heart by all the 'phils and 'phobes of the Near Eastern peoples.

### *The Situation in India.*

At the moment of writing the position in India shows signs of rapid development, but the dislocation of business inevitable at this season prevents us from discussing events which will be common knowledge before these words appear in print, but which, so far as we are concerned, are still on the loom of the future. One comment, however, is called for on measures which have been taken to suppress the "volunteer" organisations. The suppression itself is welcomed by middle opinion in this country, but much surprise is expressed at the large number of arrests which have been made in the process. As a keen observer has put it, the volunteer system was like a wall of a kind familiar in most parts of India, built of mud and protected at the top by more durable material. If you want to demolish a wall of this kind, you remove the protection at the top, and the rest crumbles of itself; and in the same way it should have sufficed to arrest the few effective leaders, leaving the units to disintegrate in the ordinary course. Arrests effected by the hundred have a bad effect, and the subsequent releases usually increase the evil.

## OUR LADIES' COMPETITION.

**We publish on page 843 "Beersheba Sketches," by "Dan," which, as we announced last week, won the First Prize (Ten Pounds) in our Lady Readers' Competition.**

## THE WEEK AT HOME.

*London, December 23rd.*

**Exit 1921.**

Parliament is up, the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Churchill are off to Switzerland; Mr. Lloyd George is going to desert Criccieth for Cannes, and minor celebrities are being scattered by the winds of heaven and the railway companies for the holidays. Everybody seems glad that 1921 is practically over; a year that has included the worst drought, the worst coal strike, and the worst trade depression on record has not been much to boast about.

It is true that things improved in December; the Irish settlement was more than sufficient compensation for many other disappointments. Unluckily, as the days pass it is clear that Mr. Asquith's sombre warning that the settlement was only beginning, and that many difficulties had yet to be overcome, was fully justified. The long and stormy debate in the Sinn Fein Parliament; the bitter hatred of those opposed to ratification; the certainty that the extremists are making preparations to carry on the fight, if not against

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the British Government, then against the Irish Government; the evidence that outrages still continue and that some people want them to continue—all this is depressing. Peace is nearer than it was, but it is not here yet.

**Economy and Education.**

The Geddes Economy Committee have presented their report, and during the holidays Ministers will be digesting their proposals for saving the taxpayer's pockets next year. It is understood that the sum which the Committee propose to lop off is about two hundred millions, which will put the Budget straight and, according to the more optimistic, even permit a little reduction of the income-tax.

There have been various speculations, many of them obviously ill-informed, as to the departments to be retrenched. Most of the economies will be approved by the public, but one is certain to raise verbal opposition. It is known that a large cut is to be recommended in education, and although this will be popular in reactionary circles, it will be hotly disputed everywhere else. What the country wants is more, and not less, education, and no amount of argument about "cutting one's coat according to one's cloth" will conceal the fact that the real idea behind the supporters of drastic retrenchment in this department is the old and delusive belief that education is a danger. There promises to be a pretty controversy over this matter next year; and indeed Mr. Garvin has already opened the attack by remarking that a nation which can afford to spend four hundred millions annually on drink can afford to educate its children properly.

**Religion and Prices.**

The Scottish revival movement, to which I referred last week, has at least produced one good effect. Several tradesmen have been converted, and have since lowered their prices, on the ground that their consciences will not allow them to make extortionate profits any longer. If we could rely on this happening universally, I should be all for as much revivalism as possible in London. A Moody and Sankey mission that concentrated on hotel and restaurant proprietors and made them reduce their bills to something more approaching the standard of honesty, would make it a brighter and better world. It is a pity that Dante omitted hotel-keepers from the *Inferno*; I suppose the very devils were frightened of them,

**A Hospital Boycott.**

The trade unions are doing a very foolish thing. They are threatening to boycott any hospital which does not give trade union conditions to its carpenters, porters, electricians or other employees. The hospitals are not ordinary employers, and they make no profits, except for the community. Trade union conditions imply regular hours, but sickness is not confined to an eight-hour day. There seems to be room for a little more ethics in trade union economics.

**A Dying Paper.**

It looks as though the *Daily Herald* considered itself to be dying. One of its troubles is that apparently it cannot be run at a penny, although the *Mail*, *Express*, *News*, and *Chronicle* cost only that sum; whereas the twopence which the *Herald* charges severely limits its customers. But that is a contributory cause, rather than the real reason for the failure. The *Herald* has often amused and sometimes aggravated the public; but it has not done what it set out to do, which was to convert it. I suppose we are Bolshevist-proof in this country. The workman used Bolshevism as a useful clout to throw against Capital, but the moment it was made clear that Bolshevism in practice meant the conscription of Labour (which Capitalism has never aspired to) Bolshevism was not only dead but damned. It is all very well to say you are a wage-slave, but when you find that the other fellow really means to make you into one, the time has come to "cease this foolery." Presumably the *Herald* has discovered by this time that the Englishman's attachment to liberty is real.

**Famines and Synthetic Gold.**

The prophets have again been making our flesh creep. Sir William Beveridge has published some calculations, derived from meteorology and history, to show that we are entering a cyclical series of lean years, and that 1923 in particular may produce a famine such as has not been known since the fourteenth century. The shortage will, I suppose, be complicated by the fact that the populations of the world are now increasingly demanding wheat instead of maize or rye, or rice; and also by the consideration that, in spite of admonitions from Mr. Harold Cox, people still continue to produce children without the slightest guarantee that these will ever be able to earn their living. But after all, we came so near to famine during the war that one cannot take these predictions of disaster too seriously.

Another professor has been telling us that Germany is making "synthetic" gold, which would make the Reparations bill look silly. It was a good newspaper story, for, as Professor Soddy told us long ago, the transmutation of metals is an accomplished fact. But what can be done theoretically in the chemical laboratory is not practicable on a wholesale commercial scale, and I am afraid that one of the difficulties about synthetic gold is that it costs more to make than the real article to mine.

It must be remembered that the transmuted metal is always of a lower atomic weight than the element from which it derives; e.g., uranium, 238.5, produces radium 226.4. These are, of course, very expensive products, and probably too dear to use for producing gold, whose atomic weight is 197.2—also high in the scale. The intermediate elements are bismuth (208), lead (207.1), mercury (200); these could, at least theoretically, be employed. So if there is a sudden shortage of these elements, some newspaper is sure to announce that they are being made into gold. For myself, with the profoundest respect for the chemists, I think it is as likely that a British cigar will turn into a Havana by being looked at; if only somebody could discover that process, what a different world it would be!

**The Week's Books.**

The publishing trade rather goes to sleep at Christmas after its autumn exertions, but two or three books may be noted.

"Thirteen Years at the Russian Court" (Hutchinson) by Pierre Gilliard is the account by the Tsarevitch's late tutor of the period preceding the revolution. It is a most informative book: it makes clear that the Tsarevitch suffered from bleeding, that mysterious malady which attacks only males, but descends through the female; hence the Tsaritsa's anxiety, and her deception by Rasputin, who assured her he could cure the child. M. Gilliard makes it clear that the Tsar was a weak character; his instincts were generally right, but he could not trust himself to act, and the advice which was given him was too often wrong.

I am afraid the noble Bossuet, and his eloquence, are little more than a name nowadays. Because it was that and no more to me I took up his "Life," by E. K. Sanders, which has just been published by the S.P.C.K. in its well-known series of Ecclesiastical Biographies, and I am bound to admit that it throws a good deal of light on France of the *ancien régime*. Those who are interested in that period might do worse than get the book.

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# THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

*(From Our Own Correspondents).*

## YUGOSLAVIA.

*Belgrade, December 13.*

### A Sensational Election.

In the political world there is plenty to talk about. The sensation of the moment is provided by the municipal elections in Zagreb, where the Croatian *bloc*, an alliance between the Narodny Club and the Raditch party, has swept the polls clean. The elections are instructive; for they were conducted on party lines. In the first place, not a single Radical was elected, for they only secured a total of 154 votes out of a poll of 21,401. This is a striking figure, for there are only 28,872 voters on the register. The next noteworthy point is the defeat of the Communists, who secured only two seats, with a total of 1974 votes, showing that their victory at the last elections was unnatural, and that the people did not know what they were voting for. They have been educated in the meantime, and Raditch has been busy, for the working classes seem to have transferred their votes *en bloc* from the Communists to Raditch, who cleared no less than 36 seats—the rest nowhere, for, except the Democrats, who gained six seats, the other oddments could muster only half a dozen between them.

These figures have caused considerable sensation in Belgrade, especially as Raditch at once claimed the Irish settlement as a precedent, and is now asking for a Croatian "free state" within the frontiers of Yugoslavia. This is, of course, looked upon in Belgrade as the rankest heresy; for if the Croats got such a degree of independence, all the other centrifugal elements would want it: the foreign minorities in the Voivodina, the Mohammedans of Bosnia, and Macedonia. This would reduce the State to a confederation; and, moreover, the demarcation would be extremely difficult, for the population is inextricably mixed in all those districts; and even in Croatia it would be impossible to draw the line between Croats and Serbs. The old boundaries are no good, for Slavonia goes with Croatia, and contains large numbers of Serbs, and in Croatia in the strict sense there is a very large Serb element, even in Zagreb itself. Bosnia and Herzgovina might with more reason claim a separate status, for their independent history is very old, but even there the Mussulman and Orthodox elements are inextricably mixed, and though the vast majority consider themselves Serbs, a large proportion consider themselves Croats. The same thing applies to Dalmatia, which many Croats claim as purely Croatian, though they have had no political connection for centuries.

### Unity?

There can be no question that complete unity is the most desirable consummation for the country. The only question can be, when? The extreme Unionists wish to make the union complete and absolute straightaway, while the extreme Separationists ask for a kind of confederation on the American or the Swiss model. Moderate opinion is for a compromise, that is, for the postponement of the complete union until the people are more educated. In such a union, everybody must sacrifice something. The Serbs claim that they have sacrificed their identity in the common cause, and their sacrifice has been won at the cost of infinite streams of blood: now let the Croats sacrifice theirs, which has cost them nothing. The Croats, on the other hand, maintain that they have never been conquered, but accepted a personal union with Hungary many centuries ago, and that, even under the worst days of Magyar political oppression, they had a degree of autonomy which the Serbs would deny them. The Serbs retort that they have no need for such autonomy now, and that if they are the strong and cultured people they profess to be, they can assert their individuality by constitutional methods, at the polls, and by providing the statesmen and officials for the State. And to the Croat cry of a greater store of the blessed word "culture" the Serbs answer that their peasants have had political freedom for three generations, while the Croat yokel has never heard of a vote before.

The truth of the matter is that the older generation is dominating politics on both sides, and is naturally conservative and averse from any sweeping change. It is the younger generation, and especially the students, who are the desperate supporters of an out-and-out complete union, a suppression of all old entities in the common State, and that is why the younger generation hate the very name of "S.H.S.", and cry for "Yugoslavia", pleading that the united kingdoms of Great Britain, of Italy, and of Germany have long since sunk their provincial names in the common designation; that the very title of "S.H.S." accentuates that separatism which they wish to see disappear, and which Raditch and Pashitch, for very different motives, are trying to perpetuate. The time must soon come when this fiery young generation will hold the reins, and then they will reverse the work of Pashitch, with his "S.H.S." and of Raditch, with his Croatian Peasant Republic, and sweep all into one Yugoslavia, for which, it will be remembered, the Yugoslavs of Austria-Hungary gave 40,000 men to fight for Serbia on the Macedonian front.

### Serbs and the Irish Settlement.

The Irish settlement has a good press in Yugoslavia and the papers, of both Belgrade and Zagreb, write sympathetically of the English point of view, which is a novelty. As a matter of fact, it is not pleasing to the Serbs, partly because it affords a dangerous precedent for Raditch, and partly because it deprives them of the argument "What about Ireland?" which has been a valuable weapon in the hands of the Serb when discussing politics with an Englishman. Still, the papers have a dig at us when they can. The *Politika* of Belgrade, for instance, produces a telegram from Budapest, to the effect that King George has decorated the Archduke Joseph, Serbia's bitterest and most cruel enemy during the war.

### The Cabinet Crisis.

The Cabinet crisis drags on, and the neutral papers lament the ignoble struggle about a portfolio when grave State interests are at stake. The Democrats are even beginning to hope that they may succeed in forming a Cabinet without the Radicals, who have been holding a congress for three days, which has held up negotiations. Now M. Pashitch is expressing pious hopes that the coalition will be reformed, for the two main parties, much as they hate each other, cannot stand alone. The whole crisis has undoubtedly been a purely technical move on the part of M. Pashitch, for he would never have allowed the Democrats to have a mandate for a day had he thought that they had a ghost of a chance of forming a Cabinet without him. There are the usual rumours of his forthcoming resignation from

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public life; but the old war-horse likes the smell of powder too much, and clings to it from habit, for there is nothing left for him to get. He has been Premier of his country through the most momentous years of its history, and is reputed to have acquired great wealth, and to be over eighty years of age. What more can he want?

**A Potiorek Story.**

The sixth anniversary of the defeat of the Austrians by the Serbs on the Tser brings up an amusing story about Potiorek. The Lieutenant-Field-Marshal of the Royal and Imperial Austro-Hungarian Army, late Viceroy of Bosnia and Hertzgovina, after suffering a very severe defeat at the hands of the Serbs, was pensioned, and it will be remembered, afterwards whitewashed by being declared of unsound mind. Smarting under the undignified drubbing he had suffered at the hands of a despised enemy, he took the train for Vienna and travelled alone and privately, taking a seat in a non-smoker. Presently a Magyar walked in smoking a huge pipe, from which he puffed clouds of smoke into the Field-Marshal's face. Potiorek protested, politely at first and then vigorously, as the Magyar sat in silence, puffing more fiercely than ever. Then Potiorek, thinking to impress the fellow, for his name was not yet disgraced, handed him his card, but the imperturbable Magyar quietly took it, put it in his pocket without even looking at it, and went on puffing. This was more than the soldier could stand, so he angrily called the conductor, who requested the Magyar to withdraw to a smoking compartment, while Potiorek fumed and fretted in the corridor. But the Magyar without a word quietly took from his pocket the card which he had received a moment before, and handed it to the conductor, who promptly kowtowed with customary Austrian servility, and turned to the Field-Marshal, and said to him: "It is no good, I cannot turn out a man of his rank: do you know who it is?" "No," answered Potiorek. "Why," said the conductor, "it is that old ass Potiorek!"

**How to be Happy.**

Longevity is well known to be a characteristic of the Balkan poples and apparently the Croats beat all records in this respect, at least in retaining their youthful vigour in old age. Recently there was an instance of a man of nearly 60 who, in marrying for a fourth time, had the satisfaction of seeing his three divorced wives return to the fold at the same time. Now there is a case of a veteran born in 1828, who was jealous of the philandering of his wife, who was 48 years old herself, with whom he had lived in peace for 20 years, and in a wave of passion he knocked in her head with a hatchet. Then he travelled from Subotica to Zagreb to surrender to the police, having heard that the courts there tender the wind to the shorn lamb.

## BULGARIA.

*Sofia, December 12.*

**Bulgaria and the Coming Conference.**

The news that the Allies are to hold a Conference on the Near Eastern question has raised hopes that Bulgaria may be allowed to participate in the Conference. Article 48 of the Treaty of Neuilly specified that "The Principal Allied and Associated Powers undertake to ensure the economic outlets of Bulgaria to the Aegean Sea. The conditions of this guarantee will be fixed at a later date."

It is now almost two years since the Treaty of Neuilly was ratified, and there are no signs of Bulgaria being granted economic outlets on the Aegean Sea. It is understood that the Second Treaty of Sèvres contains a clause in which provision is made for Bulgaria having an outlet at Dedeagatch; but this Treaty has not been ratified, and in view of the probability of the First Sèvres Treaty being revised, it is not likely that the Second Treaty will be put into force.

When Bulgaria signed the Treaty of Neuilly, she undertook loyally to carry out the terms thereof. This she has done, as is witnessed by the evacuation of Thrace, Macedonia, and the Dobruja, the reduction of her Army, the handing over of cattle, etc., to her neighbours, and numerous minor details. She thus has a perfect right to ask when the Allies intend to carry out their part of the Treaty. The Allies, for their part, are at liberty to argue that the Anatolian war has prevented the ratification of the Second Treaty of Sèvres, but they cannot maintain this standpoint for ever. Bulgaria has not shown any signs of bellicosity in her desire to acquire an economic outlet, and it is precisely because of her peaceful attitude that the Allies should at once satisfy her perfectly legitimate demands.

**Her Attitude since the Armistice.**

It is slowly but surely being borne in on Western Europe that Bulgaria is not such a "fire eater" as certain newspapers would have had us to believe, and that on the contrary she is the one beaten Power that is honestly trying to fulfil its obligations. She may not as yet have regained the full confidence of the Governments of the Great Powers, but the general public is beginning to regard her as a country that has not caused them any anxiety or inconvenience. Is it, then, to be her reward that her claims to an economic outlet to the Aegean Sea, and to increased protection for her minorities, are to be disregarded? One hesitates to say that the Great Powers are apathetic regarding Bulgaria's claims; and one can, therefore, only believe that weightier problems have prevented them from giving due attention to this matter.

It need not be feared that Bulgaria will herself take steps to gain an outlet to the Aegean, as her policy, in the words of the Prime Minister, "continues to be a policy of peace, coupled with a desire to remain on friendly relations with all countries." At the same time, it should be realised that Bulgaria still places faith in the justice of the Great Powers, and is awaiting, calmly and hopefully, the result of the forthcoming deliberations. Should the Powers not give their attention to her claims, their action will produce a feeling of dull resentment, which will not easily die down, and which in after years may show itself in a form likely to harm the peace of South-Eastern Europe. Let us hope that the Allies realise the position, and will not hesitate to do justice where justice is due.

**The First American Minister.**

Mr. C. S. Wilson presented his credentials as Minister Plentipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the United States of America, to King Boris on Monday, the 5th inst. This event is significant inasmuch as before


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the war, the U.S. were represented in Roumania by a Minister who was also accredited to Serbia and Bulgaria. Now there are Ministers at Bucharest, Belgrade, and Sofia respectively. Mr. Wilson was Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia for three years before being promoted to Minister and is therefore well known in Bulgaria. The presentation of his Letters of Credence was the signal for an outburst of enthusiasm in favour of America by the whole Sofia Press. This is not remarkable, as American influence, largely owing to the efforts of American teachers and missionaries, is very strong in Bulgaria. Besides this, there is a large colony of Bulgarians in the United States. Most important of all is the personal influence wielded by Mr. Wilson. In 1919 when Bulgaria had real need of friends, he showed himself one, and there is reason to believe that if the advice tendered by Mr. Wilson, and the then Allied military authorities at Sofia, had been accepted by the Peace Conference, the Near Eastern question would not be the complex problem that it now is. The Americans were well informed as to the actual situation in Thrace, and at Paris did not hide their disapproval of the attitude pursued by England and France. Unfortunately, they found themselves in the minority, and had to acquiesce in a policy that was in total divergence from the views of the men on the spot, who at least might be presumed to know as much about the situation if not more than those who were sitting in Paris.

**The Fire at the Arsenal.**

The fire, which broke out at the Sofia Arsenal ten days ago, has proved to be a good deal more serious than was at first thought. The burnt material chiefly consisted of rifle cartridges and artillery equipment, whilst the destruction of the two buildings is a serious enough loss in itself. With the exception of a portion of the cartridges that were due to be handed over to the Allies, the whole of the material destroyed belonged to the Government. The Commandant of the Arsenal estimated the cost of the damage to be at least 100 million levas, which is equal to (approximately) £170,000 at the present rate of exchange.

Although it has not been definitely established that the fire was a deliberate act of sabotage, it is understood that some burnt petrol tins were found at the spot where the fire originated, and it is believed that by throwing tins full of petrol on to some woodwork the fire was started. When the Bulgarian Army was at pre-war strength, five sentry posts, each of three soldiers, used to guard this part of the Arsenal. Nowadays, owing to the shortage of soldiers, there is only one post, of three soldiers, and it has naturally been impossible to maintain a proper surveillance over the Arsenal. The Government fear other acts of sabotage on the part of the unruly elements of the population, as the Communists are fully alive to the chances presented them by the small armed force that the authorities have at their disposal.

**Change of Rectors at the University.**

The University year came to an end last week, and on the 15th inst, the customary ceremony of installing the new Rector took place at the National Theatre. King Boris was present and the attendance included practically the whole of the intellectual world of Sofia. The only notable absentee was M. Omartchevsky, the Minister of Public Instruction, who was on tour in the provinces. M. Popoff, the retiring Rector, in the course of his speech deplored the falling off in the number of students at the University, and made reference to the difficulties with which the intellectual classes were now faced. M. Miletitch, the Rector for the coming year, also spoke; but the most interesting thing about the whole assembly was the great reception that was accorded to the King. His Majesty seemed greatly pleased at the warmth of the greeting extended to him, and was looking in excellent health.

## TURKEY.

*Constantinople, December 12.*

**Confusion.**

It is said that the late Sultan Abdul Hamid, after his dethronement, would sit brooding for hours over the political developments which had brought about his downfall, and would suddenly strike the table with his fist, at the same time exclaiming, "Confusion! Futility!" It has long since been realised that the little finger of the Committee of Union and Progress was thicker than the Red Sultan's loins, but even that shrewd old diplomatist could never have foreseen the confusion at present existing as a result of futile policy, not only on the part of the Young Turks, but also of the Allies themselves. Never was there a period when rumours were more plentiful or more contradictory, and never was there a time when the future appeared more obscure. The French deny that their agreement with Angora amounts to anything more than a strictly limited arrangement for the purpose of putting an end to useless bloodshed in Cilicia, but they are making energetic, although discreet, efforts to obtain the Imperial ratification of that agreement. The Italians deny that they have any intention of emulating the example of the French, but there is still an Italian delegate in Angora. The British emphatically deny that any negotiations with the Kemalists are even being contemplated, but two former officers of the British army who were instrumental in making the preliminary arrangements for the negotiations concerning the exchange of prisoners have recently met Rafet Pasha at Ineboli. The local press is filled with speeches by various members of the Angora Administration, but the hopes and activities of the Central Government are shrouded in mystery and silence. Into this confused mixture it was reserved for Bekir Sami Bey to introduce a drop of the tincture of certainty. Opinions may vary as to the precise object of Bekir Sami's journey to Angora via Constantinople, and Bekir Sami himself observed the utmost discretion on the subject; but with regard to possible peace negotiations, he was frankness itself. Although he disclaimed official authority to speak in the name of the Angora Government, there is no doubt that Bekir Sami Bey accurately expressed the intention of the Nationalists when he stated that Smyrna, being Turkish, could not possibly be made the subject of any bargain whatsoever. That is to say, the only condition upon which the Nationalists will consent to negotiate for peace, is the unconditional return of all the occupied areas in Anatolia to the dominion of the Angora Government. This would bring the inter-Allied guards at the Dardanelles cheek by jowl with the Kemalist army, which a Greek army of a quarter of a million, well-trained and thoroughly equipped, has utterly failed to subdue.

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That is the problem with which the Council of Allied Foreign Ministers will have to wrestle, and the real terms of that problem are : " Whether it were better to yield advantages gained by Allied blood (mostly British) and to sacrifice all Allied prestige (again mostly British) or to meet force with force and stringently impose a solution safeguarding both Allied advantages and prestige ? "

**Kemalocracy.**

In the course of an inordinately long speech, Mustapha Kemal recently stated that the Angora Administration could not be compared with any other administration in the world, and that the Nationalist conception of politics differed fundamentally from both democracy and socialism. The speech was made in connection with a Bill submitted by the deputy for Mersina, which provided for the reorganisation of the Nationalist Administration on parliamentary lines common to the great democracies of the Occident. In the present circumstances, for instance, any member of the Angora " Cabinet " may have to resign owing to a vote of " no confidence," without affecting the position either of the President or of the rest of the " Commissioners." Mustapha Kemal himself has no right of veto, but is completely independent of the " Cabinet," and yet takes part in debates just as if he were an ordinary " Commissioner." The following is the latest information on the subject, and after reading it, no one will dispute Mustapha Kemal's statements regarding the peculiarity of the Nationalist system.

1. The system of a Cabinet responsible to a parliament is rejected.
2. It has been decided that an independent President shall be created, at the head of the Commissioners, who will apply the decisions of the Assembly.
3. As in the past, Executive Commissioners will be elected by the Assembly, but the method of election is to be changed.
4. The Assembly will have to choose between two candidates, one put forward by the President of the Assembly (i.e. Mustapha Kemal) and one by the Independent President of the Council of Commissioners.
5. The two Presidents will after mutual consultation designate two candidates for each commissariat, one of whom will be definitely elected by the Assembly.

As a result of Mustapha Kemal's opposition, the attempt to create a responsible government in Anatolia has failed, and the Bill submitted by the Deputy for Mersina was condemned by Mustapha Kemal on the grounds that it interfered with the absolute sovereignty for the people. Perhaps it was out of a feeling of modesty that Mustapha Kemal did not specify whose absolute sovereignty of the people the bills would limit.

**Enver.**

The Press, both Turkish and non-Turkish, has recently been replete with strange stories concerning the activities of the ubiquitous Enver. Reference has already been made in a previous letter to the famous " Union and Progress Soviets Party," and the dispute between the former and present Turkish dictators. Enver is now supposed to have thrown down the gauntlet (borrowed from his Bolshevist friends) and Mustapha Kemal is supposed to have picked it up, by ordering Kiazim Kara Bekir Pasha to occupy Batoum. It is impossible at present to ascertain the exact truth ; but if appearances are to be trusted (which is doubtful at least) there has actually been some sort of fighting on the Caucasian frontier between Enverist bands and Kiazim Kara Bekir's troops. Precisely what it all means is not clear ; for it would even now be rash to jump to the conclusion that a definite rupture between Moscow and Angora has occurred. Enver's action may possibly have been in the nature of a threat, intended to manifest Bolshevist displeasure regarding the Franco-Kemalist Agreement, but it is also possible that the whole affair is a specially staged comedy. It is, however, curious that the Kemalist attitude has once again become radically uncompromising, so that even the Italians are unable to settle quite simple matters of an exclusively economic nature.

*Later.*—The Turkish evening paper *Aksham* announces that Signor Tuozzi left Angora for Rome on December 11.

## CYPRUS.

*Nicosia, December* 6.

**Journalistic Activities.**

Socially the season is very dull. Mails under the present needlessly retrograde arrangement come but three times a month. The local Greek press perseveres in its fervid insistence on the duty of increased activity by " union " committees, the views expressed being always hopelessly insular, and quite regardless of the realities of Allied Near East policies. Both newspapers and speakers are now telling the people that any grant of reforms must only be regarded as a temporary " compromise," implying a postponement of the final solution which is to reward Greek efforts. Their acceptance will be no hindrance to the patriotic struggle. Much reference is made to the movements in Egypt and India, as if there were an analogy between the cases of those countries and of Cyprus, where the aim is not complete freedom or autonomy, but incorporation with another country. Cypriot journalists and orators can certainly vie with those of any part of Greece in fluency both of tongue and pen ; and the " exuberance of verbosity " with which the " one and only aspiration " of the Greeks is dealt with here week after week is really remarkable. A new, illustrated satirical paper, the *Peirasmos* (*Tempter* or *Devil*) is about to appear. It is to be printed in Egypt when facilities for producing such a periodical—not to be found in Cyprus—exist. Egypt indeed is rich in satirical papers, several of which contain coloured cartoons.

**A Missing Professor.**

No news has been received of a professor of English for the Pan-Cypriot Gymnasium at Nicosia, who left Marseilles more than a month ago, having booked as far as Jaffa. The School Committee, who have expended about £100 for his expenses, are now anxious as to his whereabouts, thinking he may be staying in Palestine, and they contemplate appointing someone else to carry on the teaching of English pending the receipt of information.

**General News.**

On the second date fixed for electors of non-Moslem members of the Legislative Council, November 28, the two Maronite priests whose candidature was rejected (owing to disqualification of a seconder) were duly elected at Nicosia. In accordance with the decision passed at the pan-Greek meeting, no Greeks were proposed. It is uncertain whether yet another day will be fixed.

The calendar year is to replace the financial in Cyprus : the change is to take place after the close of 1922.

Large numbers of refugees from Cilicia have been unable to land. There are cases of small-pox in that country to add to their troubles. Only Cypriots are allowed to land and that in quarantine stations, in which accommodation is limited. The plight of the refugees is in too many cases most lamentable.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Smyrna, December* 9.

Three thousand refugees from Mersina, arriving in Smyrna by steamers King Constantine and Thraki, have been allowed to land after having been disinfected at the Quarantine Station at Klazomene. The greater number have sufficient means to keep themselves without help from the authorities.

H.M.S. Shark (Commander Russel) has arrived in Smyrna.

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## THE MYSTERY OF THE ORIENT.

*By Edouard Driault.*

A course of lectures on Greek Independence is being given at the Sorbonne, Paris, by M. Edouard Driault, in connection with the centenary of the Greek insurrection of 1821. For his introductory lecture, of which we now give a summary in English, M. Driault chose the title "The Mystery of the Orient."

After pointing out that more was known of the ancient history of the peoples of the Orient than of their modern and contemporary history, as a result of a tendency not to prosecute studies beyond the death of Alexander, and having paid a tribute to Pierre Loti, M. Driault continued :—

### 1.—The Past.

For a clear view amid the diverse facts of everyday life and the tangle of events in the Orient one needs to get right away, to climb a hill and study the horizon, that is to say, find again the general lines of political and economic evolution.

The Orient, the Near East, is to-day only a kind of colony over which the Great Powers of the West are quarreling, for it is rich in mines and agricultural resources ; it is one of the earth's beautiful gardens. And it is just for that reason also that it knew some of the greatest empires of the past, and was for centuries the greatest commercial highway between the peoples.

History is a Resurrection.

For the Orient, the Near East, is the Egypt of the Pharaohs and of the Sphinx ; it is Memphis and Thebes of the hundred gates, by each of which Rameses II sent forth a thousand warriors when he made war on the Khetas. It is the Pyramids of Ghizeh and the Temples of Karnak. It is the whole mystery of the Nile which has stirred the imagination throughout all antiquity. One knows to-day where the Nile has its source ; one does not yet know of what new grandeur Egypt is capable.

The Orient, it is Nineveh and Babylon—Babylon which recalls the most extravagant phantasies of a Nebuchadnezzar, a blaze of barbaric luxury six hundred years before Jesus Christ. It is Sidon and Tyre, whose vessels possessed the commercial monopoly of the Mediterranean, whose merchants followed assiduously the highways of Hither Asia towards the legendary countries of India and China.

The Orient, it is Ionia, it is Miletus, not far from the spot which is Smyrna to-day. It is Homer, whose apotheosis the whole universe has not yet finished celebrating ; it is the Iliad or the Trojan War, the victory of Europe over Asia ; it is the Odyssey, the conquest of the Mediterranean by the Greek Colonies, heirs of Tyre and Sidon ; it is Phocea, Mother of Marseilles.

The Orient, it is Salamis, the victory of a subtle intelligence over the colossal forces of barbarism. "That is the moment of our uplifting," cries Michelet, "the era from which dates the European spirit, let us say the human spirit, in its sovereign liberty, in its strength and invention and criticism ; the saving spirit of the world ; its victory over Asia secured the light by which Asia itself was illumined." The Greek Orient, it is Pallas, the goddess of Reason ; it is Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes. It is Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, it is the Pantheon of classical philosophy, in which it seems that already human reason had found complete expression, the most modern philosophy often rediscovering in it its bolder doctrines.

The Orient, it is the Parthenon, the masterpiece of all beauty, the law of beauty being in measure and proportion.

The Orient, it is ancient Greece, mother of democracies, which can always turn to it for instruction.

The Orient, it is Alexander the Great, who gave to Hellenism all the intellectual and commercial expansion with which it was swollen, who Hellenised Egypt and Syria, Persia and Bactriana up to the frontiers of India, who reigned in Babylon, who laid hold of the treasures accumulated by the Kings of Persia in their palaces at Susa and Persepolis and threw them into world-wide circulation, for which they sufficed until the time of the discovery of the American Eldorados.

Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three, one of the demi-gods of history ; the path of his conquests was that of the merchants who, on the tracks of the Phoenicians, pushed their caravans from the Mediterranean to India, the habitual route of great commerce, the classic route which has been cut by the Turks and which has not yet been restored by the modern peoples.

One must learn again the lesson of Alexander the Great, one of the greatest problems of the present time. While the merchants were travelling along the greatest highway of the ancient world the Orient was searching with the same passion the moral and religious problem over which philosophy and the universal conscience have not yet ceased to meditate and to pray.

Who will explain why the great monotheistic religions have been born in this Orient, in this Near East, on this small corner of the world which is called Palestine? For the Orient, it is Moses, and the Decalogue, and the Bible, the Book, and the Prophets of the Old Testament. It is Nazareth and Bethlehem, it is Calvary and the Holy Sepulchre, it is the Unknown God of Socrates and of St. Paul.

The Orient, it is the flight of Hagar, Abraham's servant, and the destinies announced to the race of the desert. It is Allah and Mohammed, it is the Holy War, the passions of which have not been extinguished in thirteen centuries. It is the great battle of the Cross and the Crescent, the issue of which remains one of the most mysterious problems of to-day, so that the policy of the greatest Powers hesitates and delays in contradictions.

History, without doubt, can bring to them its lights. But it is also in the Orient that the keenest uneasiness of the human consciousness has been stirred. And it is in the Orient, without doubt, that the pilgrims of thought will always find themselves in the greatest trouble and anguish, for the Orient has not exhausted its mystic virtues.

Christian or Mohammedan, the Orient has never ceased, up to the time of the Turks, to kindle the most magnificent hearths of civilisation. While our Middle Ages of the West were struggling for centuries amid the atrocities of barbaric invasions, their monuments razed by Huns and by Goths, the Orient set up over against one another Constantinople and Baghdad.

Byzantium-Constantinople : the most marvellous geographical position at the heart of the ancient world, at the same distance from Paris and from St. Petersburg, half-way between London and India, at the crossing of the greatest highways on land and sea. Napoleon coveted equally Rome and Constantinople, the two imperial capitals, of which he saw neither the one nor the other, and in comparison with which Berlin, Vienna and Moscow seemed to him as mere provincial towns. "Constantinople!" he cried in his impotent dream, "He who shall hold Constantinople will be the master of the world." The Orient, indeed, from that time is above all Constantinople, and is always Constantinople. Constantine the Great founded it to close the road to barbaric invasions from the North and the East, and it was faithful to this function for more than ten centuries. Constantinople, however, was Justinian and Theodora ; it was Byzantine civilisation. It was Roman law set up in code to assure the organisation of modern states when they tried to reform themselves on the ruins of feudal anarchy. Constantinople, it was St. Sophia, the second marvel of Hellenic art after the Parthenon—in many respects worthy of the Parthenon ; and like the Parthenon St. Sophia was a model imitated throughout the civilised world, as far as Venice and Périgueux to the borders of the ocean, as far as Kieff and Novgorod and Moscow right up to the Russian forest. And St. Sophia was to that world the symbol of the introduction of Oriental barbarism into civilised society. A Christian Church which above all has remained, even in the slavery in which it is sunk to-day, a sanctuary of Orthodoxy,

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and the apostles St. Cyril and St. Methodius have made the whole Orient the empire of the Orthodox Church, and, however diverse may be its provinces (no more diverse than those of the Catholic Church), there is always an orthodox unity which remains one of the essential features of the physiognomy of the Orient. As in the case of the Roman unity, the Othodox unity has favoured the birth and growth of the young nationalities of the Orient, which always find in the centuries of the Middle Ages their popular legends and their historical titles. Thus came into existence Bohemia, which was to be absorbed for such a long time by the Hapsburg monarchy, and Serbia, which was powerful under Stephen Dushan, and proved itself to be one of the most valorous soldiers of Christianity; but the time of their unity and of their grandeur had not yet come.

And facing Constantinople, the Orient, it was also Baghdad, the heir of Babylon. For Islam, after the extraordinary peregrinations which carried it from Arabia to Spain and to Persia in an immense crescent, which always represents its essential domain, made at that time some wonderful contributions to human civilisation. Baghdad was one of the great lights of history. It was not merely a question of dazzling enchantments in which Haroun the Just and his successors took delight and went to sleep. But the Koran was the book in which the populations of North Africa and Hither Asia were instructed throughout long centuries, and through it have preserved a unity and a solidarity which have to be reckoned with. The law of Mohammed has permitted, even in the dismemberment of the Empire of the Abbassids, the formation of new nations which have remained vigorous—from Morocco to Egypt, and to Persia.

Arab philosophy resumed the teachings of Greek philosophy, and its most illustrious masters posed as the pupils of Aristotle. Arab art has left its marvels, from Cordova and Grenada to Fez and Kairouan, to Cairo and to Jerusalem, to Baghdad and to Teheran. These are also the luminous marts of the great commercial highways where Arab merchants have maintained even in the later centuries the most remarkable activity. In truth the Arab Empire in this way appeared for some time as the heir of the Empire of Alexander the Great. Under the Khalifs of Baghdad the roads opened by Hellenism towards Iran were kept in repair and frequented by Arab merchants, and assured throughout the centuries the prosperity of that Moslem Orient whose political and commercial future to-day is still sunk in mystery. Constantinople and Baghdad did not quarrel in those days. On the contrary they cultivated the best relations and commercial ties—at peace with one another. If this budding friendship could have continued and developed, if it had not been rudely sundered by the Turkish invasion, both would have profited from it to a large extent. The influence of Arab culture, which had rejuvenated and renewed the teachings of Greek philosophy would have awakened earlier and more brilliantly the renaissance of the West, and the vigour of the West would have assured inestimable developments to the civilisation of the Orient. It is just these memories and these promises which we now have to convert into higher realities.

History is a resurrection.

(*To be continued.*)

## PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

### A Political Philosophy.

The *Morning Post*, examples of whose stern views we have often given in these columns, explains, in the issue of December 13, the philosophy from which those views spring. Its attitude towards what are called "lost causes" is well-enough known, and upon the subjects of Egypt and India it adverts specifically:—

> There be many lost causes which were held strong enough but a few years ago. Some call Egypt a lost cause, Egypt which England made to blossom as the rose; in India our predictions are fulfilled and the Viceroy and Mr. Montagu are now walking through blood and filling the prisons to support a cause tottering if not lost, where before they came a country as great as Europe was governed as within a silken thread. Some call the British Empire a lost cause, because it sways and totters visibly under the concerted blows of secret and powerful enemies. Some call law and order a lost cause because the enemies of both are encouraged by the licence they are given and grow bolder and more insolent day by day. Some call the Christian religion a lost cause, when so many of its ministers support Anti-Christ in their foolish simplicity. England herself might be thought a lost cause when we see her fairest fields and the seats of her government inherited by aliens and strangers, by the unworthy, without breeding, without tradition, without wisdom, without courage. A cause may be called lost, when cunning and cowardice displace wisdom and courage. And so it has happened in the management of our affairs, and yet we shall not call that cause lost which is yet so passionately loved by multitudes of good Englishmen, who are bewildered and betrayed, yet continue in their faith, and never blench in their allegiance. The cause is not yet lost, but if it is to be saved, all who do not fear to espouse a cause because it is held to be lost must unite to turn the appearance and shadow of defeat into victory. It is going to be a long and weary fight against desperate odds; but Englishmen if they are true to the English tradition fight best when things look blackest.

The above extract may be be taken as representative of a school of thought which is diametrically opposed to the Radical school, as represented by the *New Statesman*, a long extract from which we gave last week.

### Great Britain, Armenia, and Turkey.

The *New Witness* of December 16 contains an article by Mr. Ernest H. Griffin, called "Armenia and the World Peace," which tries to stem the strongly-flowing current against the Turks and their ways. He begins:—

> Between Turkey and England there has always been a sympathetic feeling, at all events up to the beginning of the Great War, when our blundering diplomacy almost forced the Turks into the conflict. Yet, once we had smitten the sword from her hand and she lay bleeding at our feet, we sought to impose upon her an unjust and impossible peace. It is not difficult to understand the reason for this when we consider the prejudice created in this country against the Turkish people by the insistent and often unscrupulous propaganda of the Armenians. Before considering the alleged wrongs of the Armenians, it is well to remember that not only has our policy in the Near East shut that market to us, but the repercussion is felt throughout the Islamic population of the whole world.

He then describes how intensely loyal to this country Indian Mohammedans were to us during the war, and how since, in view of the treatment of Turkey, they have been forced to change their attitude. He continues:—

> British opinion with regard to its attitude to Turkey has been poisoned by reiterated stories of massacre, rapine and devilry; and amongst her traducers none have been so successful in their propaganda as the Armenians. It would be a difficult task, in so short an article, to deal with the alleged wrongs of this people prior to the Great War; suffice it to say that they were in continual rebellion against their suzerain, aided in this by the Russians, who kept them in a state of agitation for their own well-understood ends. Nor were Protestant missionaries free from blame, for they fostered revolutionary ideas and used their best endeavours to sap the authority of the Sultan,

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The Catholics seem to have acted more wisely: while guarding the interests of their flock, they maintained friendly relations with the government. Then he instances some cases in which, he says, Armenians, through their own treachery, have brought misfortunes upon themselves; and he concludes:—

> The ferocious and bestial crimes alleged to have been committed by the Turks are paralleled again and again by the outrages that the latter assert have been carried out by the Greeks and Armenians. Surely British fair play should demand that we refuse to accept stories of atrocities circulated by partisans of either side unless they are authenticated by some such judicial and impartial enquiry as the Carnegie Commission on the conduct of the Balkan War, or the recent International Commissions on events at Smyrna and Yalova. The Indian Delegation invited to this country to advise His Majesty's Government on the subject of the Turkish settlement made an earnest and insistent demand for an enquiry into the question of massacres, and they openly declared that the Indian Moslems would consider that the Turkish nation had forfeited all title to their friendship and goodwill should the alleged unprovoked crimes against the Armenians be substantiated. The time has now come when all thinking people demand that all purely atrocity propaganda should be stopped and, by so doing, the ways made clear for a peaceful and permanent settlement in the Near East.

**ARTICLES TO NOTE.**

"Greek in Extremis," by A. D. Godley, and "The First Conquest of Palestine," by Major F. R. Radin in the *Nineteenth Century* (December).

"An Outlaw of Old Ceylon," by Jasper Martin, and "The Forbidden Fortress of Khurasan," by L. V. S. Blacker in *Blackwood* (December).

## MUSICAL NOTES.

### Miss Ursula Greville.

It was a bold scheme on which Miss Ursula Greville embarked at her orchestral concert, given at the Queen's Hall on December 16. For she chose, as chief test of her claims as a soprano, Mozart's "Non paventar," and Stravinsky's Air from "Rossignol," two extremely difficult things, which require not only superlative technical skill, but supreme confidence as well. There is no question of Miss Greville's ability to sing these airs, but on this occasion an incomplete confidence seriously interfered with her breath-control (normally one of her least-noticed virtues), and she did not do herself justice. When experience is superimposed upon her skill and her pluck, she will, I think, be a great artist.

M. Ansermet, who has specially selected an orchestra, was her conductor. He began with a rather shocking reading of Beethoven's "Coriolanus," in which he concentrated, at the expense of every other consideration, on its dynamic aspect. It is true that he made ample amends for this with a gloriously riotous version of Debussy's "Fêtes," which glittered and sparkled with consistent merriment. The same composer's "Nuages" was not so well done; it is the strong, angular type of rhythm in which M. Ansermet is so fine a master, not the sensuous, wafting or pliant kind. What thought there was behind Honnegger's "Horace victorieux, symphonie mimée," I missed; but it appeared to me a monstrously good game, refereed with most gallant skill. It was the sort of thing you want with a couple of potent cocktails, or as a preludial factor of excitement to a "Rugger" match. Certainly it is wasted with concert walls enclosing its horrid sounds.

It may have been my position in the hall, it may have been M. Ansermet's not sufficiently keeping the orchestra down, and it may have been Miss Greville's nervousness that prevented my hearing all of her usually exquisite interpretation of Monteverde's "Lasciatemi morire." But what I did hear convinced me that the sheer and even beauty of her voice has improved, and in the next item, the "Son gelosa" air from Scarlatti's "Tigrane," that lovely feeling for line which perhaps is her most notable distinction was very evident. Why she sang Cyril Jenkins' "Sea Love" I don't know; it is an obvious commentary on the verse, recreating nothing, and the best that can be said for it is that it recalls an emotion. And I am similarly ignorant about Eric Fogg's "Three Chinese Songs:" they are clever but unreal essays in a wearying, dot-bespangled psychology. After them Mozart's "Ah lo so" was as fresh, as spontaneous, and as fragrant as a real flower beside an artificial one; it was sung, moreover, with a conquering charm. Great things were expected at this concert, and though they were not all realized, it is certain they are only delayed.

### The Prince of Waits.

If there is any singer in this country whose art is so human as that of John Coates, I have not yet heard him. By anyone else, the execution of a recital consisting wholly of carols and of festive songs would have become artificial; but such is Coates' genius and geniality that the intimacy which he at once established with his audience at Chelsea Town Hall last week soon broadened down into sympathy, and finally mellowed into hilarity—in which happy consummation eminently respectable females and dignified clergymen could be heard joining in such unwonted choruses as that of "Oh for Old England's Roast Beef" or of "The Twelve Days of Christmas"! The barriers of art had been broken down: after a quarter of an hour the singer could appeal from any point of the wide plain of humanity, and always be sure of response.

Nothing but great art could have achieved this; but it was the man almost as much as the artist that one came in the end to admire, so virile, so tender, and, in short, so English, did the greatest of our tenors prove himself to be. He started right on the mark with a glorious rendering of "Welcome Yule," a fine old Fifteenth-century carol, written when the faith of Europe was one, and stirringly reminding us of that complete and beautiful reconciliation between Paganism and Christianity in which Englishmen lived before the plagues of the Reformation and of the consequent Puritanism beset the land. But for post-Reformation carols Mr. Coates put up a strong defence, with Attey's "Sweet was the Song the Virgin Sang," and the "Carol for the New Year," which was sung to the Elizabethan tune of "Greensleeves" (though its rhythm was rather interfered with). With the advent of Cromwell Mr. Coates had to leave English carols, and fly to those of France, in the corresponding period of which country much better things were written. It was intoxicating to hear him in the song of the "dead marine," "Qu'ils sont doux, bouteille jolie"; and Mr. Pussyfoot would probably have been moved even to a Falstaff's joyous tears could he have heard "Entendez vous le carillon du verre." Passing discreetly over any eighteenth or nineteenth-century examples of carols, the singer went easily on to modern ones, of which Malcolm Davidson's setting of Masefield's "A Christmas Carol" had most effect. Without question this is a very fine work; after the first faintly limned sketch of the background in the first two verses, it proceeds, keeping a most stately poise, to a magnificent climax. The other song which had most musical worth was Arnold Bax's "There is no rose of such virtue," in which the envelopment of a twentieth-century personality in a fifteenth-century atmosphere is perfectly done. Perhaps naturally there were in Mr. Coates' programme, trifles (such as Reinecke's "Christmas at the Door," or D. C. Thomson's "The Knight of Bethlehem") of superficial or purely seasonal appeal, songs that could not but for the company in which they found themselves have justified their existence; and even this singer's art could not transmute their tinsel into gold. But, on the whole, it was a memorable evening. And I do not mind admitting, while not swerving an inch in admiration of Mr. Coates as an artist, the thought did occur to me as I looked round wonderingly on the mixed nature of the audience which had come to hear both carols and festive songs: "Ye Gods! What a man for a smoker!"

**Andante.**

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# NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

## PANTHEISTIC POETRY.

**"THE FUGITIVE." By Rabindranath Tanore. (London: Macmillan. 7s 6d net.)**

This new volume of work by the eminent Bengali poet contains reflections, impressions and descriptions given in short paragraphs in prose poetry of the type familiar to his many admirers. There are also some episodes in dramatic form and some translations of Indian poetry. The number of this author's ardent admirers is, of course, very great. At present, we learn, his writings are tremendously popular in Germany, where the bookshops are full of volumes of his works.

After reading "The Fugitive" we find ourselves thinking that the author's questions—"I was speaking to you, my love, with mind barely conscious of my voice—tell me, had it any meaning? Did it bring you any message from beyond life's borders?"—could be aptly addressed to the reader, and that in that case the answer would be "not always." There are passages which do convey an image and an idea, but a great deal of it passes by in rhythmic monotony, leaving no impression and in the end produces an uneasy feeling that the poet might, out of force of habit, go on tunefully uttering the most trivial common-places and platitudes, and that it would all sound just the same. In fact we have sometimes the sensation of reading a parody. We cannot doubt, however, that although he appears too often to lose himself in a haze of words when he has nothing much to say, Tagore is a poet, and is haunted and obsessed by the beauty and the mystery of life, and is reaching out to find words to convey his intense realisation of "Beauty that must die and joy whose hand is ever at his lips bidding adieu.". He himself describes this straining pursuit after the glimpsed, fugitive forms of love and beauty when he says: "words, in the agony of their vagueness, haunt my mind, like vagrant clouds hovering over hills, waiting for some chance wind to relieve them of their rain."

## "MADE TO MEASURE."

**"MADE TO MEASURE." By Mrs. Henry Dudeney. (London: W. Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd. 7s 6d net.)**

James Pumphrey was oppressed by the fact that the inhabitants of the suburb where he lived were commonplace and conventional and that their everyday life was so much "made to measure." His heart turned therefore to ugly, individual Mary Blow—but when flaxen-haired Dinah appeared she cast a "black magic" round him, and, although he knew her to be absolutely untruthful and insincere, he married her. Timothy, James' elder brother—wanted to marry Mary, but she would not consent, because of her bravely hidden passion for James. After some years came the war and the gradual breaking up of that "Made to Measure" Society. When James came home on leave he found Dinah unfaithful to him, and Mary, with her energy turned into channels more useful than the perpetual gardening of the old days, a steadfast help to him in his desperate trouble. Towards the end of the war he comes home again, a wreck from shell shock, and again sane, downright Mary helps him back to health, but Dinah comes back and James finds her spell as strong as ever. Mary is left to marry and care for Timothy, who has returned crippled, after being for long reported as missing.

Mrs. Dudeney draws the suburban society and all its pettiness clearly and cleverly, and then shows us how tragic a thing was its upheaval in war time. The book is most notable for the way in which we are made to feel the desolation and emptiness that are left when the comfort, the homeliness, the security of that humdrum life have gone. About the second half of the book there is a grimness, almost a brutality, which has the same quality of the author's insistence on Mary's queer ugly features. It is a dreamy, disillusioned world in which the characters of the story are left to face the problem of renewing their shattered lives. Mrs. Dudeney is wonderfully successful in her picture of James' mother, with her pathetic devotion to James and her consistent refusal to see the facts of life except through the eyes of convention.

## EGYPTIAN ARABIC.

**"EGYPTIAN SELF-TAUGHT (ARABIC)." By Major R. A. Marriott, D.S.O. with supplementary Vocabulary by Negib Hindie. (London: E. Marlborough and Co. Cloth 4s.)**

We congratulate both authors and the publishers on the call for a fifth edition of this taking little Arabic manual, which, if we remember rightly, had a very considerable sale throughout the Near and Middle East during the war. The three special excellences of the handbook are the simplification and conception of the grammar, the careful phonetics in English of the words and phrases, and the supplementary vocabularies. We should like to see in another edition a great extension of the commercial and agricultural phrases, idioms, and substantives. "Egyptian Self-Taught" will be found useful to all beginners of Arabic, and a pleasant assistant and corrector to those who already talk the "kitchen" variety and despair of getting further.

## ITALIAN TECHNICAL WORDS AND PHRASES

**"ITALIAN TECHNICAL WORDS AND PHRASES: AN ENGLISH--ITALIAN AND ITALIAN-ENGLISH DICTIONARY." By E. F. Paventa. (London: E. Marlborough & Co., 6s. net.)**

We also welcome an addition to the Marlborough's Series of Technical Manuals, a little pocket Italian Technical dictionary. The secular vogue of the Italian language and of the Italian engineer, merchant and artizan throughout the Levant renders sure the utility of this little volume to official and non-official Englishmen at work in the wide area between the Black Sea and the Upper Nile. Additional useful features are tables of weights and measures, and a few blank pages for notes and memoranda.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Legacy of Greece." Edited by R. W. Livingstone. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Report of the Commission appointed by the Government of Palestine to Inquire into the Affairs of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem." By the Commissioners Sir Anton Bertram, M.A., K.C., and Harry Charles Luke, B.Litt., M.A. (London: Humphrey Milford: Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Miscellaneous Studies in the History of Music." By O. G. Sonneck. (New York: The Macmilian Company. 3 dollars).

"The Turks and Europe." By Gaston Gaillard. With three maps. (London: Thomas Murby and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

"La Grèce" par Michel Lhéritier. (Paris, F. Rieder et Cie. Price 5 francs.)

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The Punjab Government has prohibited the public performance of a play entitled "Zakhmi Punjab," purporting to be a dramatic representation of the Punjab disturbances of 1919. Further, all copies of the play have been proscribed under the Press Act.

The Regimental Pay Office, Basrah, has been moved to Baghdad, and correspondence intended for that Office should in future be addressed to the Regimental Paymaster, Army Pay Office, Baghdad, Irak.

The Annual Report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India for 1919 has been issued from the Government Printing Office, India.

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## PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

**To-Day.**

December 29 (New Style).
December 16 (Old Style).
Rabia II, 30, 1340 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 28, 5682, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Greek Queen-Mother has returned to Athens.

M. Mamartcheff, Secretary ot the Bulgarian Legation, has returned from the Continent.

Lady Mabelle Egerton left England last week to visit her sister, Lady Willingdon, at Madras.

M. Tcheidze, President of the Georgian Constitutent Assembly, has returned to Paris from London.

The Diadoch George and the Duchess of Sparta left Smyrna on December 16, for Athens.

The Raja of Pudukota left London on December 20, with the Ranee, for Cannes.

Viscount Milner, who recently returned to London from Spain, left with Viscountess Milner last week for Sturry Court.

On December 18, at Buckingham Palace, Lieutenant-Colonel C. K. Howard-Bury, Chief of the Mount Everest Expedition, had the honour of being received by his Majesty.

The marriage took place on December 5, at Gorakhpur, India, between Arthur Kerrison, eldest son of Arthur W. Preston, Norwich, and Jessie Laurie, daughter of James Walker, Birchfield, Dollar, N.B.

Sir Samuel Hoare, Deputy High Commissioner for the Russian Refugees under the League of Nations, and Lady Maud Hoare have left England for Constantinople and the Balkans.

The Crown Prince of Sweden will take an active part in the Swedish expedition that proposes to excavate the early Grecian Castle, Aisne, near Nauplia. Work is expected to begin next March.

The marriage was celebrated on December 15, at Brompton Parish Church, by the Rev. Prebendary Gough, between Richard Marsh Crofton, I.C.S., and Olive Amy Stewart, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Stewart Cox, 23, Redcliffe Gardens, S.W.

The marriage was celebrated on November 24, at Karachi, India, between Captain Ronald Playfair St. Vincent Bernard, D.S.O., M.C., 6th Gurkha Rifles, and Kathleen Mary Cleland, elder daughter of John H. Cleland, Eversfield House, Richmond, Surrey.

The marriage was celebrated on December 1, at the R. C. Cathedral, Calcutta, by the Rev. Father Meunier, S.J., between Arnold Bellamy Beddow, son of Mr. Frederick Beddow, and Marie, daughter of Mrs. John Meagher, and the late John Meagher, of Montreal, Canada.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania has left for Norway and Sweden for the winter sports, attended by Mr. H. P. Hansell and Major Stefanescu-Draganesti. His Royal Highness will resume his studies at Eton at the end of the holidays.

The marriage was celebrated on December 20, at St. Barnabas Church, Addison Road, W., by the Rev. T. W. Heale, C.F., brother of the bridegroom, between Major R. J. W. Heale, Indian Political Dept., and Ethel, daughter of David Scott, of Burnside, Alyth, Perthshire.

The engagement is announced between Alexander George Gray, of the Bank of India, Bombay, second son of the late A. G. Gray, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, and of Mrs. Gray, and Dulce Muriel Fanny, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Wild, of Berkhamstead Herts.

The marriage arranged between Major W. A. Nicholls, D.S.O., R.F.A., only son of General Sir William Nicholls, K.C.B., and Lady Nicholls, of 79, Warwick Road, S.W. and Hilda Evelyn, youngest daughter of Brigadier-General Garssen, C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., and Mrs. Garssen, will take place at Brompton Parish Church, on January 18.

The marriage was celebrated on December 16, at Saltwood Church, by the Rev. Gerard Bourdillon, cousin of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Canon Galpin (Rector) between Philip George Bree, lieut., 66th Punjabis, and Olivia Mercy, younger daughter of the late Major-General Wauchope, of Flowerhill, Crieff, and of Mrs. Wauchope, Hill House, Saltwood, Kent.

The marriage was celebrated on December 11, at All Saints' Church, Malabar Hill, Bombay, by the Right Revd. the Lord Bishop of Bombay, between Robert Eliot Fryer, eldest son of Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. C. R. Fryer, and Alice Napier, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Jervois, of North Leasowes, Malvern.

The marriage took place on December 12, at the Cathedral, Bombay, between Samuel Gordon Taylor, eldest son of William Taylor, of Accrington, and Frances Hilda Woodland Hunt, second daughter of the Reverend Alfred Hunt and Alice Hunt, of Welton Vicarage, Lincoln.

The marriage was celebrated on November 23, at the Parish Church, Kolar Gold Fields, South India, between Captain Ernest Wallace Benson, M.C., son of the late George Benson and of Mrs. Benson, of Pinner, Middlesex, and Evelyn M. Ainslie, second daughter of the late R. St. John Ainslie and of Mrs. Ainslie, of Sherborne, Dorset.

The engagement is announced between John Mitchell Douglas Mackenzie, Imperial Forest Service, Burma, eldest son of Alick Mackenzie and Mrs. Mackenzie, 6, The Circus, Bath, and Marjorie Alison Hutchison Douglas youngest daughter of Brigadier-General W. C. Douglas, C.B., D.S.O., and the late Mrs. Douglas, of Brigton, by Forfar, Scotland.

The marriage was celebrated on November 12, at St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Valetta, Malta, by the Revd. F. H. Burkitt, Chaplain of the 7th Destroyer Flotilla,


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assisted by Canon Fargus, between Lieutenant Philip Sturley Cooper, Royal Navy, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. P. Cooper, of Becclesgate House, East Dereham, and Frances, younger daughter of the late Mr. C. L. Erlin Clarke, and Mrs. Clarke, of Lark Hill, Worcester.

The marriage was celebrated on December 20, at St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, by the Bishop of Burnley, assisted by the Rev. Marling Roberts, between Cecil Alexander Henry Harrison, eldest surviving son of the late Major William Harrison, XI. Hussars, of West Hill, Cheshire, and Norah Ethel, eldest daughter of the late Captain Frederick Bentley, India, and Mrs. A. Seaton Bentley, of 7, Mortlake Road, Kew.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

Mr. H. L. Stephenson has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal, in succession to Sir Henry Wheeler.

The King has approved of the appointment of Colonel S. F. Muspratt, C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Army, to be Aide-de-Camp to the King, Indian Establishment, vice Colonel H. O. Parr, C.M.G., Indian Army, promoted major-general, with effect from June 1, 1921.

It was announced at the Admiralty on December 20, that the King has approved of the following appointments:—

Vice-Admiral Sir Osmond de Beauvoir Brock, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., to be Commander-in-Chief, H.M. Ships and Vessels, Mediterranean Station, in succession to Admiral Sir John Michael de Robeck, Bart, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., to date May 15, 1922.

Admiral Sir John Michael de Robeck, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., to be Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet in succession to Admiral Sir Charles Edward Madden, Bart. G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., LL.D., to date August 15, 1922.

## OBITUARY.

Miss Margaret Gramphorn, missionary in charge of the girls' school connected with the S.P.G. at Trichinopoly, Southern India, has died at Brentwood. She only recently arrived home on furlough.

The death has occurred of Major-General Henry Riversdale Elliot. He joined the Madras 42nd Infantry in 1855. In the Abyssinian campaign he served with the Madras Sappers and Miners, and was present at the assault and capture of Magdala. Later on he was A.Q.M.G. Madras Presidency and Burma, and commanded the 11th Madras Native Infantry.

The death has occurred of Major-General Richard Lloyd-Payne, C.B., D.S.O. He served in many campaigns, including the Burmese expedition of 1885-6, when he was awarded the D.S.O., the operations on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897, and the South African War, obtaining the two medals with five clasps and a brevet colonelcy. He received the C.B. in 1905. In 1912-13 he commanded the 3rd Division Northern Army, in India, and he retired in 1917.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

Tanta shops were closed on December 18, the anniversary of the proclamation of the British Protectorate over Egypt in 1914, by way of protest against it.

After the Moplah raid of December 14, when the village of Pandalur was destroyed and three policemen were killed, the rebels withdrew across the Nilgiris border to Nirpuzha Moku in Malabar. A detachment of Suffolks has gone to Gudalur to support the police.

The Batoum *Izvestia* announces that last month a conference was held in Baku at which it was decided that there should be a political and economic union of the three Caucasian Republics with Soviet Russia. The political centre of the federation would be Baku and the economic centre Tiflis.

At a meeting of the Synod of the Greek Church, at Athens, a resolution was submitted proposing that proceedings be taken against Bishop Meletios Metaxakis for "having illegally occupied the metropolitan see of Athens and for having endeavoured to bring about a schism with the Greeks in America."


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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1921.


## THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT.

Few countries have reason to regard the year 1921 with satisfaction; those of the Near East least of all. There have been wars as well as rumours of wars, and nowhere has the task of settling down to a normal existence after the world upheaval proved more difficult. Blame attaches as much to the Great Powers as to the Near Eastern States themselves. In the settlement that was to mark the Allied victory: principles had been forgotten, and a policy of get-all-you-can was encouraged. Consequently when one country found that another had been treated more generously than itself, it felt obliged to look around for compensation. The attitude of the Entente Governments was revealed by the British Prime Minister in a speech delivered a few days before Christmas, 1920. It was already felt that the Treaty of Sèvres was not a success, but the three Powers could not bring themselves to face uncomfortable facts. They proposed to wait and see; they would wait upon events in Turkey, where negotiations were pending between Constantinople and Angora; they would wait to see what line of action Greece would take under King Constantine, with whom the Allies could not bring themselves to be on speaking terms. In May, according to Mr. Lloyd George, Asia Minor, and consequently the whole of the Near East, was still "a small incident" in the scheme of affairs with which the British Government had to deal. Strong hopes had been built on the Allied Conference in London in February to discuss the Near Eastern question—the more so as representatives both of Greece and of Nationalist Turkey were to be present; but, although the Allies eventually put forward a new draft of a Turkish settlement, they were at no pains to secure its adoption, and remained indifferent when hostilities were renewed between Greeks and Turks. Cynicism has, indeed, been carried so far that, in spite of assurances given to Indian Moslems by Mr. E. S. Montagu in May, and repeated by Lord Reading last month, that the new settlement for Turkey would be acceptable to Moslem opinion, the Turkish Nationalists do not seem to have been acquainted with the proposed terms, and the Greeks, originally invading Turkish territory as mandatory of the Allies, have been allowed to carry on a war ostensibly to enforce Turkish acceptance of the Treaty of Sèvres, which by common consent has long since been a dead letter. Moreover Allied inaction has been maintained in the face of separate negotiations between France and Mustapha Kemal Pasha, resulting in the Angora Treaty, which has dealt a sharp blow to the smooth working, if not to the solidarity of the Entente. A new Near Eastern conference is promised at the beginning of January, when the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Italy will meet in Paris; but unless a radical change of policy is adopted, there would seem little likelihood of this gathering being attended with better results than a similar meeting last June. Only when the Near Eastern question has ceased to be "a small incident" in British affairs will there be any chance of a practical settlement being reached.

The failure to settle the Greco-Turkish question has had less effect on the other States of South-Eastern Europe than might have been expected. Considerable credit for this condition of things is due to Bulgaria for the maintenance of an exemplary attitude, in marked contrast to other ex-enemy States. Not the least satisfactory feature of the year has been the distinct improvement in the relations between the different countries. A concrete achievement has been the formation of the Little Entente as a result of the agreements made by Czecho-Slovakia with Yugoslavia and Roumania, and of the understanding between the two latter States; to this has now to be added an agreement between Czecho-Slovakia and Austria. Hungary, owing to the foolishness of the ex-Emperor Charles and of some extremists within has been a disturbing element; but her official policy has been correct and is beginning to win recognition from even the most suspicious of her neighbours. Bulgaria has lived down a variety of allegations which bore witness to the nervousness of those who made them rather than to the accuracy of their intelligence, and has had the satisfaction of seeing a tendency on the part of Yugoslavia, under a new Constitution, with King Alexander on the throne, to impart an entirely new orientation to her foreign policy, that is southwards instead of to the north. One effect of this change has been to cause a false move on the part of the Belgrade Cabinet in connexion with Albania; but a sharp reprimand from the League of Nations has, it is hoped, saved Yugoslavia as a whole from the mistakes and domination of a militarist section. Albania has rendered a distinct service to the League of Nations, to which it was admitted a member last December, by affording the League an opportunity of enforcing its authority. The Albanians suffered from Serbian aggression while the League was summoning up its courage to act, but its final gesture was very much to the point. In Roumania, General Averescu, with M. Take Jonescu as his Foreign Minister and the driving force in the country, has remained in power until within the last few days. His period of office, however, has not brought political peace to the country or placed on a satisfactory basis the relations between the Outer Roumanians and those of the Old Kingdom, in spite of the pressure which it would be thought the economic situation was bringing to bear on all political parties to patch up their differences in order that the country, united, might devote itself wholeheartedly to the work of reconstruction. For Greece the year has seen the war against the Turkish Nationalists, with all the hopes based upon it not as an end in itself, but as a means to making good in the eyes of the Allied Powers, and then to being able to attend to pressing economic matters, which all the while have been nearer the nation's heart. Fate has not been kind to the Greeks, and has chosen the Allies rather than the Turks as the agents of its spite.

Throughout the last twelve months, as indeed ever since the Armistice, the Near and the Middle East have had to be sidetracked by the Allies for business regarded as more urgent. With the Washington Conference over, the Irish negotiations concluded and Germany brought to a more amenable frame of mind, there may be some chance of Allied statesmen paying the attention necessary to the problem which directly or indirectly is responsible for most of the active unrest in the world. There is an admitted connexion between the Turkish problem and one aspect of the agitation in India. The breadth of view that led to a solution of the Irish question was absent from the Egyptian negotiations after the publication of the report of the Milner Mission. Persia is being left to stew in its own juice—a policy which may serve the Persians right, but is not flattering to the resourcefulness of British diplomacy. After promising our Arab Allies that Palestine should run in single harness, the British Government is attempting to drive it tandem, and the "leader" subsequently introduced is by no means to the liking to the high-spirited Arab between the shafts. Mesopotamia alone seems to have fallen upon good days, thanks to Mr. Churchill's speech on June 14, which restored to the British public its self-respect in connexion with this country as well as its respect for the country itself, and thanks too to the selection of the Emir Faisal as King. With this one exception, however, all the countries of the Near and Middle East are calling for the thoughtful and undivided attention of the Entente in the light of principles enunciated during the war and of post-war experience.

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## BEERSHEBA: SKETCHES.

*The hot sun blazing down with a fierce white radiance on the baking village whose white walls reflect back the blinding glare; the buzzing of flies; the loud wrangling of the purchasers in the market place; the hot panting throb of a mill; the sudden raucous bray of a donkey; the gurgling, throaty snarl of a camel;—a hot gusty wind filling the air with sand;—"Allah Akbar" from the minaret, tall and dazzling in the blazing sun. Noon.*

### WHO WOULD BE A TITHE INSPECTOR?

(*The tithe, 12½ per cent of the total yield, is the Government's share of the crop. It is estimated by a Commission either on the standing crop or on the threshing floor. The Inspector of Tithes afterwards goes round to check the work of the Commission. If the owner of the crop disagrees with the assessment, a "shishna," or test, is taken to prove whether the estimate is a fair one*).

"Wallahi, I swear to God my crops are over-estimated. I am a poor man, your Excellency, I have not much land. How shall I live if you take one half in tithes? By the Prophet I swear it is over-estimated and I am very poor."

He certainly did not look particularly wealthy. From the top of his grimy head-gear to the soles of his bare and dirty feet he was ragged and begrimed with the dust of ages. His one garment hung in tatters from a skinny brown shoulder to just above his dusty knees, caught at the waist with an old leather strap, leaving his chest and one shoulder bare as were his stick-like legs and arms. His face was crumpled in a myriad tiny wrinkles, his few remaining teeth were yellow and his claw-like hands gesticulated wildly, now clutching the Inspector's arm, now flung to heaven calling upon Allah to witness his poverty and his honesty.

The Tithe Inspector, fat, calm and stolid, moved across to one of the flat-topped mounds of barley under dispute, appraising its circumference and height. He climbed on to it feeling its solidity with his feet and poked his stick down into it.

"You see?" he said to the "Mudir" who accompanied him. "It has been very cleverly done. The sheaves are laid carefully head to tail and packed firmly, not just thrown down as is usually the case. There must be at least twenty-five 'shabaka' (camel loads) here."

The day's work had ceased temporarily. The Inspector's visit made a not unpleasant interruption in the dull routine of harvesting. And the harvesters, men and boys, women, children, and babies, all stood round commenting audibly on the Inspector's actions, the aged owner protesting at intervals that he was poor but honest.

"Well," said the "Mudir," "the only thing to do if he won't agree to the estimate is to take a "shishna" (test). It's a lengthy job, but it can't be helped. Take an eighth of the stack, make them thresh it and winnow it and then weigh it out. (One-eighth of every stack being the tithe). Before they have half finished threshing in this heat they will give in! Where's a rope?"

The old grey-beard shouted to someone, who shouted to someone else, who yelled at a third, who screamed at a small boy and finally a little girl ran to fetch it from the tumble-down hut they called a house.

Time is no object to Arabs. Their motto seems to be "There's another day to-morrow not touched yet, why hurry?" And their love of argument lengthens everything still more. They cannot work without talking hard and while they talk they forget to work—and there you are!

The rope was stretched across the middle of the stack and as the stack was irregular in shape there was much discussion as to the exact middle. However the "Mudir" used his own judgment as to the division and then put a stop to further argument by letting the old man choose which half should be divided again and so on, until an eighth was marked off and removed to a little distance.

Six men with sticks then set to work in the blazing noon-day sun to thresh out the pile of barley. Old Grey-beard hopped about on the outskirts egging them on and criticising their method of work.

"Beat! beat! Wallahi! are you a dead man? Give me the stick, I'll show you. Oh, Muhammed the Prophet! Beat, oh lazy one! I am poor, I am poor. Oh my paternal uncle! Beat! Beat!"

Suddenly the Government Checker swooped down upon one of the men and snatched his stick.

"Look, oh shameless one! Is that how you would cheat the Government? Look at that nail!" he cried, shaking his outstretched hand furiously at a three-inch nail sticking out at the end of the stick; most useful for tossing the ears of corn over his head out of the way.

"Wallahi!" cried old Grey-beard as if he had not known all the time that it was there. "Would you bring shame upon me? Oh Muhammed the Prophet of God. Allah akbar!"

"It's not a bit of good you calling on Allah" said the Tithe Inspector rather brutally, "I am Allah here! Get on and beat!"

Another stick was produced and the work went on. When the threshing was finished the winnowing was done, by hand, in just as primitive a manner, ending with sifting through a wire sieve. Every tiny scrap of dust was removed and if several grains were tossed out as the sieve was jerked up and down surely the Government would never miss it?

At last it was finished and the little mound of barley gleaming clean and yellow in the sun, was ready to be weighed. The scales gave a last truly "Heath Robinson" touch to the scene. Two flat round discs of rope tied to the wooden cross-piece with bits of tape and rag. The balance was anything but true and had to be carefully adjusted with little stones. Then the weighing began. Old Greybeard slipping an extra handful of barley on to the scales when he thought no one was looking and the Checker, who held the balance, as great a rogue as any of them, giving the scales a tap with his foot to knock some off.

The last few kilos were weighed in dead silence, even old Grey-beard forgetting to call upon Allah and the Prophet.

"Thirty-two measures—thirty-three—thirty-four—and a half!"

Grey-beard squatting on the ground, gazed up at the Tithe Inspector, tense with anxiety.

"El-haq alai" (The right is on me), said the Tithe Inspector after a minute. Which rather involved expression means 'I am wrong.' "The tithe is six, not eight 'kelas.'"

The old man jumped up fairly skipping with excitement, dashed at the Inspector, patted his cheek and kissed his hands again and again, crying:—

"You said it was eight and it's only six! Allah akbar, Allah kareem! You said it was eight and it's only six!"

And when the Inspector finally shook him off and he and the 'Mudir' mounted their camels and rode away they left him running round telling all the people, who had been there the whole time, exactly what had happened from beginning to end.

### WHO PAID FOR THE RABBIT?

We had a Coursing Match in Beersheba the other day. Lieutenant Jones has a very good Salugi—which, for the information of the uniniated, is a distant relation of the English greyhound; Sergeant Smith also has a Salugi which he considers is quite as good as Lieutenant Jones', if not better; Private Brown has several rabbits: and there you have the ingredients for an excellent coursing match.

Private Brown loved his rabbits. A British Tommy must have a pet of some kind and Private Brown's

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young fancy turned to rabbits and he didn't much want to part with any of them. However the sporting instinct, or cupidity, at last outweighed his affections and most reluctantly he agreed to hand over one of his cherished rabbits for the sum of five shillings, the loser to pay.

Great preparations were made, the course decided upon, the mode of procedure agreed to, and the day and hour for the great event fixed.

The two Salugis were dieted and groomed and exercised with the utmost care. Their respective masters eyeing each hound's points and general condition day by day as the event drew nearer. The rabbit stayed in its hutch wrinkling its nose, eating out of its master's hand and waxing fat all unconscious of the horrible fate in store for it.

At last the great day came. Admiring and loudly critical Tommies crowded to the course, and the betting ran high. Private Brown strove to choke back a manly tear by betting on both sides. The rabbit was produced and amid a profound silence the hounds were taken up to the hutch, wriggling with excitement and snuffing rapturously. The rabbit by this time was losing a little of its placidity and wrinkling its nose more agitatedly every minute.

The crucial moment arrived. The hounds were removed to a little distance and held firmly, the hutch door was opened and the rabbit hopped slowly out. It stopped, sniffing the air, its poor little frightened eyes rolling wildly—gave two or three more terrified hops—rolled over—and died of fright!

Who paid?

---

*A golden glory in the west, a delicate violet edged with pink in the east, the tender light greying the distant foothills and robbing the mud-walled houses in a false glamour the twittering of innumerable finches and sparrows; the faint tinkle of a bell, growing louder as a string of laden camels goes trotting by; the monotonous drone of a native "oude" repeating endlessly the same short refrain; the call of a frog from a fountain near at hand; the hot wind dying; the cooling breeze just stirring the pale pepper trees; "Allah Akbar" from the minaret, tall and graceful in the dying glow. Sunset.*

## THE CARAVANSERAI.

*Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai*
*Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day*
*How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp*
*Abode his Hour or two and went his way.*

OMAR KHAYYAM—

---

I am indebted to a correspondent in America for a story that has found its way thither from Egypt. As you may remember, the Labour Delegation to Egypt was accorded a noisy welcome on its arrival in Alexandria, leather lunged 'Gyppies having been assembled by the Zaghloulist agents in great numbers, and no pains or expense having been spared to impress the visitors. These good natives naturally wished to know who was the head of the Delegation; and were told that his name was Swan.—Whether the reply was correct or not I do not know; for as far as I could make out from an incomplete study of the Labour men's proceedings on their little jaunt, there seemed to be as many 'leaders' as there were members of the Delegation. But that is, by the way.—The Egyptian claqueurs at once proceeded to translate the name into Arabic—after their own fashion—and to shout "Ya ya wizz! Ya ya wizz!" thus reversing the "ugly duckling story," so to say, and converting the "Swan" into an ordinary mud-paddling "goose." And my correspondent adds: "How very appropriate!" I do not dissent.

---

Apropos of my recent note about the meeting between Dr. Zervos with the Archbishop of Rhodes, I have received a very friendly letter from Mr. T. D. Moscona. He tells me that he sent a copy of the paragraph to Dr. Zervos, who, he is kind enough to add, is sure to enjoy it. Then he goes on to say:—

> "As a matter of fact, I think I ought to give a better definition of the Doctor's disguise. Dr. Zervos appeared and spoke to the Archbishop in a decent fisherman's garb, and not in his Altogether.
>
> "You may be interested to know that after the interview, and on boarding the steamer which had brought him from the Piraeus to the island of Patmos, Dr. Zervos in his desire to mystify and tease the Italian authorities of the island, took the ship's megaphone and shouted to the exiled Archbishop words of good cheer and hope. . . . . The Doctor does not inform me whether the Italians of the island (who number in all *five* soldiers and a lieutenant) gave chase to him."

So, even if the interview was not quite so Garden-of-Eden-y as I had thought it might be, it must have had its humorous side—at least in its last stages. And Dr. Zervos showed himself possessed of true Hellenic resourcefulness and wit in his Parthian shot at the half-dozen Italians!

---

Some readers may remember that a little while ago I was perplexed by an advertisement in a Zagreb daily. It ran: "Amerik Mixer Mr. Yo Club Bar Please trey Mixer Jos Special Mixed Drings." Now a belated letter reaches me from Zagreb, explaining the mystery. The writer expresses surprise at my inability to understand an advertisement in my own language, and proceeds:—"The "puzzle" on p. 458 of your issue of October 13 is an advertisement in *English* and your heartless comments will surely hurt the feelings of the proprietor of the Club Bar, Zagreb, or at least of the 'English-speaking' Croat (presumably) who drafted the notice. Same being interpreted means 'The American Mixer, Mr. Joe, of the Club Bar, please try Mixer Joe's Special Mixed Drinks.' But after all, probably it is the printer that is to blame."

Corsair

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# COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
E.C. 2.

**Anglo-Persian Developments.**

In the course of a comprehensive survey of the position of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at the general meeting Sir Charles Greenway pointed out that the profits could have been shown at a very much larger sum, if advantage had not been taken of an extremely good year to make very ample provision for depreciation. It is anticipated that the earnings for the current year will show some falling off, but as the company will not be liable for excess profits duty the amount available for dividend will be in excess of that for the year now ended. In the following year, however, the recent large capital outlay will have commenced to bear full fruits, and in the course of the same year the company will be free from its contracts for benzine and kerosene, and a further larger increase in profits is anticipated:

**More Capital Required.**

For some weeks it has been rumoured that the company was contemplating a further issue of capital, and for once rumour has proved to be true, for Sir Charles stated that the extensions and developments necessary to enable the company to dispose of its largely increasing production to the best advantage will entail a new issue in the near future. The form that it is to take has not yet been definitely decided, and this point will no doubt form the subject of interesting speculations over the Christmas holidays. An issue of Ordinary shares, were such a measure in view, would, of course, be made only at a substantial premium, say at the price of 2, or perhaps even 2½ in view of the exceptional prospects of the company. And what an attractive proposition it would be! But for many reasons anything of the kind cannot be regarded as being very likely, and I imagine that in all probability a new issue of Preference shares will be made.

**The North Persian Oil Concessions.**

The question of the oil concessions in Northern Persia to which I referred at length last week was touched on by Sir Charles, who expressed his astonishment at the confiscatory action of the Persian Government. He laid stress on the point that Persia's future is dependent on financial assistance from other countries, and pointed out that if the country established a reputation for the repudiation of contracts, its credit abroad would be destroyed for ever. "I cannot believe," he added, "that the Persian Government will deliberately commit their country to so suicidal a policy, and I am confident that they will before long see that they have no alternative, if they desire to maintain the credit of Persia in this or any other country, but to honour the signatures and commitments of their predecessors."

**The Borcea Bridge.**

The reopening to traffic of the Borcea Bridge, over which the first train passed on December 15, is an event which should prove of considerable importance in the economic reconstruction of Roumania. Since the Armistice one of the chief drawbacks to the country's progress has been the lack of transport facilities. With the completion of the bridge, over which a single set of rails is laid, but which will have a double set in the course of next year, Roumania is able to make fuller use of the line serving Constantza, the country's principal outlet. The effect of that on trade during the winter should be pronounced, and it should mean that congestion at Constantza, which was so serious during the last two winters, should now be a thing of the past.

**British Traders in Turkey.**

The plea which we publish in another column on behalf of British traders in Turkey having claims arising out of the war is one which deserves every consideration. As a result of the conflict they suffered the severest losses, and the fact that now, over four years after the Armistice, it is still necessary for them to seek redress is clearly a matter which needs explanation. It is worth emphasising that in pre-war days they were mainly responsible for the success of British trade endeavour in the Levant. As their claims have not been met, they have not been in a position to resume their activities.

**After War—Famine?**

About a year ago, it will be remembered, Sir William Beveridge advanced the theory that there is a meteorological cycle affecting harvests, and expressed the view that we might be close to the next recurrence. In the current issue of a contemporary he reverts to the subject, and says that if he had to prophesy at the present time he would give 1923 as the date of the bad harvest, followed by high prices and scarcity in 1924. It is calculated that not only is the 15.3 cycle due in 1923, but that three other cycles should return to their maximum phase between February and September of that year. Happily, as he points out, it is extremely improbable that the four cycles should coincide, but should they do so he anticipates that 1923 will be something like 1315 which saw the worst famine known in Europe.

**Commentator.**


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# STEAM LAUNDRIES IN THE NEAR EAST.

## The Plant Required.

Within the last few years the possibilities of the steam laundry both as a commercial enterprise and in connexion with improvements in public institutions such as hospitals, infirmaries, asylums, etc., have claimed the attention of merchants and engineers in Eastern countries. In Egypt there are two or three steam laundries run on commercial lines and doing well. In the larger towns and cities in India they are also gaining a footing, and within the next few years the steam laundry industry will be one of considerable importance. In the Balkan Peninsula, the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, etc., the industry has certainly not got beyond the enquiry stage, and it is quite evident that the field laundries used by the British Army during the war have much to do with the great interest in laundry engineering, now evinced in these countries. In point of fact a steam laundry run on the right lines can be made a paying proposition in any country, where there are a fair percentage of Europeans in residence; the more so in any big European town.

The basis of success in the establishment of a steam laundry is that the work should be well done. It is a common mistake to think that anyone can run a steam laundry successfully; in fact it is a trade that many try after they have failed at everything else in the belief that machinery does everything, and that the minimum of knowledge and individual effort is required. That is not so. In the first place an experienced laundryman will be able to start earning a profit right away, whereas the amateur will in all likelihood throw away the whole of his first year's profits in learning his job, and possibly earn such a reputation for his establishment during the process as to prejudice his chance of future success. It is, however, not the object of this article to throw cold water on the prospects of laundry proprietors abroad, but rather to put on record a warning that the enterprise must be regarded more seriously than has hitherto been the case. Any intelligent man with sufficient capital can make his laundry a paying concern, provided that he instals the right types of machinery and acquires some indispensable knowledge regarding the conduct of his business before he starts. If he is buying his machinery in Great Britain, the makers will be able to give him a great deal of help; better still, if he can get into touch with some of the big steam laundries at home, or some of the laundry experts. He may be charged a fee, but it may save him his business and many anxious days.

When the idea of starting a steam laundry is entertained, the first thing to be done is to ascertain roughly how many family washings can be depended on per week to start with, and how many are likely to be secured when the laundry has become successfully established. With this information obtained, steps may be taken to invite estimates from makers of the machinery.

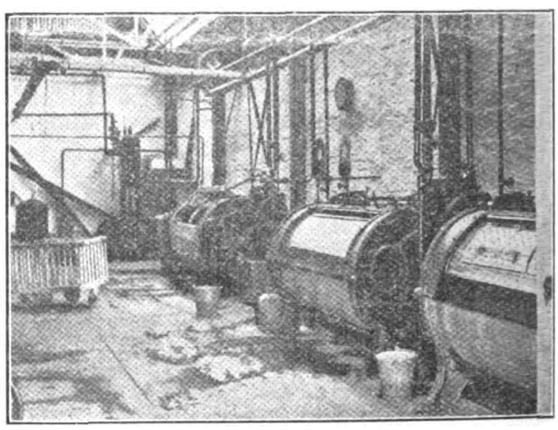
The ultimate prospects of the laundry are rather important in scheming out the plant, because the power installation, *i.e.* the steam boiler, steam engine, or motors are fixed and installed on the basis of the maximum output of the laundry. The actual machinery for washing, drying, ironing, and finishing need not be installed for more than the anticipated output during the first six months, but the boiler and prime mover should have the maximum power. For a concrete example, we may take a steam laundry to deal with the work from 500 families to start with, with a possible extension to 1,500 families, and consider the machinery necessary for this trade, keeping in mind the types of machines most suitable for Eastern conditions.

The steam boiler is the first item to be considered, and care should be taken to ensure that it has sufficient steaming power to deal with the requirements of the laundry when running at full pressure. For all foreign countries where coal is scarce or dear, a horizontal multitubular type is recommended, with the furnace so arranged that wood can be burned. The vertical cross tube boiler can also be built with a wood burning furnace, but the horizontal multitubular type occupies less space, and its transport cost is less.

The prime mover may be a steam engine, electric motors, or a series of motors depending on local conditions; there are good sound arguments for all three proposals. The steam engine is economical on account of the employment of its exhaust for heating water or a drying chamber, and its freedom from breakdown. On the other hand a motor occupies less space, is cheaper to instal, and provides equally as good a drive to an overhead shaft as an engine. The series of motors—say, one in the wash-house, one in the drying room for the ventilating fan, and one in the ironing room—means that any of those sections can be run independent of the others, thus economising in power. In regard to the majority of proposals from the East the steam engine would seem to be the accepted method of driving.

There are many firms in this country making reliable engines up to 20 h.p., and, as they are nearly all represented in the East, both the boiler and engine could be bought locally. The horizontal or vertical types are both suitable, and the working pressure in both cases should be 80 lb. per square inch. The boiler should have a suitable feed water injector and a complete set of stoking tools.

Great care should be exercised in the selection of the laundry machinery proper, because, to speak frankly, there is a good deal of cheap plant on the market which may be termed rubbish. The low prices at which these machines are offered often prove attractive to the prospective laundry proprietor, and he falls into the trap.



**Wash House, with Hydro-Extractor.**

Right away it may be said that a steam laundry equipped with poor quality machinery will not only prove a heartbreak to the owner owing to breakdowns and repairs, but will not turn out the work satisfactorily.

The best plan is to place the order in the hands of a reputable British firm whose manufactures can be relied upon, and follow out clearly the instructions they supply. The most important item in the wash-house is the washing machine, which should be of metal and not wood, as the latter falls to pieces quickly, and is very insanitary in hot countries. The inner case should be of brass 14 B.W.G., the outer casing galvanised steel plate 3-16ths of an inch thick and the gearing with machine-cut teeth. A handy size to commence with is one with a brass inside shell about 34 inches diameter by 54 inches long. The hydro-extractor to have a capacity equal to two washing machines should not be less than 26 inches diameter with perforated steel basket and outer casing of boiler plate. In semi-tropical countries no elaborate drying arrangements are necessary for the reason that so much can be done by natural heat outside. Where a drying chamber is necessary it should be built of brick inside the laundry, measuring about 10 feet square, fitted with hanging rails, and heated with gill-pipe coils. A ventilating fan is required to keep the air in constant motion for quick drying.

In the ironing room the most important machine is the ironing, drying and finishing machine. The choice lies between a single roller machine and one with multi-

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ple rollers, and the decision can only be determined by the class of work on which the laundry is engaged. Hotels usually prefer a Decoudun, because the bulk of their goods is starched linen, but in an ordinary domestic laundry, with the requirements of which this article deals, a four-roller machine with steam-heated beds and working at 60lb. pressure is the most effective and satisfactory. Additional plant in this department is a collar, cuff, and shirt ironing machine, a goffering machine for frills, and a range of hand irons heated by electricity or pressure gas.

A plant on the lines described provides a good nucleus for a start, and will easily cater for 500 families to begin with. The power plant and ironing and finishing machine are large enough to cope with an extension of the trade to 1,000 families, and all that would be necessary in the shape of extra plant to deal with this latter turnover is a second washing machine of similar size to the original. The plant described is summarized for reference as follows :—

(1) One horizontal multitubular steam roller of 200 square feet heating surface, with furnace arranged for burning wood fuel. Boiler complete with fittings, mountings, and hot water feed injector —working pressure 80 lb. per square inch.
(2) One horizontal slide valve steam engine of not less than 15 b.h.p. for 80 lb. working pressure, or one electric motor with compound winding of similar power.
(3) One all metal washing machine with brass inside shell about 34in. diameter by 54in. long.
(4) One 20-gallon soap and soda dissolver.
(5) One 26in. self-balancing under-driven hydro-extractor with countershaft and friction pulley.
(6) Fittings for single compartment drying chamber, about 10ft. by 10ft. consisting of steel hanging rails, heating coils of cast iron gilled pipes, and 15in. electric ventilating fan.
*Above is optional, depending on the natural conditions for drying.*
(7) One Four-Roller Steam-Heated Calender, with rollers 108in. long by 9in. diameter, with felt and cotton coverings for rollers.
(8) One 24in. collar, cuff, and shirt ironing machine with roller heated by electricity, petrol, gas, or pressure gas.
(9) One goffering machine with roller heated by electricity or gas.
(10) A range of six or eight hand irons heated by electricity or gas.
(11) The hourly consumption of steam for a plant as described would be approximately 450 lb., and the b.h.p. required to drive same, 10. A steam pressure of 15 lb. per square inch is required in the wash-house, and 60 lb. for the Four-Roller Ironing and Finishing Machine.

## GREEK LOAN NEGOTIATIONS.

Sir N. Moore asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer on December 16, whether he was aware that the Greek Government was desirous of negotiating a private loan in this country ; if so, whether it was understood that a substantial portion of that loan was to be expended in goods and material of a peaceful character purchased in Great Britain, and most of the remainder in the British Empire ; and whether, under such circumstances, His Majesty's Treasury would view such a loan with favour, provided that the security offered was satisfactory to the parties negotiating it ?

Mr. Young : I am aware that the Greek Government has given indications of its desire to raise a loan in this country. I am not clear as to the amount so raised which it is proposed should be spent in this country, and have asked for information on this head. As to the last part of the question, it is not the practice of His Majesty's Government to indicate favour or disfavour to loans on the London market.

## ROUMANIAN COMMISSION OF CONTROL CRITICISED.

### Resolutions of British Chamber of Commerce.

We give below two important resolutions that have been passed by the British Chamber of Commerce of Bucharest. The first is a strongly worded protest against the initiation of the Commission of Control for the purpose of preventing speculation in the leu. It states that the Chamber :—

" Having in view the announced intention of the Government by means of the control instituted to prevent speculation in lei. considering that only those deposits in lei lying in banks in Roumania belonging to foreign firms are affected, whilst the deposits of Roumanian firms are not included in the operation of the decision, having in view the fact that in the case of deposits withdrawable at sight the decision of the Council of Ministers appears to be in contradiction to the Commercial Law of Roumania, also that in order to secure the necessary permission to transfer funds, foreign merchants are compelled in fact to attend day after day at the offices of the Banca Nationala, desires to register its protest against the institution of the Commission of Control for the purpose of investigating reasons for the foreign depositors wishing to withdraw their money.

" The Chamber expresses the view that, having knowledge of a large number of deposits held by British firms in Roumanian banks, it is satisfied that the whole of this money is the result of sales of British merchandise made in Roumania. This being the case, the Chamber see no necessity whatsoever for any control having as its object the prevention of speculation in lei. These deposits are not made for the purpose of stock exchange manipulation, and as in every case they are the result of sales of goods made in Roumania at a very much higher value of the lei than at present exists, it is extremely unlikely that the British firms interested will transfer their deposits to the United Kingdom at the present rate of exchange.

" The Chamber further gives as its considered opinion that whatever reasons may previously have existed for the presumption that British firms would wish to withdraw their deposits the institution of control upon the free disposal of the money received for sales made in this country, and freely deposited in Roumanian institutions, is one which will undoubtedly create a feeling of insecurity in the minds of the depositors and thus tend, if prolonged, to promote the withdrawal of these deposits from Roumania, a procedure which will probably result in a further depreciation in the international value of the leu.

" The Chamber is informed that various British merchants who, in spite of the present great difficulties of transport, are struggling to carry on an export trade from this country have been hampered very considerably in their business by the necessity to secure the permission of the Commission of Control for the purpose of withdrawing their own money from the banks in which it was deposited.

" Further the Chamber desires to express its view that the institution of a commission of control of foreign deposits is in direct contradiction to the stipulations of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Great Britain and Roumania signed at Bucharest on the 31st October, 1905, and ratified on the 17th March, 1906, which treaty besides granting national treatment to British subjects and firms in Roumania specifically states that on compliance with the laws of the country the subjects of each of the contracting parties shall be permitted *freely* to export the proceeds of the sale of their property and goods in general. It seems to the Chamber that the effect of the institution of the Commission of Control will only be to hamper foreign exchange transactions of a legitimate nature whilst irresponsible and unscrupulous persons will merely evade the regulations.

" In termination the Chamber would point out that not being able freely to dispose of their own money British firms will be unable to transfer from one bank to another, and this in the present financial situation of this country means, it seems to the Chamber, the loss of an essential safeguard for their deposits inasmuch as, should the safety of any bank be called in question, it would not be possible for foreign depositors, to rescue their holdings without the delay necessary to secure the permission of the commission of control."

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**Payments to Foreign Creditors.**

The second resolution deals with the present situation in Roumania as regards debts owing by Roumania importers to foreign countries. It states :—

" After considering proposals made and recently discussed at a meeting of the Bucharest Camera de Comert, as well as at a general meeting of delegates from eleven of the chambers of commerce of this country ; having before it a copy of the memorandum drawn up by the Bucarest Camera de Comert regarding the question of payment to foreign creditors, more especially that part thereof which suggests that, should foreign creditors press for payment of debts due to them under contracts freely entered into on both sides, the Roumanian debtor should be enabled to avoid payment until such later date as may be fixed by the deposit of 150 lei for each pound sterling, 3.50 lei for each French franc found due (a like low rate of exchange being mentioned for other foreign valuta), desires to register its most serious protest against any attempt being made on the part of Roumanian debtors to bring pressure to bear upon the Roumanian Government with the aim of depriving foreign creditors of their just and legal rights of redress.

" Whilst fully acquainted with the facts of the present financial situation in Roumania, and also with the facts regarding the fall in the international value of the Roumanian leu, the Chamber desires to place on record its considered judgment that this attempt to prejudice the rights of foreign creditors can have but one effect, and that is to undermine confidence not only in the ability of the Roumanian debtor to pay his debts, but also in his good faith. The inevitable consequence of such loss of confidence can only be a further tendency to decline in the international value of the leu, and if only for this reason the Chamber condemns most severely the action of those importers, very few in number, who, in their unwise desire to force upon foreign creditors a provisional settlement of the kind mentioned, are prejudicing the credit and the good renown of the whole of the Roumanian mercantile world.

" The Chamber is assured that in stating this it will have the support of the great majority of the honest and respectable traders throughout the whole of Roumania, as well as of the majority of importers, who so far have not associated themselves with the small group above-mentioned, and upon whose shoulders will necessarily fall the greater part of the losses consequent upon the action of the said small group.

" The Chamber considers that in the case of accounts owing to the United Kingdom it is most desirable that the settlement of such questions be left to the individual firms concerned. The relationship between British and Roumanian firms, existing in many cases for a long period of years, have brought into being friendly feelings which will undoubtedly play their part in the settlement of the question. In other cases where difficulties arise in arriving at a settlement this Chamber expresses its readiness to take the part of friendly mediator between the individual firms concerned and to endeavour by every means in its power to promote a settlement.

" In general the Chamber would express its opinion that notwithstanding the acuteness of the financial situation in the United Kingdom the great majority of British creditors would probably consent to a renewal of outstanding bills as they fall due, should the Roumanian debtor make reasonable proposals regarding the payment of interest and a small proportion of the amount due. Holding this view the Chamber feels that the movement to secure obligatory settlements upon the lines indicated in the memorandum of the Bucarest Camera de Comert is without adequate justification as it is extremely unlikely that Roumanian importers as a whole will be summarily prosecuted for payment upon their bills falling due.

" The Chamber is of opinion that a relatively small number of importers may be obliged to meet payments beyond their resources, and does not consider it either advisable or necessary to compromise the good name of Roumanian importers in general for their sake. The question has been given an importance which it does not merit, and an atmosphere of distrust has been unnecessarily imported into the good relationships previously existing between Roumanian merchants and their foreign creditors."

## INDIA'S OPIUM PRODUCTION.

Mr. Gilbert asked the Secretary of State for India on December 16, what was the acreage in India now under cultivation with the opium poppy; how many chests of Indian opium were now exported annually ; what were the destinations of this exported opium ; and whether any and, if any, how much was converted into prepared opium for smoking ?

Colonel Gibbs (Treasurer of the Household) : The total area under poppy cultivation in British India amounted to 156,435 acres in the year 1919-20. 9,823 chests of opium were exported in that year. The countries which imported this opium were the Straits Settlements, Dutch East Indies, Siam, French Indo-China, Japan, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, British North Borneo, Ceylon, Mauritius and the Fiji Islands. My right hon. friend is not in a position to state how much of the raw opium exported from India to other countries is there converted into prepared opium for smoking.

Mr. Barnes : Can the hon. and gallant gentleman say if the Government are working in full harmony with the organisation under the League of Nations for the reduction or suppression of this trade ?

Colonel Gibbs : I am not in a position to state that myself, but I will tell my right hon. friend what the right hon. gentleman says.

Mr. Barnes : Will the hon. and gallant gentleman make enquiries on the matter ?

Colonel Gibbs : Yes, sir.

## INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 19 :—Season.—December 12 to 14—weather dry. December 15 to 18—light rain in North-West India. Condition of Crops.—December 16—Bengal and Punjab prospects unchanged. Bombay prospects good except in Deccan and Dharwar, where more rain required. In Central Province, sesamum very good, wheat, gram and linseed good. December 19—Assam crop prospects unchanged. Markets.—Cotton.—December 16—Bombay cotton market firm with upward tendency. Fine M.G. Oomras Rs. 411 December-January ; Rs. 404 March. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1 to December 15, 1921, were 691,000 bales as compared with 364,000 bales during the same period of last year. Piece-goods—Bombay piece-goods market very quiet. Jute—December16—Calcutta jute market very firm, Firsts Rs. 58 to Rs. 59, Lightings Rs. 47. December 17—Hessians steady and rates tending upwards. Heavy goods steady. Tea.—At tea sale on December 13, Assams and Dooars excellent : others good. Common and low medium grades three to six pies dearer. Good mediums firm. Fine Liquorings one to two annas dearer. Dusts steady ; 437,902 packages sold to date at an average price of nine annas eight pies per lb. Shellac—December 13—market firm. T.N. Rs. 160 December. Spot Rs. 155 closing price. Rice—Special Straits Quality rice Rs. 480 for Decem' er new crop. Imperial Bank of India rate 6 per cent. Freight rates to Continent reduced by 5s. for December-January.

## OVERSEAS OIL SYNDICATE.

The Overseas Oil Syndicate, Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a nominal capital of £25,500 in 25,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 10,000 management shares of 1s. each, to acquire and deal with lands and interests and rights therein containing, or supposed to contain, oils or similar products, metals, or other minerals, &c. The holders of the ordinary shares are entitled to a non-cumulative preference dividend of 8 per cent., and, subject thereto, the remaining profits may be distributed as to 50 per cent. among the ordinary holders and as to the remaining 50 per cent. among the holders of the management shares. The signatories are to appoint the first directors. The registered office is at 10-12, Copthall-avenue, E.C.

A large cloth-weaving mill has been started at Bucharest, the buildings and plant occupying an area of 3,000 sq. metres. Its machinery and 60 looms are of the latest type.

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# Engineering Topics.

*By Our Engineering Representative.*

**Marine-Engines.**

With reference to my recent note regarding Diesel and semi-Diesel engines for marine work it is interesting to note that a number of builders of Diesels operating on the 4-stroke principle are now turning their attention to building 2-stroke types. In this they are certainly wise, as the 2-stroke is not only lighter in weight for power output, but smaller in size, and consequently costs less to build. A glance at the patent records reveals the fact that Messrs. Vickers, the North British Diesel Engine Works, and Harland and Wolff have taken out protection for various ideas connected with 2-stroke Diesels.

Recently quite a number of licences to manufacture under various patents have been taken out by British marine engineering firms, in addition to those mentioned being Messrs. Richardsons Westgarth & Co., and Smith's Dock Co. The former is to manufacture the Tosi type and the latter the Camellaird-Fullagar design. The two twin screw motor ships which have just been ordered by Messrs. Furness Withy and Co., are to be engined by Richardsons, Westgarth and Co. This means the building of four sets of 1,250 h.p. engines.

With regard to 2-strokes I hear that Messrs, Doxford, who have had a good deal of experience with 3,000 indicated horse power standard opposed piston sets, have just prepared designs for 6-cylinder engines of similar type, which will develop 6,000 indicated horse power. On the other hand arrangements have been made by another firm to manufacture 8-cylinder engines of the 4-stroke type, developing 4,000 horse-power. All of which puts the high powered motor ship within the range of practical politics, and the question apparently may now be asked as to what steam engineers have in preparation by way of answer.

**Electric Conduit.**

For many years electrical engineers have been experimenting with a view to devising some safe, cheap, and certain method of bonding steel or other metallic conduits used for carrying light and power wires and cables. Quite a number of what appeared to be highly satisfactory devices, on paper, proved failures when brought into practical use; some had the disadvantage of being clumsy, and others would act with certainty 99 times out of a 100 and fail at some critical moment. In the Terra-grip system just brought out by Simplex Conduits, Ltd., each outlet of the fittings, as couplings, bends, elbows and tees used in the system, has a drilled and tapped boss which carries a steel grub-screw, the end of which is formed with a cup-shaped projection. When the conduit is inserted in the fitting and the screw driven home, this projection is flattened out, and expands when it comes into contact with the steel tube. In this way it forces off a portion of the enamel and makes a perfect metallic contact with the cleaned metal. It also locks the screw automatically so that it will not work loose under even excessive vibration. On occasion it may be necessary to take down a length or so of conduit or to dismantle an installation, and in that case all that has to be done is to turn the screw in the opposite direction. This will cause the projection to re-form itself sufficiently to free the conduit. Should the coned part have been driven home with more than usual force, or have corroded, it will shear off under the strain, and so let the conduit come free. So far as I can judge from a description the device seems likely to prove quite satisfactory in action, and I hear that tests made on assembled systems show that currents up to 40 amperes have been passed through them, and that the average resistance per junction was practically negligible.

**The Claude Ammonia Process.**

The possibilities of the Claude ammonia process were the subject of an extremely interesting and instructive paper given recently before a joint meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and the Chemical Engineering Group of the Society of Chemical Industry. According to Mr. J. H. West, the dominant feature of the process is the employment of a high temperature. Claude's experimental data show that for a given temperature the proportion of hydrogen and nitrogen remaining combined under conditions of equilibrium rises rapidly with increase of pressure, although the yield is greater when the temperature is lower. What is actually wanted, therefore, seems to be a combination of high pressure and low temperature, a combination which is given ideally in the Claude process. The Haber process is a low pressure system, comparatively speaking, employing a pressure of about 200 atmospheres as against the Claude pressure of approximately 900 atmospheres. At 900 atmospheres, it is said, the reaction becomes auto-thermic; quite small catalyst vessels can be used, and the initial heating can be effected by external electric circuits.

**Handling Cargo.**

The introduction of mechanical appliances for the handling of cargo at one of the chief Liverpool docks, Mr. G. H. Rae pointed out recently, has been completely successful. After outlining the difficulties met with, he stated that after considering many proposals it appeared that the introduction of a light portable type of electrical crane would best meet the peculiar conditions attending the unloading of certain vessels.

In the first instance six 5-cwt. cranes were ordered of a light but rigid steel construction. These were each mounted on a carriage with four ball-bearing road wheels, and had a lifting speed of 60 feet per minute, slewing 190 feet per minute a height of 14ft. 8ins. to the underside of the hook. Each was operated by a 2-h.p. electric motor. After these had been in operation for some time a further six cranes were added. In these the radius was increased and the lifting speed was 90 instead of 60 feet per minute, a 3-h.p. motor being used with each. The success met with was such that in a few months 18 more of these cranes, making 30 in all, were at work, handling cargo at this dock, in addition to two 7-ton electric cranes each of which has a longitudinal traverse of 1,000 feet and a span of 60 feet.

In the first place the small electric cranes were not fitted with travelling motors but were moved by hand from place to place, or hauled by an electric tractor. They further had non-steering wheels, which arrangement was found inconvenient, and in the later types a steering device was provided, and the electric motors could be geared on to the road wheels. For transferring cargoes from point to point at this dock electric tractors with trailers and electric platform trucks are being largely used, and it has been found that the consumption of electrical energy per ton moved is surprisingly low.

## BRITISH OVERSEAS BANKS.

At a general meeting of the members of the British Overseas Banks Association, held on December 16, the following were elected to form the committee for the ensuing year:—Mr. Percy Arnold, O.B.E., Bank of Adelaide; Mr. Charles Cambie, Canadian Bank of Commerce; Mr. Leslie Couper, C.M.G., Bank of British West Africa; Mr. T. J. Finnie, London and Brazilian Bank; Mr. W. E. Preston, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China; Mr. Sydney F. Rogers, Imperial Bank of Persia; Mr. Francis Shipton, Standard Bank of South Africa; Mr. Geo. H. Soul, Anglo-Egyptian Bank; Mr. T. R. Whitley, Royal Bank of Canada; Mr. Arthur Willis, National Bank of New Zealand. Mr. W. E. Preston, of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, was elected Chairman, and Mr. Francis Shipton, of the Standard Bank of South Africa, was re-elected hon. secretary and treasurer.

Anglo-Egyptian oil output:—Gemsah (week ended December 16) nil tons (last week 1,068 tons.) Hurghada (week ended December 16), 3,488 tons (last week 3,420 tons).

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# Near East Markets.

## LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

### Dull Tone Prevails.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request at unchanged rates. West Indian crystallised has been done round about 39s. 9d. Czecho-Slovakian is quoted at 19s. 9d., while White Java is 1s. down at 44s. The futures market has been quiet.

Coffee.—A steady tone has been maintained, and transactions have taken place at recent prices. Futures have been rather irregular. The quotations are :—December 51s. 3d., March 51s. 9d., May 52s. 6d., July 53s. 9d., September 53s. 9d.

Oilseeds.—A rather dull tendency has prevailed. Indian linseed at 17s. 3d. is 3d. lower, but La Plata is 3d. up at 16s. 6d. Rapeseed has been irregular. Toria is 3d. up at 18s. 3d., while brown Cawnpore has shed 6d. at 17s. 3d. Cottonseed has been dull, Indian being 1½d. down at 9s. 1½d., while Egyptian black is 9d. down at 12s. 6d., and Sakellaridis is 3d. down at 12s.

Seed Oils.—Prices have been somewhat irregular. Linseed oil at 28s. 6d. shows a rise of 1s. Rape oil has been weak with the crude variety 10s. down at 46s., refined being unchanged at 51s. 6d. Cotton oil has been quiet. Refined is unchanged at 45s., Egyptian crude is the same at 37s., while deodorised remains at 50s. Turpentine has been dull, and closes 9d lower at 67s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—Business has been restricted, and changes of prices are insignificant.

## ASIA MINOR FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna report as follows for the week ended December 3 :—

Sultanas.—The total estimated arrivals to date amount to 160,835 bags as compared with 88,035 bags for the corresponding period of last year. The total estimated sales are 150,835 bags as against 80,035 bags for 1920 and the estimated stock unsold amounts to 10,000 bags as against 8,000 bags for last year.

Shipments.—Sultanas are being loaded on the s.s. Gourko, Cressado, and Sea Serpent for London, Liverpool, and London respectively and are sailing at the end of the week.

Markets.—Sultana sales during the week amounted to about 600 tons, mainly for consignment to the U.K. market. The Gourko, Cressado and Sea Serpent will load about 8,900 tons for London and Liverpool. The market, stimulated by above purchases, has been very firm, prices reflecting a slight advance on last week. Very little doing in figs owing to absence of arrivals. Any occasional lot of decent quality coming to market is promptly snapped up after keen competition. Exchanges have ruled easier between 740-750.

There is a steady growth in the use of the Cairo-Baghdad air mail service by the public. On October 13 last the mail contained only 57 letters. On November 17 the number was 172. On December 1 there were 354 letters. The average time of transmission by ordinary mail from London is 27 days. The air mails dispatched from London during the past two months have reached Baghdad on the average in 12 days, and, on three occasions out of five, in 10 days, or less.

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## CYPRUS NOTES.

*(From Our Own Correspondent.)*

*Cyprus, December 6.*

Returns for the quarter ended September 30 last show that goods imported were valued at £334,782, as against £509,375 for the same period in the preceding year. Exports were valued at £253,708 as against £314,420.

The rainfall in October was very small, but November has been more favourable. Much rain has fallen in the past week. The sowing of barley is almost finished, and that of wheat is proceeding in the plains. The yield of carobs was excellent in quantity and quality. It is estimated that the total amount collected considerably exceeds 80,000 tons. More than half of the yield has been already exported.

## BULGARIA'S LACK OF CREDIT.

The Bulgarska Banka, in a report dated December 1, states:—

The situation has never been more unfavourable for the importer. As a result of the lack of liquid funds which has become more and more acute, the banks have suspended the grant of credit, and have been compelled to demand covering for credits previously granted. The National Bank of Bulgaria has endeavoured to give some relief by discounting a part of the bills of private banks, but this has up to the present had no effect: the need for funds is too disproportionate to the means of payment in circulation. Important purchases of tobacco have immobilised the last disposable credits, and the present situation has all the characteristics of a severe and lasting crisis.

Stocks of imported merchandise not increasing by reason of the almost total lack of new orders, prices, especially of manufactured goods, have a tendency to rise, this being favoured by the increase in the customs tariff on the one side and by the exchange, which is always falling, on the other. It can be said that importers as a whole are generally abstaining from selling probably counting on a still greater rise, and fearing that they will be unable to replace the merchandise sold.

## TATA INDUSTRIAL BANK.

The Tata Industrial Bank announce a profit for six months to September 30 last after making provision for all liabilities and writing down investments and securities to or under current quotations, was Rs.10,96,355, plus Rs.2,20,004 brought in, making Rs.13,16,359. Dividend of 10 annas per share, free of tax ; to reserve Rs.3,50,000 ; for income tax and super tax, Rs.1,00,000 ; forward, Rs.2,34,080.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

| Country. | Method of Quoting. | Parity of Exchange | Latest Quotations. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alexandria .. | Piastres to £.... | 97½ | 97 7-16 |
| Athens .... | Drachmae to £... | 25.22½ | 102-104 |
| Belgrade .... | Dinars to £ .... | 25.22½ | 270-280 |
| Berlin ..... | Marks to £ .... | 20.43 | 752-757 |
| Bombay .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3⅜-1.4. |
| Calcutta .... | Sterling to Rupee | 24d. | 1.3⅜-1.4. |
| Brussels..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 55.15-55.20 |
| *Bucharest .. | Lei to £ ..... | 25.22½ | — |
| Constantinople | Piastres to £ .... | 110 | 705-735 |
| New York.... | Dollars to £ .... | 4.86 2-3 | 4.19½-4.19⅝ |
| Paris ..... | Francs to £ .... | 25.22½ | 52.90-52.95 |
| Prague .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 200 |
| Rome ..... | Lire to £ ..... | 25.22½ | 94-94½ |
| Sofia ..... | Leva to £ .... | 25.22½ | 550-650 |
| Teheran .... | Krans to £ .... | 50 | 51 |
| Vienna .... | Kronen to £ .... | 24.02 | 10,500-11,500 |
| Warsaw .... | Marks to £ ..... | 20.43 | 11,500-12,500 |

* No Quotations. In some cases quotations are nominal.

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# Company Meetings.

## ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

### Another Satisfactory Year's Working.

### New Issue Foreshadowed.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Ltd., was held on December 21 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London. E.C., Sir Charles Greenway, Bart. (the Chairman of the Company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure in appearing before you to record another very satisfactory year's working, and one which demonstrates very clearly the progress the company is making and the wisdom of our policy of expansion. In the prospectus we issued early this year we estimated that the profits for the year for which accounts are now presented would, after allowance for the payment of income-tax and royalties, not be less than £4,000,000. As a matter of fact, they slightly exceed that amount, and could quite properly have been shown at a much larger sum had we not deemed it prudent to take advantage of an extremely good year by making very ample provision for depreciation in every direction, both in this company and in our subsidiaries. When it is borne in mind that a very large amount of the capital which has been put into the business during the past two or three years had not begun to fructify, these results may, I think, be regarded as eminently satisfactory.

For the current year there will be some falling off in profits because the heavy fall in the prices of products has not been fully compensated for by the increased throughput owing to the long time necessarily occupied in bringing our various extensions into operation, but as we shall no longer be liable for excess profits duty the amount available for dividends will be in excess of that available in the year under review. In the succeeding year, however, when our recent large additional capital outlay will begin to bear full fruit, and when also, for a part of the year, we shall be free from our present onerous contracts for benzine and kerosene, there is every reason for anticipating a further large increase in our profits.

**Balance Sheet.**

I will now go through the balance sheet, and deal with the items requiring comment. Taking the debit side of the account you will see that the amount of capital issued shows an increase of £1,629,483 16s. 10d. on the previous year, this being the amount then paid up in respect of our issue early in the year of £3,500,000 Nine per cent. Preference shares. The amount of Debenture stock outstanding shows a reduction of £125,000 this representing the amount of Debentures redeemed during the year.

The amount of deposits by associated companies shows the very large increase of over £3,000,000. This chiefly represents increased profits, part of which was subsequently paid to us in the form of dividends, which are included in the contra item of £4,792,295 16s. 8d. Employees provident pension and insurance fund shows the very satisfactory increase for the year of £176,894 19s. 7d. In passing, I may say that this fund has been a great source of satisfaction to the staff and that now it has a membership of nearly 4,000. The share premium and reserve accounts, you will see, have been brought up from £2,000,000 in the previous year to a total of £2,685,000. Apart from these reserves I may mention that considerable reserves have also been set aside in the accounts of our subsidiary companies.

Coming to the credit side of the account, you will see that the amount invested in concessions and shares in other companies has increased by over £4,200,000. This is due to our increased investments in subsidiary companies. All doubtful items have been written off, and the total amount shown under this heading is far below the actual value. The next four items all show considerable increases, due, of course, to the expansion of our business.

**Profit and Loss Account.**

Dealing with the profit and loss account, you will see that the gross profit, after making the very liberal allowances for depreciation to which I have already referred, amounted to £4,948,627 4s. 9d., as compared with £3,458,418 14s. 6d. in the previous year, and the net profit, after deducting income-tax, estimated royalty and other usual items, to £4,028,022 4s. as compared with £2,611,615 4s. 5d. in the previous year, or an increase of over £1,400,000. In our appropriation account we have written off all expenses connected with the issue of Second Preference shares, carried £685,000 to various reserve accounts, and after paying excess profits duty and corporation tax for 1919-20 have carried to the balance sheet the sum of £3,263,792 2s., as compared with £1,848,841 2s. 10d. in the previous year. Out of this sum £400,000 has been paid for dividends on Preference shares and it is now proposed to declare a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares, less income-tax, leaving a balance of £1,648,792 2s to be carried forward.

**Capital Expenditure.**

As will be gathered from my previous remarks and from the report now before you, the extensions and developments necessary to enable us to dispose of our largely increasing production to the best advantage are extensive. They will, of course, involve additional capital expenditure, and to meet this a further issue of capital will shortly be made, but what form this will take has not yet been definitely decided upon.

I will now refer briefly to the more important of our operations in connection with which additional capital expenditure is being incurred.

**Refineries.**

The extensions of Scottish Oils, to which I referred last year, are now in progress, and should be completed by the end of next year. As I then forecasted, the working results of the company during the current year have been much less favourable than in the previous year owing to the heavy fall in prices of all products; in fact, for a considerable period of the year the company was working at a heavy loss, but I am pleased to say that the corner has now been turned, and that with the assistance of the Persian oil which we are now putting through the refineries in order to avail ourselves of the full capacity of the original plant it should henceforth be showing a moderate profit. It is interesting to note, as an indication of the general industrial situation in this country, that while the revenue of Scottish Oils, Ltd., since 12 to 18 months ago has fallen to the extent of about £3,000,000 per annum owing to the lower prices we are realising for our products, the reduction in our working expenses, due to cheaper coal and materials, lower wages and more economical management, amounts to somewhere about £2,500,000. For a portion of this period of readjustment of values we were unfortunately compelled to shut down two-thirds of our works, but with the change which has now taken place in the situation we are arranging to resume full work.

**The Oil Industry.**

If the extraordinary change which has taken place in the economic situation of the oil industry in this country could be regarded as characteristic of other industries it would seem to indicate that the industrial revival for which we have all been looking so anxiously had now nearly matured. But I am afraid that the position of this industry is somewhat unique, since, it does not, as is the case with most others, suffer to any material extent from the competition of countries where the rate of exchange and lower taxation are of immense assistance to the producer. Therefore, we cannot, I think, look for any general industrial revival in this country until the exchanges of the world become adjusted to a more normal level, and until British producers obtain some measure of relief from the present overwhelming burden of taxation.

These are questions which I commend to the study of our legislators—not merely by comparisons with Germany, with which this country is not analagous, but also by comparisons with France—a country which, financially, has been affected by war even more than ourselves, and where it will be found that the burdens on industry are far lighter than in this country.

As mentioned in the report, the refinery of the National Oil Refineries, Ltd., at Llandarcy is now nearly completed. It has been in partial operation since July last, and I am pleased to say that the results we are obtaining are even more favourable than our anticipations. I may take this opportunity of saying that there is no foundation whatever for the fantastic figures which have from time to time appeared in the Press as to the amount of capital we have expended on this refinery. While

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the refinery represents the last word in the scientific and economic treatment of petroleum—comprising, as it does, not only the best of the known processes and methods of refining, but also some entirely new and valuable ones which have been evolved by our own research chemists—the capital expenditure involved in it is only a mere fraction of some of the wild sums which have been named, and it is more than justified by the returns we are now getting. I should like to add that the plant is running at 30 per cent. in excess of its estimated capacity, that its capacity can be largely added to at small cost and that the petrol and lamp oil produced from it are the best qualities now on the market. I may take this opportunity of mentioning also that we have for some years past had a research laboratory of our own under the charge of a staff of research chemists possessing high qualifications, and that this staff are constantly engaged, in conjunction with our engineering staff in solving the numerous problems involved in the refining of petroleum and in obtaining from the crude oil products of the very best quality. The results of their research work have, I am pleased to say, been most valuable, and have led to the adoption of many improvements in our refineries.

**The Refineries at Abadan.**

In the period under review the throughput of our extensive refineries at Abadan show a very satisfactory increase over that for the previous year. To give you some idea of the magnitude of Abadan, I may mention that the refinery and township cover an area of over two square miles, and that a further large area, about three miles lower down the river, is being rapidly developed for the storage and shipment of the more dangerous oils. When the extensions in hand and contemplated are completed it will rank as one of the largest, if not the largest, single refinery in the world.

Mr. Nichols, one of our managing directors, visited Persia during the year and has returned with gratifying accounts as to the progress of the developments and as to the great potentialities of the present producing fields.

**Distributing Organisations.**

Our two organisations in the United Kingdom—the British Petroleum Company and the Scottish Oil Agency—have been largely extended during the year, and the petrol and lamp oil now being marketed by them are largely of our own production, and before long we hope to be in a position to supply them with their entire requirements of these two products. Further augmentations are still being carried out, and when these are all completed we shall have as complete and well-equipped an organisation as any in the country, and be in a position to meet all demands.

Our French organisation—the Société Générale des Huiles de Pétrole—which now has a capital of 220,000,000 frs, is proceeding rapidly with the erection of installations, and has, as mentioned in the report, recently acquired three established businesses of considerable importance, through which it has now entered the French market.

In Belgium, Denmark, and Norway we have also acquired interests which will enable us before long to commence trading operations in these countries, and negotiations are proceeding for acquiring similar interests in other countries.

**Australian Interests.**

As regards Australia, a suitable site for a refinery has been acquired by the Commonwealth Oil Refineries, Ltd., and the building of the refinery has now been commenced.

In the Argentine we have acquired important interests in two companies which hold large areas in the Commodoro Rivadavia, Neuquen and other fields. Six test wells are being put down in the first of these fields, and we have just received advice that one of them has already struck oil, but the capacity of the well has not yet been ascertained owing to a temporary plugging. In the other fields two test wells are about to be commenced.

**Egypt.**

In Egypt we have acquired the concession of a considerable area on the Sinai Peninsula, on which we are now putting down a test well. Although we are still a long way from the depth at which our geologists anticipated oil would be struck, we have had favourable indications in the form of gas. If this should prove a successful field, it would be a very valuable addition to our Eastern sources of supply.

**Persian Fields and Production.**

I have great pleasure in reporting that our Persian fields are still maintaining their high rate of production, and that further areas of oil-bearing territory have been proved. I have often referred to our well F7, from which we have been getting our main production for a number of years. You will be interested to learn that the total production from this well during the past ten years has been 4,000,000 tons, or 26,000,000 barrels, and that it is now giving a yield of 2,000 tons, or 13,000 barrels, per day, which is considerably more than the average during the period I have referred to. This increase in the daily yield is not, of course, due to an increase in the volume of oil available, but to the fact that we are not now shutting the well in as much as we did formerly. So far as my knowledge goes, no other well of equal producing capacity and continuity has ever been known in any field producing light gravity crude, and, as I have said before, we believe we have many other as good, or better, wells.

It is perhaps needless to point out that this high rate of production, and the fact that our oil is all obtained from flowing wells or "spouters"—means a very low producing cost—probably not a tithe of the average cost obtaining in other fields yielding light gravity oil of equal quality. This low producing cost and the unusually large proportion of the more valuable products contained in our crude—in this respect our crude is probably superior to that of any other field in the world from which large productions are obtained excepting Burmah—give us, of course, a great advantage over other producers.

With the coming into operation of portions of our extensions to pipe lines, pumping stations and refineries we were able to increase the production from our wells to some extent during the year under review. A further increase is being effected in the current year, but the full effect of our extensions will not be shown until the completion of our new 12-inch line and the necessary additions to the pumping stations, when our production will probably amount to no less than 2½ times as much as in the year for which you now have the accounts before you.

Among our many developments is a large electric power station which has been recently completed at Tembi, the electrical energy from which is now being utilised at Maidan-i-Naftun and Maidan-i-Naftek for drilling and other purposes, whereby a considerable economy in our working costs has been effected. Large new workshops, stores, etc., are also in course of erection, and mechanical transport for material and men has been greatly augmented. Transport to and from the fields has been one of our greatest difficulties, and to overcome this the construction of a railway from the riverhead to the fields, estimated to cost £500,000, has been sanctioned, and the work is now in progress.

**The Fleet.**

As regards our fleet, in view of the considerable decline in the cost of shipbuilding and of the much larger supply of tanker tonnage now available in the open market, we and our associated companies have deemed it wise to cancel such of our outstanding orders as can be so dealt with on satisfactory terms, so that we may be free to take advantage of the lower costs and-or time charter rates likely to be ruling in the near future. The present fleet and the boats coming into commission and to be delivered during the next twelve months will amply suffice for our requirements in the immediate future, and such further additions as may be necessary will be made from time to time as required. It will interest you to know that the total fleet owned or managed by our subsidiary and associated concerns—including river and coastal craft—now numbers 150 vessels.

**Differences over Concessions.**

As regards the political situation, for the first time on record I regret to have to report that a difference of opinion has arisen between the Persian Government and ourselves in connection with some concessions in Northern Persia which were acquired by us from the original concessionaire about a couple of years ago. As you will no doubt have noticed from the references to this matter which have appeared in the Press, the Persian Government have, on quite untenable grounds, declared that these concessions, which were quite legitimately granted and acquired, and which have on many occasions since they were originally granted been recognised and acted upon by them, are now invalid, and that they have been in negotiation with another company for the grant to it of a new concession covering the same areas and also two additional provinces. While fully sympathising with the present financial and other difficulties which have doubtless led to this step, I must—as a well-known and staunch friend of Persia and one who has done much to help it both financially and politically—express my most profound astonishment that the present Government should have been so ill-

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advised as to attempt confiscatory action of this nature ; because Persia's future is dependent entirely upon financial assistance from other countries—either in the form of loans or of capital for its industrial development—and if it once establishes a reputation for repudiating contractual obligations its credit abroad will be destroyed for ever. I cannot believe that the Persian Government will deliberately commit their country to so suicidal a policy, and I am confident that they will before long see that they have no alternative, if they desire to maintain the credit of Persia in this or any other country, but to honour the signatures and commitments of their predecessors.

I may add that one of the signatures which is being repudiated is that of a former Prime Minister, who happens also to be a brother of the present Prime Minister. This gentleman, for whom I have the highest respect, was cognisant of the negotiation for the sale of the concessions to us, and was, in fact, the principal guest at a dinner, at which I also was present, given by Mr. Khostaria in London, to celebrate the conclusion of the negotiations. I would like to know the views of this gentleman, who is, I believe, still in London, on the action of his Government, and what steps he proposes taking to secure recognition by them of his acts and deeds and to deny the statement put forward by them that the concessions were obtained by coercion.

In the south—that is, in the area of the D'Arcy Concession—we are experiencing no trouble whatever, and our friendly relations with the various tribal chiefs remain undisturbed.

**Oil Rights in Mesopotamia.**

Last year I referred to the misconceptions which existed, and to which some measure of publicity had been given in the Press of this country and in America, in regard to the oil rights in Mesopotamia, and also in regard to the attempts of this country to secure a more adequate share of the world's stores of oil. As regards the question of Mesopotamia, this has, as you know, since formed the subject of diplomatic correspondence between the two countries, and it would be out of my province to deal with it here, but I would like to say that in this matter, and in regard to oil questions generally, our relations with the Standard Oil Company are of a perfectly friendly nature and that there is not the slightest ground for suggesting, as has been done in some quarters, that these or any other questions are likely to lead to any serious dispute between the two concerns.

**Appreciation of the Staff.**

Gentlemen, I would like you to again join me in expressing our great appreciation of the services of our staff. When I speak of " our staff " I mean, of course, not only the staff of the Anglo Persian Company, but the staffs of all our associated companies—in this country, Persia and all other parts of the world. As I mentioned last year, we have around us the finest and most enthusiastic body of workers possessed by any oil company in the world, and their enthusiasm and readiness to sacrifice themselves for the welfare of the company grow each year with the company's success. It will be a matter of interest to you to know that the company and its subsidiaries is now giving employment to something like 50,000 people, and that out of this number no fewer than 20,000 are employed in the United Kingdom alone. The latter figure is one that cannot even be approached by any other oil company trading in this country, and it is a matter of great satisfaction to us that the policy which we have been following of creating a British oil industry should not only have been beneficial to the company, but should also have provided employment for such a large body of British workers, the majority of whom would otherwise doubtless have to-day been ranked among the unemployed.

In London our staff has grown to such large proportions that it has been necessary to accommodate them in a number of different buildings in various parts of the City. This obviously has many disadvantages, and to meet the situation we have acquired a large site with frontages on Finsbury-circus and Moorgate-street on which a suitable building capable of housing our entire staff is now in course of erection.

That finishes my remarks, gentlemen, and I now beg to move : " that the report, balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended March 31 be received, approved and adopted."

I regret that Lord Inchcape, owing to his duties on the Super-Axe Committee, has been unable to attend here to-day, as usual, to second this motion, but I have no doubt that Sir Edward Packe, the other Government representative, will be good enough to do so in his place.

Sir Edward H. Packe, K.B.E. ; I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The Chairman : Before I put the motion I shall be pleased to endeavour to answer any questions any shareholders may like to ask. (After a pause) : Well, gentlemen, there appears to be no one who desires to ask any questions, and I will therefore put the motion to the meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

**Dividend on Ordinary Shares.**

The Chairman : I now beg to propose : " That a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the Ordinary shares in respect of the year ended March 31, 1921, be declared and that such dividend be paid on a date to be determined by the Board." I will ask Sir John Cargill kindly to second the motion.

Sir John T. Cargill, Bart. : I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman : The next motion deals with the Board of Directors. No changes in the Board have, I am pleased to say, taken place since we last met. The directors falling due to retire by rotation are Mr. F. W. Lund, Mr. Frank C. Tiarks, and Sir Trevredyn Wynne, and in view of their good services to the company I am sure it is your wish that they should be re-elected. I therefore now beg to move : " That Mr. F. W. Lund, Mr. Frank C. Tiarks, and Sir Trevredyn R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., who retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election be and are hereby re-elected to the Board." I will ask Sir Hugh Barnes kindly to second the motion.

Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O. : I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The Chairman : Before I put the resolution to the meeting I would like to explain the reasons for the absence of one or two of our colleagues to-day. I have already mentioned the cause of Lord Inchcape's absence. The other absentees are Admiral Sir Edmond Slade, who has just left England on a visit to India and the Persian Gulf, and Sir Trevredyn Wynne, who has taken short leave of absence for the purpose of visiting India and Burma.

The resolution was then unanimously carried.

The Chairman : Will some shareholder kindly propose the usual resolution for the appointment of auditors ?

Mr. William Hayes : I have much pleasure in proposing, " That Messrs. Brown Fleming and Murray be and are hereby reappointed auditors for the financial year 1921-1922 at such fee as may be determined by the Board."

The Hon. Bernard Howard : I have pleasure in seconding that.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman : That concludes our business, gentlemen. I beg to thank you for your attendance.

Mr. Creighton : I should like to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding to-day and for the very satisfactory report he has given us.

The Hon. Bernard Howard : I second that with much pleasure.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman : I have to thank you very warmly, gentlemen, for the kind manner in which the vote has been proposed and passed and I should like to express the great satisfaction it gives my colleagues and myself at meeting you here to-day with such an extremely satisfactory report and one that gives very great hopes for the future.

The proceedings then terminated.

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## INCREASE OF ALGERIAN IMPORT DUTIES.

The French *Journal Officiel* for December 6 contains a Law, dated December 5, which provides that the following goods shall, on importation into Algeria, pay the same duties as those prescribed in the French Customs Tariff, instead of the lower duties formerly applicable :—Tariff No. 99. pepper (in the grain or ground); 100, pimento (in the grain or ground); 102, cinnamon; 103, cassia lingea; 104, nutmegs, shelled or unshelled; 105, mace; 106, cloves; 107 vanilla. Coffee in the bean or husk (tariff no. 96) imported into Algeria is now subject under the minimum tariff to a duty equal to that of the French minimum tariff less the amount of the Algerian sea octroi duty; under the maximum tariff this product remains subject to duty, on importation into Algeria, at the rate prescribed in the French maximum tariff. Roasted or ground coffee is subject to the rates of the French tariff, which are the same as those formerly in force in Algeria.

## BRITISH TEXTILE MACHINERY TRADE.

The Government returns relating to the export trade of the United Kingdom show that out of a total of £69,373,372 which represents the value of the overseas shipments of machinery for the eleven months ended November 1921, textile machinery accounted for no less a sum than £22,908,180. In 1920 the corresponding figures were £56,284,958 and £6,952,871, and in 1913 £30,917,698 and £7,597,565.

During the past few years, values of course have fluctuated widely and a clearer idea of the importance of the textile machinery industry can be obtained from a comparison of the figures in connection with the weight of machinery exported. During the eleven months ended November last the total of all kinds of machinery was 469,277 tons, 142,699 tons of which consisted of textile machinery. For the same period of 1920 the figures were 412,755 tons and 49,480 tons, against 636,518 tons and 163,784 tons in 1913. Since August last the quantities exported have risen steadily, the figure of 17,406 tons for November being higher than in any previous month this year. The total for the eleven months ended November is less than in the corresponding period of 1913, but the disparity is not large. The principal markets for the eleven months, January to November 1921 with the percentage of the total which their purchases represent are India (38), France (15), Japan (14), and China (10).

Most commodities have slumped in price during the past twelve months but this easier movement has not affected textile machinery values. On the contrary present prices are higher than those ruling a year ago. The average price per ton for the eleven months ended November, 1920, was £141, but for the same period of 1921 the figure was £161. In 1913 the average worked out at £46.

The Delhi, Umballa, Kalka Railway, announces interim dividend for half-year to Sept. 30 last of 6 per cent, plus a bonus of 1 per cent, or 7 per cent. in all, on ordinary stock, less tax at rate of 3s. 6d. in the £, payable Jan. 30.


# IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

**FOUNDED 1863.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Capital** | - | **£10,000,000** |
| **Paid-up** | - | **£5,000,000** |
| **Reserve** | - | **£1,250,000** |

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.

Lt.-Col. J. PROCTOR, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON, Director
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Sub-Directors.
J. UNGAR } Sub-Directors.
DJEVAD BEY.
HAMID BEY
NOURY BEY

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

**LONDON.**

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH. C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General the HON. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

**PARIS.**

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALY.
GEORGES HEINE.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
LE COMTE PILLET-WILL.
FELIX VERNES.

## London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

**PARIS:**
**7, Rue Meyerbeer.**

**MANCHESTER:**
**50-60, Cross Street.**

**MARSEILLES:**
**41-43, Rue Grignan.**

**CONSTANTINOPLE.**
**(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)**

**EGYPT.**
**Aexandria. Cairo.**
**Mlansourah, Minieh,**
**Port Said.**

**PALESTINE.**
**Jerusalem.**
**Jaffa.**
**Caiffa.**

**CYPRUS.**
**Nicosia. Larnaca**
**Limassol. Famaguit**
**Paphos.**

**SYRIA.**

**Aleppo.** **Alexandretta.** | **Beyrout.** **Damascus.** | **Hamah.** **Homs.** | **Saida.** **Tripoli.**

**MESOPOTAMIA.**

**Ashar. Bassorah. Bagdad. Mossoul. Kirkuk.**

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## BRITISH CLAIMS AGAINST TURKEY.

Mr. Alfred Silley, of Constantinople, whose hard work in the interests of British subjects having claims against Turkey arising out of the war is well-known, writes as follows :—

The case of British traders residing in Turkey is a specially hard one, and above all others calls for the protection by H.M.'s Government of their interests. They were obliged to leave the country at a moment's notice, their businesses were ruined, their goods were seized or requisitioned, and their houses were forcibly occupied and ransacked, their furniture and personal effects being taken or damaged. During four years of war, deprived of the income from their businesses, they lived on their remaining capital, and returned to Turkey after the Armistice, in most cases so crippled financially that they were unable in whole or in part to resume their pre-war trade.

The disastrous effect of this on our trade with Turkey is made clearer in the Constantinople Customs returns, which show that whereas before the war our share of the import trade into Turkey was nearer 38 to 40 per cent., the percentage for 1919-20 came down to 29 per cent., and during 1921 has steadily declined, for the port of Constantinople at all events, to under 20 per cent., until in August last the total American imports into Turkey cleared at the Constantinople Custom House, exceeded ours, and we took second place.

Much of this decline is due to the crippled financial condition of British traders resident in Turkey who can no longer push their country's trade as in the past. If we desire to retain our share of the trade with Turkey it is urgently necessary that steps should be taken to remedy their position and to protect them from unjust discrimination in regard to sums owed them by Turkish debtors and to support their request for payment of their claims generally.

## LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, of Liverpool, reports as follows under date December 21 :—

The improvement noted in our last report was again apparent at the commencement of the week, but with the approach of the holidays interest has slackened off again, and to-day, after a period of remarkable steadiness, a somewhat weaker tendency has developed. This, as usual, was first manifested in the futures market, and is very probably of a temporary nature only. At all events, no very marked impression has been made as yet on spot prices, which on balance remain unchanged from last week. The enquiry on the whole has been of fair dimensions and of a general character. Tokar cotton has again been in request, but only a few sales have been recorded. Uppers are well held, and the lower qualities particularly are scarce. The demand for Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis has not been quite so marked as heretofore ; the prices asked for this quality show considerable variation.

Manchester is the key to the Liverpool market, and good advices from that quarter are eagerly awaited. On the other hand, India appears to hold the key to Manchester, and the eyes of the whole trade are turned towards that country, where the political situation is still very vague, and where unexpected developments might occur at any time. The latest news, which is to the effect that a conference is likely to be held between representatives of the Indian Provinces and the Government, has been favourably received. It is further hoped that the strong measures recently taken by the Government will tend to restore confidence amongst traders generally in that country. Altogether, although reports differ somewhat, it would appear that there has been rather more business doing with India, even though the prices obtained have not been all that might be desired. Spinners' takings of Egyptian cotton in this country continue at a good figure, but the stock in Great Britain up to last Saturday, 17th inst., was estimated at the large figure of 100,950 bales. C.i.f. business is on only moderate lines. Total sales, 1,900 (includes 350 bales Soudan). Quotations are unchanged from last week. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 20.75d.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended December 10 amounted to £6,059.

## TENDERS INVITED.

*Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.*

*(Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street S.W.1.)*

**Egypt.**

Oils, Paints, etc.—The Director of Stores, Frontier District Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of oils, paints and varnishes to patterns kept at the Arsenal Alexandria. The specification includes 2,115 kilos of marine engine oil, 3,500 kilos motor oil, 600 kilos turbine oil, besides colza, linseed, rifle oils, turpentine, etc. ; 2,000 kilos grey paint in oil, 1,220 kilos white lead in oil, and items of ships composition, Brunswick black, black paint, red lead powder, etc. ; 145 kilos, copal varnish, etc. January 14 (D.O.T.)

Photographic Materials.—The Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of photographic materials. January 31.

Clothing and Equipment.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing and equipment required for the period April 1,—September 30, 1922. The specification includes made-up goods (aprons, caps, jackets, sheets, gallabiyas), material (striped and white linen, calico, canvas packing, house flannel), hardware, (cutlery, implements, padlocks, hollow-ware, enamelled ware) glassware, earthenware, wooden articles, ward slippers, brooms and brushes, mats and matting, oils and paint, soap and soda. Samples of certain articles required as indicated in the specification can be seen at the offices of the Inspecting Engineer to the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1., provided firms apply direct to that office and give at least three days' notice. January 28 (D.O.T.).

**India.**

Electric Cables.—The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras invites tenders for the supply of electric cables as follows :—Low-tension cables : Forty-two miles of twin 7-.044 S.W.G., thirteen miles of twin 7-.064 S.W.G., paper insulated, lead covered and steel tape armoured cables for 225 volts A.C. circuits. High-tension cables : Two miles of three-core 7-.044 S.W.G., five miles of three-core 7-.064 S.W.G., paper insulated, lead covered, and steel tape armoured cables for 5,000 volts A.C. circuits with neutral point not earthed. Printed forms of tender, agreement, and specification can be had from the Revenue Officer, Corporation of Madras, on payment of Rs.3 per set, which will not be returned. February 20.

Miscellaneous Stores.—The Controller of Stores of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, Calcutta, invites tenders for a year's supply from April 1 of miscellaneous stores, including augers, crowbars, chisels, drills, files, hammers, shovels, spanners, canvas hose, coir fibre, cotton waste, jute waste, brooms, brushes, chemicals, nails, screws, buckets, soap, glass bottles, lenses, leather goods, uniforms, and stationery. January 24.

**Greece.**

Matches.—The Greek Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply C.I.F. Piraeus of 4,000 cases of safety matches, each case to contain 7,200 boxes. January 26. (D.O.T.)

**Yugoslavia.**

Blankets.—Notification was given by the Department of Overseas Trade in October last that the Army Clothing Department of the Ministry of War and Marine, Donji Grad, Belgrade, invited tenders for the supply of 120,000 Army Blankets. The closing date for these tenders was given as November 10, but from recent information received it appears that no tenders submitted on that date were accepted and that the offer is still open. New tenders will probably be called for to be presented on January 18. United Kingdom firms interested are reminded that representation by an agent in the Serb-Croat-Slovene State is essential.—(D.O.T.).

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# SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

## FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

*The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo, being given in parentheses :—*

*Anchor Brocklebank Line.*—S.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, January 7) ; s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 11) ; s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, January 21) ; s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 25) ; s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 4); s.s. Mahratta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 8).

*Bibby Line.*—S.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 4) ; s.s. Sittang for Rangoon (Middlesborough, January 7).

*Byron Steamship Line.*—S.s. General Napier for Patras, Piraeus, Constantinople, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila, also calling at Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas and Varna (Liverpool, January 10).

*Cunard Line.*—S.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Batoum ( Swansea, January 5 ).

*Ellerman Lines.*—S.s. Estrellano for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania, ( Liverpool, January 12 ) ; s.s. Cressado for Gibraltar, Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna, ( Liverpool, January 21 ).

*Ellerman's City Line.*—S.s. City of Baghdad for Calcutta ( Birkenhead, December 30 ) ; s.s. City of York for Calcutta ( Birkenhead, January 7) ; s.s. City of Cairo for Calcutta ( Birkenhead, January 9 ).

*Ellerman's Hall Line.*—S.s. City of Genoa for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab ( Liverpool, January 13 ) ; s.s. City of Auckland for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab ( Liverpool, January 13 ).

*Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.*—Steamers sail fortnightly for Malta, Piraeus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

*Glen Line.*—S.s. Glenariffe for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, January 5); s.s. Glenogle for Port Said, Singapore, etc. ( London, January 19) ; s.s. Glenapp for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. ( London, February 2 ).

*Harrison Line.*—S.s. Tactician for Calcutta, ( Liverpool, January 7 ) ; s.s. Intombi for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombassa, etc. ( Birkenhead, January 19 ).

*Henderson Line.*—S.s. Martaban for Port Said, and Rangoon ( Birkenhead, January 11.)

*Holt Line.*—S.s. Telemachus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. ( Glasgow, December 29 ) ; s.s. Agapenor for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. ( Birkenhead, December 29 ) ; s.s. Pyrrhus for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. ( Birkenhead, December 29 ) ; s.s. Titan for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. ( Swansea, January 5 ).

*Johnston Line.*—S.s. Wingate for Piraeus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila ( Liverpool January 17 ).

*Papayanni Line.*—S.s. Asturian for Tangier, Malta, and Alexandria ( Liverpool, January 14 ) ; s.s. Gerano for Algiers, Malta, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople ( Liverpool, February 4 ).

*P. and O. Line.*—S.s. Soudan for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta ( London, December 30); s.s. Delta for Bombay ( London, December 30 ) ; s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta ( London, January 13 ) ; s.s. Macedonia for Bombay ( London, January 13 ) ; s.s. Perim for Bombay ( London, January 14); s.s. Morea for Bombay ( London, January 20 ) ; s.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta ( London, January 27 ).

*P. and O. British India Line.*—S.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi ( London, January 6 ) ; s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 14); s.s. Hatarana for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta ( London, January 21 ) ; s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta ( London, February 3 ).


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**LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.**
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**RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.**

**PASSENGER SAILING DATES—**

**CASTALIA, JANUARY 6.**
**MASSILIA, JANUARY 20.**
**ELYSIA, FEBRUARY 10.**
**CIRCASSIA, MARCH 10.**
**OLYMPIA, MARCH 22.**

**Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd.,**
**16, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.**


## NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st October, 1921, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

### BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | £E |
|---|---|
| Share Capital ..... (300,000 fully paid Shares of £10 each.) | 2,925.000 |
| Reserve Fund : | |
| Statutory Reserve ..... | 1,462,500 |
| Special Reserve ..... | 585,000 |
| Current, Deposit and other Accounts ..... | 11,819,217 |
| Egyptian Government ..... | 560,415 |
| Mixed Tribunals ..... | 1,715,998 |
| Bankers Accounts ..... | 896,628 |
| Cheques and Bills payable ..... | 233.988 |
| Accceptances, as per contra ..... | 244.404 |
| Sundry other Accounts ..... | 1,131,186 |
| | £E21,574.336 |

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government ..... | | 7,114,488 |
| Sundry Securities ..... | | 200,970 |
| Advances on Merchandise ..... | | 2,790,197 |
| Advances on Securities ..... | | 2,246,740 |
| Advances otherwise Secured ..... | | 451,683 |
| Sundry other Advances ..... | | 1,008,473 |
| Egyptian Government ..... | | 1,696,582 |
| Sudan Government ..... | | 227,289 |
| Clients Liability for Acceptances ..... | | 244,404 |
| Bills of Exchange ..... | | 676,350 |
| Local Bills Discounted ..... | | 239,948 |
| Buildings and Furniture ..... | | 284,400 |
| Money at call and at short notice ..... | | 784,875 |
| Bankers Accounts ..... | | 888,559 |
| Sundry other Accounts ..... | | 528,513 |
| Cash : | | |
| Notes ..... | 1,924,519 | |
| Gold ..... | 24,285 | |
| Silver, Nickel, etc. ..... | 182,082 | |
| | | 2,130,886 |
| | | £E21,574,336 |

### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | £E. | £E. |
|---|---|---|
| Notes Issued ..... | | 37,800,000 |
| Gold ..... | 3,339.573 | |
| *British Treasury Bills ..... | 15,560,427 | |
| | | 18,900,000 |
| Securities : | | |
| Egyptian Government Securities & Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government ..... | 426,716 | |
| British Treasury Bills, Exchequer Bonds & National War Bonds | 18 473,284 | |
| | | 18.900,000 |
| | | £E37.800.000 |

* By authority of the Egyptian Government, these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30th, 1916.)

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# THE NEAR EAST.

## INDEX TO VOLUME XX.

### July 7—December 29, 1921.


**NOTES OF THE WEEK.**

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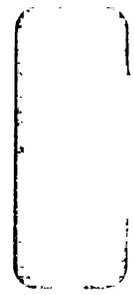

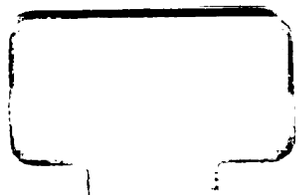
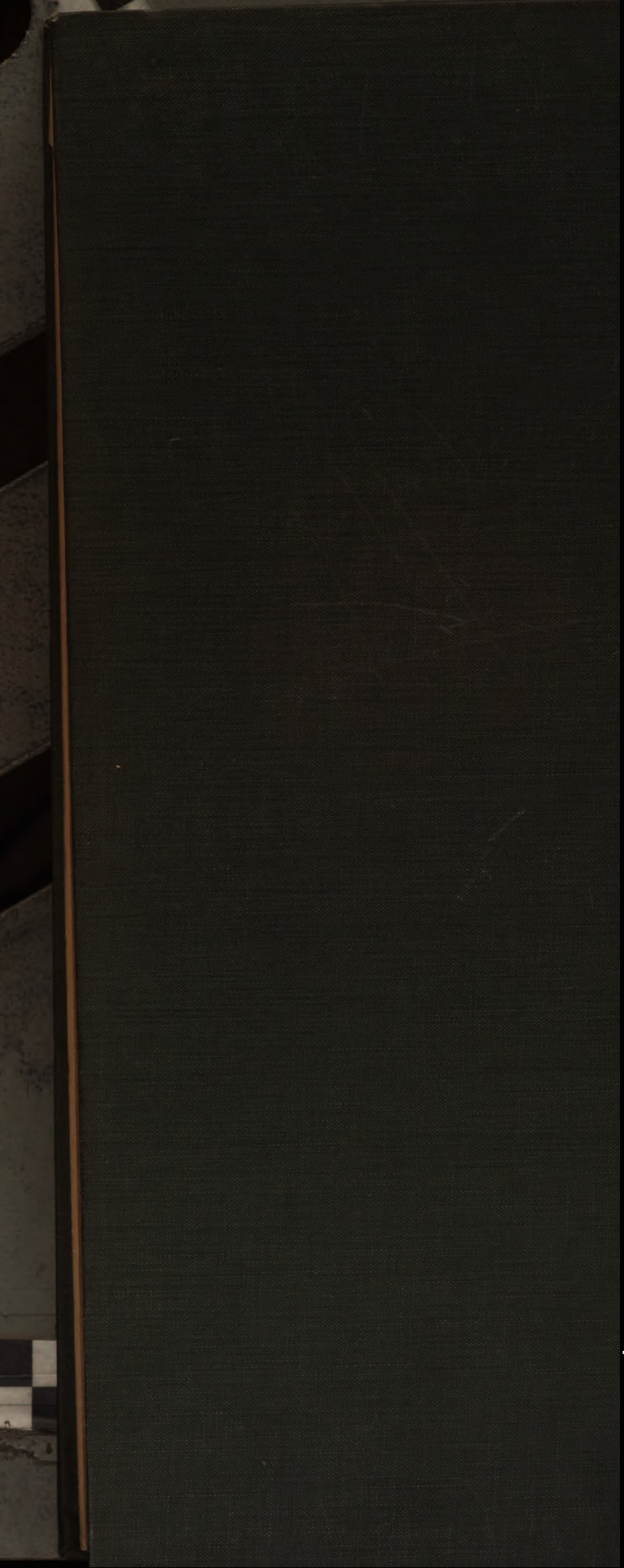
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